



5.4 Mackay region

Table 16: Key characteristics—Mackay region

Mainland coast	800 km		
Island coast	1 341km		
Rivers and creeks	317 km		
Major inland waterways	Pioneer River		
	Kinchant, Teemburra and Peter Faust Dams		
Offshore waters	Georges Point to St Lawrence		
	Gloucester Island to Long Island Sound		
Major harbours	Port of Hay Point (the world's largest coal export port)		
	Mackay Harbour (tourism, recreational boating)		
	Airlie Beach/Whitsundays (tourism, recreational boating, fishing)		
Registered recreational vessels 2007	16 830	Growth 2006-07	4.9%
Registered commercial vessels 2007	728	Growth 2006-07	-1.2%
		Fatalities	2
Reported marine incidents 2007	123	Serious injuries	4

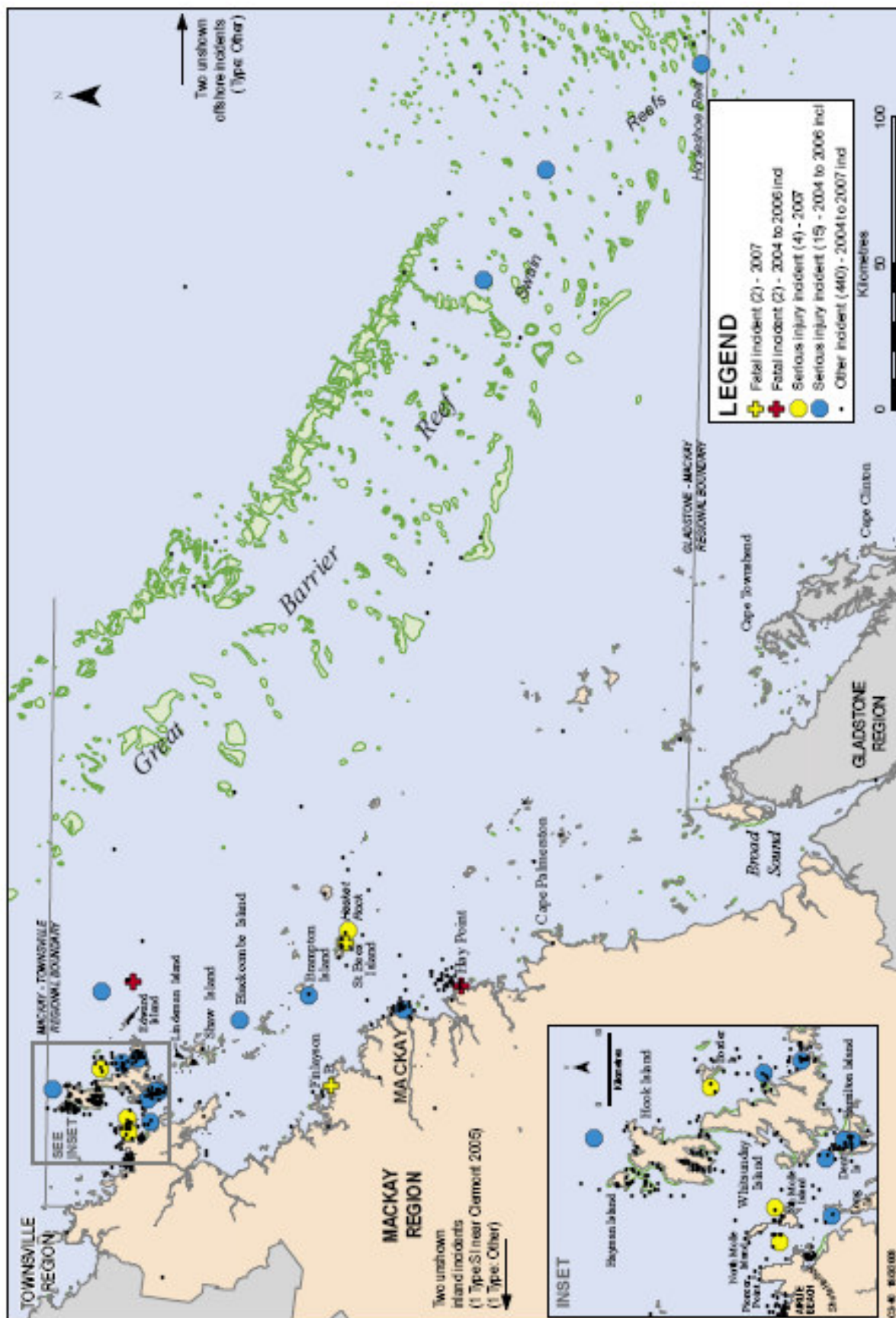
7.7 percent of Queensland's recreational registered vessels and 12.8 percent of the commercial fleet are located in the Mackay region. Recreational registrations in the region grew by 4.9 percent from 2006 while commercial registrations contracted by 1.2 percent.

During 2007 123 marine incidents were reported in the Mackay region, 19 more than in 2006 and in line with the region's four-year average of 122 incidents. The increase in reported marine incidents in 2007 reverses the downward trend apparent since 2003 (see Figure 39).

Historically Mackay region has had a high proportion of commercial vessel involvement in marine incidents (see Figure 39). Of the commercial vessel types, commercial passenger vessels have dominated being involved in 44 or 35.8 percent of reported incidents in 2007. Commercial passenger vessel involvement in incidents was more than double that of recreational speedboats which was the next most frequent vessel type involved.

The number of reported marine incidents involving recreational vessels has increased for the third consecutive year and represented 35 percent of all vessels involved in marine incidents in the region in 2007.

Unintentional groundings were the most frequently reported incident type with 37 reported in 2007—30.1 percent of all incidents. The majority of groundings involved commercial hire and drive vessels. There were two fatalities and four serious injuries recorded in the region in 2007.



Map 5: Marine Incidents by highest level of personal Injury, Mackay Region 2004 to 2007

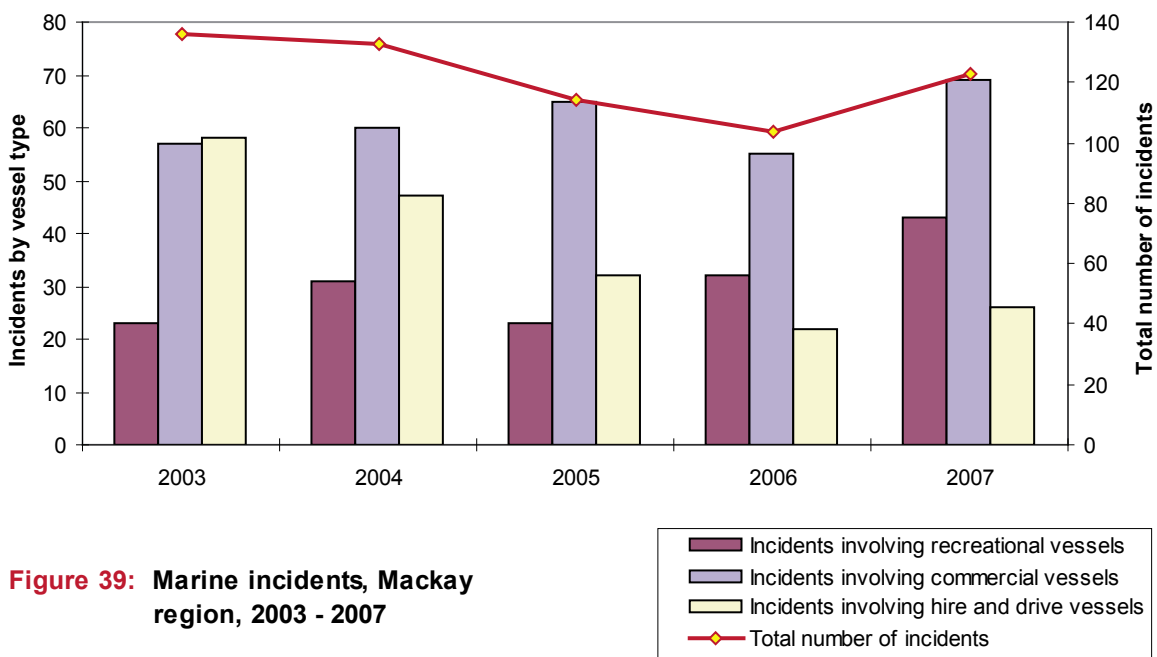


Figure 39: Marine incidents, Mackay region, 2003 - 2007

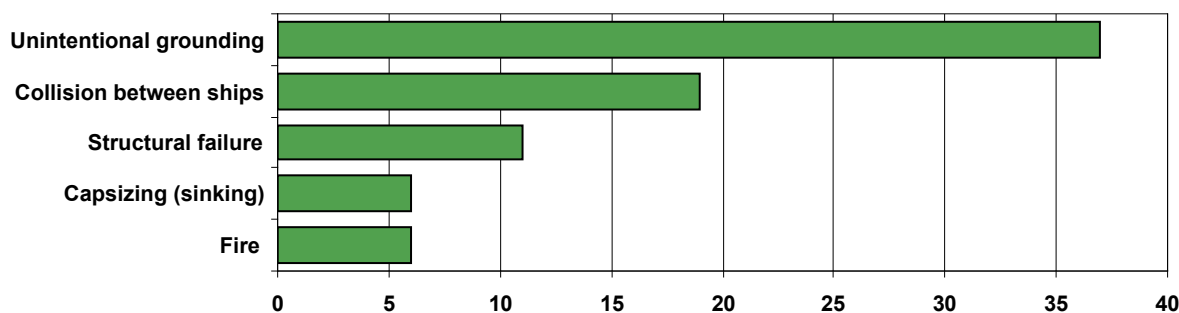


Figure 40: Marine incidents by incident type (Top 5), Mackay region, 2007

Whitsunday Management Area

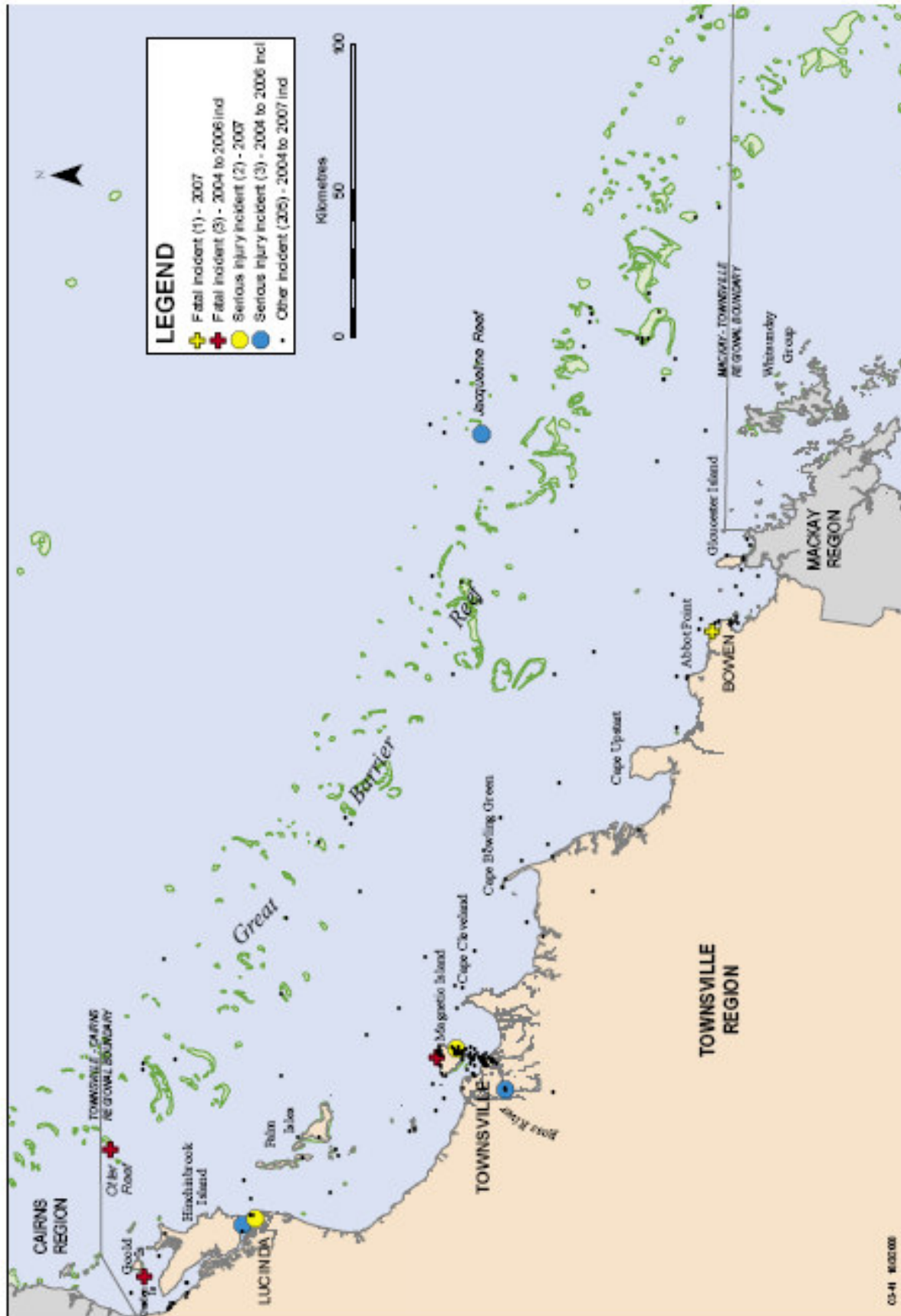
Although small as a proportion of the Mackay region's geographical area, the Whitsunday Management Area, with its significant tourism focus, is a lead contributor to the region's reported marine incidents. The Whitsunday Management Area contains 76.7 percent of the Mackay region's commercially registered fleet and 19.3 percent of the registered recreational fleet.

In 2007 the Whitsunday Management Area recorded 72.5 percent of incidents involving commercial vessels in the Mackay region and 51.2 percent of the incidents involving recreational vessels.

The number of commercial hire and drive incidents in Mackay region has been progressively decreasing since 2003 and the number reported in 2007 is less than half that reported in 2003. Over the past five years there have been 185 reported marine incidents involving hire and drive vessels in the Mackay region, all except two have occurred in the Whitsunday Management Area.

In the same five year period the number of commercial hire and drive vessels has fallen 9.4 percent from 255 vessels in 2003 to 231 vessels in 2007. 96.5 percent (223) of the currently registered hire and drive vessels in the region have their home port in the Whitsunday Management Area.

The reduction in hire and drive incidents may in part be attributed to the Marine Safety Culture Project initiated by Maritime Safety Queensland in the Whitsunday Management Area. This project is a government / industry partnership project that promotes advances in safety awareness and safety practices within the commercial marine industry.



Map 6: Marine Incidents by highest level of personal Injury, Townsville Region 2004 to 2007