

Edition 66 February 2009

Funding available for NSW recreational fishing programs

Anglers in NSW are being encouraged to apply for funds from the Recreational Fishing Trusts for projects that will improve recreational fishing. Any organisation can apply for funding and projects must have direct benefits to recreational fishing. Examples of previously funded projects can be found at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au. There are two types of grants available, small grants (up to \$10,000) and large grants. Matching funding is encouraged and can be provided as in-kind support, such as voluntary labour, salaries etc. Funding applications are assessed by expert committees of anglers. **The closing date for applications is 20 March 2009.** Small grant applications can also be submitted at any time during the year for consideration at other meetings held in 2009/10. A funding application package is available at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au or by emailing recreational.fishingtrust@dpi.nsw.gov.au or calling DPI on 02 6648 3917.

2009 Saltwater and Freshwater fishing guides out now

Anglers in NSW now have access to the latest information on fishing rules, bag and size limits and safety advice with the release of the 2009 Fishing Guides. The two free guides, for saltwater and freshwater fishing, have been distributed to fishing licence outlets and Fisheries Offices across NSW. The guides are funded by the Recreational Fishing Trusts. They detail up-to-date fishing rules such as bag and size limits, help anglers identify what species they have caught, provide handy fishing tips and safety advice, and give information about our aquatic environment. Fishers can call the NSW DPI Information Advisory phonenumber on 1300 550 474 to obtain a free copy.

Dollar for dollar fish stocking

NSW DPI invites applications from the community to stock native fish into approved public waters in NSW on a dollar-for-dollar basis. For the next stocking season (October 2009 - May 2010), dollar-for-dollar funding is available from the Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust to stock Australian bass in eastern drainage waters and Murray cod and/or golden perch in western drainage waters. For each application, offers of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 dollars will be considered for matching funding. Stocking groups can contact NSW DPI on (02) 6763 1441 to obtain an application form.

Help reduce wildlife drowning in yabby traps

Wildlife such as platypus, turtles and water birds can enter traps looking for food and get trapped in opera-house style yabby traps and drown. Platypus are found in river systems in NSW east of the Newell Highway which runs from Goondiwindi in the north to Tocumwal in the south. Platypus are also found in the Murrumbidgee River downstream to Darlington Point, in the Edward River downstream to Stevens Weir and in the Murray River downstream to Echuca. Yabby traps are **banned** in all public water (rivers, creeks, lakes) in these areas. People fishing for yabbies in these waters can use lift or hoop nets where they are permitted. These nets must be marked above the water by a stake or buoy which is tagged with the owners residential address details and/or boat registration number.

Fishing Offences

- A Mildura man faces a range of fines of up to \$22,000 and six months imprisonment after he was apprehended during a surveillance operation on the Murray River near the South Australian border. He faces up to five charges which may include unlawful use of net, exceed daily bag limit, exceed possession limit, possess fish unlawfully taken and fail to comply with a direction to remove gear from water.
- DPI Fisheries and Solitary Islands Marine Parks officers have already seized more than 350 illegal crab traps in the past few months. In most areas recreational anglers are permitted one crab trap and five hoop or lift nets, commonly known as witches hats. Recreational anglers must have their name in letters not less than 50mm high and preferably their address and the words 'CRAB TRAP', or in the case of a hoop net or witches hat the owners name and address or name and boat registration. These details must be recorded above the water on a float of at least 100mm in size. Mud crabs have a minimum legal size limit of 8.5cm and a recreational bag limit of five per person.
- A compliance operation conducted by NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Fisheries Officers on the Lachlan River downstream of Forbes over the Australia Day long weekend has resulted in 31 fisheries offences being detected. A variety of offences were detected during the operation including failure to pay or produce a valid Fishing Licence, use of excess lines, leaving lines unattended and possession of prohibited size fish. Fisheries officers will be increasing their presence in this area in coming months.

Anyone with information regarding illegal fishing is encouraged to report it to the Fishers Watch phonenumber on 1800 043 536. All information is treated as confidential.

Would you like to join NSW DPI as a Get Hooked- volunteer?

The NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is calling for volunteers for the new 'Get Hooked, It's Fun to Fish' program aimed at primary school children. "The 'Get Hooked, It's Fun to Fish' program is the first of its kind in NSW primary schools and teaches kids how to appreciate our natural resources through a healthy, active, outdoor activity such as fishing. Anyone who loves the outdoors and has a keen interest in natural resource education can nominate to train as a Schools Fishcare Volunteer. School Fishcare Volunteers will help deliver the program and share their advice and experience. A two-day training session (Accredited by TAFE NSW) will be undertaken across the following regional NSW locations:

- Bathurst on the 29 February and 1 March
- Sydney/Wollongong on the 7/8 March

Applicants will need to be available to work on weekdays between 9am and 3pm and apply before 20 February 2009. For more information please, contact Kerrie Deguara, on 02 9527 8473 or 0438 162 160. Further details on the 'Get Hooked, It's Fun to Fish' program and volunteering can be found at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/your-fees/fvp.

General information 1300 550 474

Agent enquiries or for changing contact details: 02 9527 8589, Fax 02 9527 8409

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/recreational