

Daintree River

The Daintree River in the Wet Tropics of North Queensland flows uninterrupted for 118km.

Fed from a catchment area of 228 km², natural rainforests verge the river for most of its length. Land use is predominantly agriculture and grazing. A variety of in-stream vegetation provides good habitat for the local barramundi population.

Habitat:

Overall river condition remains reasonable with a mean disturbance rating of 3.1. Disturbances include land clearing close to main river channels, damage from livestock and some bank erosion. In-stream habitat remains plentiful including extensive eel grass beds, snags, rootmass and undercut banks.

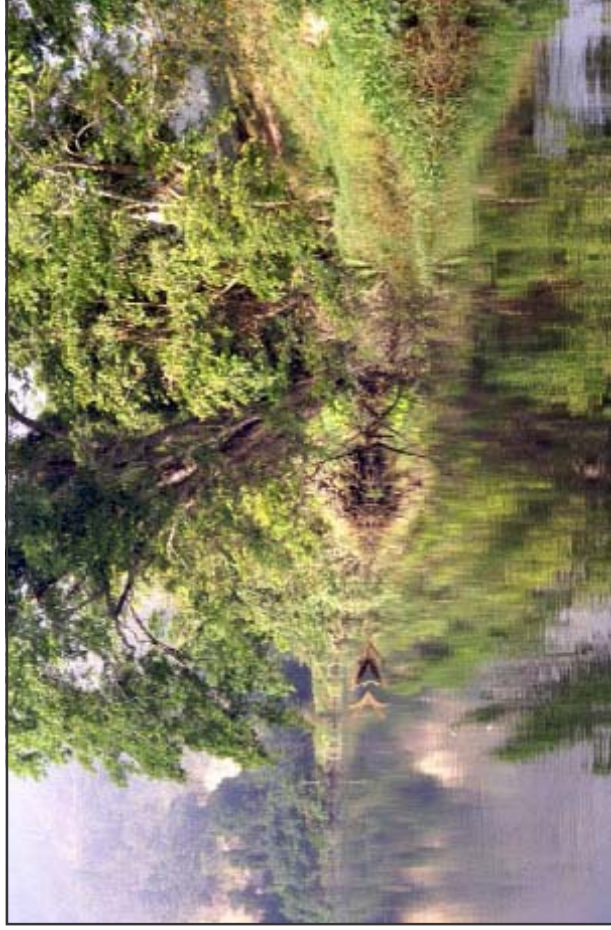
Water Quality:

Water clarity was reasonable with a mean visibility of 76cm. There was evidence of a salt wedge intrusion at the lower tidal sites.

Fish fauna:

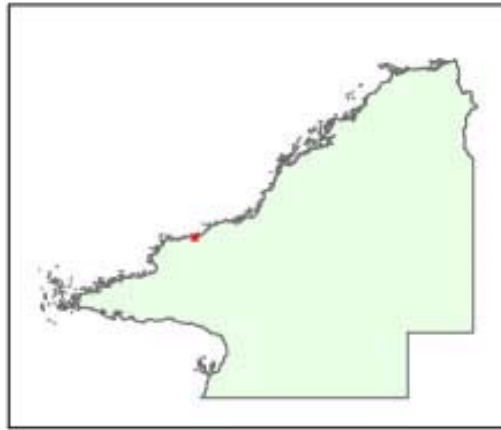
Glassfish, silver biddies and ponyfish had the highest catch rates. The relatively high catch rates for mangrove jack and barramundi may reflect both the abundance of prey fish and the higher incidence of in-stream cover the Daintree River provides. The high diversity of fish species is probably a reflection of the high diversity of fish habitat and in-stream vegetation and a lack of natural or man made barriers to fish movement.

Although similar catch rates were experienced for barramundi in both 2000 and 2001, fewer larger barramundi were captured in 2001. These differences may be due to natural inter-annual variation in the population. However, it is difficult to draw conclusions from a limited time series of data. Once several years of data have been collected, more comprehensive analysis can be carried out on catch statistics.



Survey Dates: 2000 - Second week in August, 2001 Second week in August

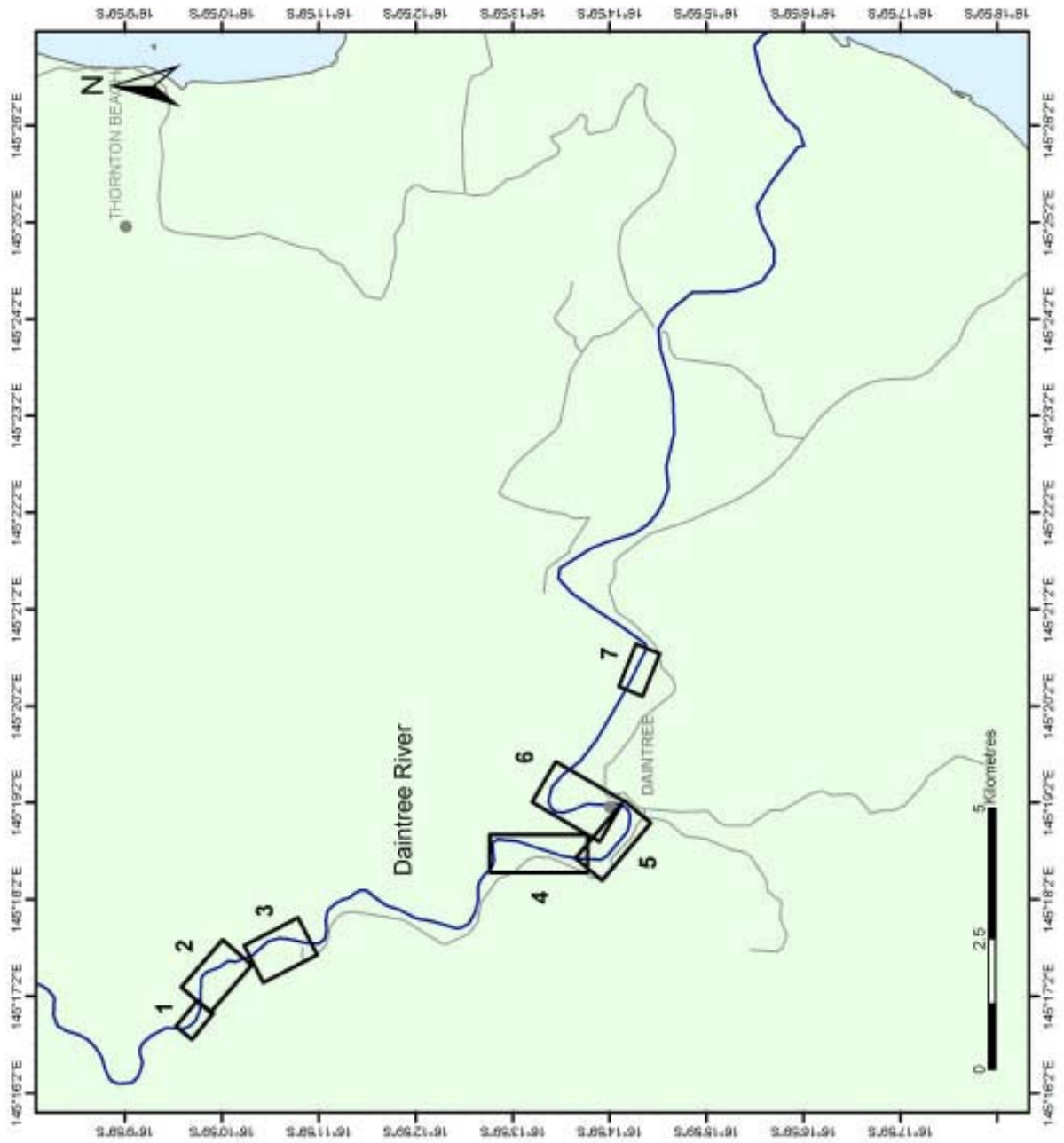
Averaged over both years		SiteNumber						
Data	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Stream Depth (m)	2.2	2.2	1.5	1.6	2.5	3	2.8	
Stream Width (m)	46.3	56.2	37	74.4	68.9	85.7	140.7	
Overall Disturbance	4.6	4.3	2.5	3.9	2.9	3.3	4.3	
Riparian Veg Width (m)	29.3	32.2	3.8	15.5	17.6	24.8	21.9	
pH Level	6.96	7	7.15	6.79	6.68	6.68	6.6	
Conductivity (ms/cm)	0.164	0.055	0.067	0.161	0.054	0.059	0.097	
Turbidity (ntu)	5	2	5	2	5	6	10	
Oxygen (mg/l)	8.4	8.1	7.9	8.9	8.8	8.3	8.5	
WaterTemp (°C)	21.3	22	23.5	22.5	23.2	23.2	23.7	
Salinity (ppt)	0	0	0	0	0.003	0	0	
Secchi Depth (cm)	94	84	67	71	103	77	43	



Daintree River Freshwater Sites



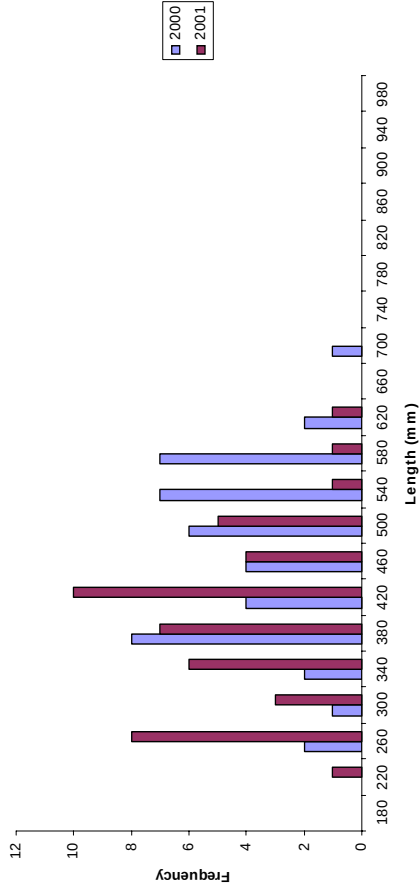
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Average of Catch/30m in		Year	
Scientific Name	Common Name	2000	2001
<i>Acanthopagrus berda</i>	plkey bream		1.04
Ambassis spp.	glassfish	33.9	121.07
<i>Anguilla obscura</i>	South Pacific eel	0.94	0.5
<i>Anguilla reinhardtii</i>	longfin eel	13.16	9.18
<i>Arrhamphus sclerolepis</i>	snubnose garfish	6.46	
<i>Brachirus</i> spp.	sole		1.02
<i>Butis butis</i>	crimsontipped flathead gudgeon	1.02	1.02
Carangidae spp. (tropical families)	trevally	1.05	1.04
<i>Eleotris</i> spp.	gudgeon		3
<i>Gerres filamentosus</i>	silver biddy	16.3	15.67
Gerres spp.	silver biddy	64.61	65.17
<i>Glossamia aprion</i>	mouth almighty	2	2.19
<i>Glossogobius</i> sp. C [in Allan, 1988]	square blotched goby		9.92
<i>Glossogobius</i> spp.	goby	16.29	1.34
Gobiidae spp.	gobies	1.05	1.02
<i>Hemiramphus regularis ardeio</i>	eastern river garfish	1.06	
<i>Hephaestus</i> spp.	grunter	2.04	
<i>Hippichthys heptagonus</i>	pipefish	0.86	
<i>Hyporhamphus</i> spp.	garfish	2.05	
Hypseleotris spp.	gudgeon	141.44	170.22
<i>Kuhlia marginata</i>	northern jungle perch (spotted flagtail)	0.94	
<i>Kuhlia rupestris</i>	jungle perch	2.04	3
<i>Lates calcarifer</i>	barramundi	9.13	7.91
Leiognathus equulus	narrow-banded ponyfish	295.26	169.79
Leiognathus spp.	pony fish	83.61	14.1
<i>Lutjanus argentimaculatus</i>	mangrove jack	7.57	5.61
<i>Megalops cyprinoides</i>	oxeye herring		5
<i>Melanotaenia splendida</i>	rainbow fish	70.14	8.29
<i>Mesopristes argenteus</i>	silver grunter	5.08	4.2
<i>Mugil cephalus</i>	sea mullet	1.73	4.02
<i>Nematalosa erebi</i>	bony bream	2.52	4.01
<i>Nematalosa</i> spp.	bream	1.02	
<i>Neosilurus ater</i>	narrow fronted catfish	3.57	2.33
<i>Notesthes robusta</i>	bullrout	1.36	2.68
<i>Ophieleotris aporos</i>	snakeheaded gudgeon	6.19	8.62
<i>Ophistemon gutturalis</i>	sw amp eel	2.05	
<i>Ophisternon</i> spp.	sw amp eel		1
<i>Oxyeleotris gyrinoides</i>	eastern sleepy cod	3.61	3.6
<i>Poecilia reticulata</i>	guppy	4.08	1
<i>Pseudomugil signifer</i>	Pacific blue-eye	21.97	27.48
<i>Redigobius bikolanus</i>	speckled goby	2.38	4.62
<i>Redigobius chrysosoma</i>	goby		2.01
<i>Scatophagus argus</i>	spotted butterflyfish	1.35	1.76
<i>Sillago</i> spp.	w hiting		11.08
Syngnathidae species	pipefish		2.01
<i>Toxotes jaculatrix</i>	archerfish	1.06	0.52

Lates calcarifer



Lutjanus argentimaculatus

