



Newscast



An information bulletin for recreational fishers

Edition 44, September 2005

Extension of deadline for review of fishing rules

Members of the public have an extra three weeks to lodge a submission on two fishing discussion papers. The two discussion papers, containing a range of proposals and options for fishing rules and size limits, as well as commercial saltwater size limits, were released for public comment in July. The original deadline for submission was September 30. However, due to overwhelming interest from fishing clubs, recreational anglers, commercial fishers and other members of the community, NSW DPI has extended this deadline by three weeks, to **Friday, October 21**. Copies of the discussion paper have been sent to fishing clubs, bait and tackle shops, NSW Fisheries offices and are available on the Department of Primary Industries website at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au. A quick response form can also be obtained by phoning 1300 550 474.

Artificial Reefs to be trialed in Lake Macquarie

Lake Macquarie will be the first recreational fishing haven in NSW to trial artificial reefs in a bid to further enhance fishing conditions in the area. The six small artificial reefs are part of a three year, pilot programme and will be installed in the Galgabba Point area later this year after the Lake Macquarie City Council gave conditional approval for the project to go ahead. A preliminary monitoring survey will begin immediately, with the reefs expected to be in place by Christmas. The Saltwater Recreational Fishing Trust has funded the project through the recreational fishing licence fee. A detailed 'before' survey of the site, surrounding natural reef and sand locations will begin immediately, before the reefs are installed. This is great news for anglers because the findings of the study will play a vital role in providing information to improve recreational fishing by increasing fish habitat. Lake Macquarie is the first site for the artificial reef project with two other recreational fishing havens also being considered for the project.

DPI workshop helps people with special needs

A fishing workshop was held on Saturday 10 September by NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Narrandera Fisheries Centre to provide the opportunity for people with special needs to take part in the nation's favourite pastime. The NSW Recreational Fishing Trusts provides funding for the workshop program across the State. The Narrandera fishing workshop was an integration program for people with special needs to get out and about in the community while at the same time helping them to realise that fishing is something they can do in their own leisure time. DPI also held a freshwater fishing workshop at the Dutton Trout Hatchery at Ebor on 17 September. Children aged 8 to 14 years had the chance to learn about fishing techniques, bag and size limits, and ethical fishing practices, as well as casting, knots and rigs.

General information 1300 550 474

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

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

More fish to catch off Sydney and the North Coast this summer

Four new fish attracting devices (FADs) will be installed off the NSW coast this summer, as part of an on-going State Government program to improve recreational angling. The new FADs will be deployed in waters off Ballina, Evans Head, Port Jackson and Botany Bay. The new devices will bring the total number of FADs along the NSW coastline to 19. The NSW Department of Primary Industries previously conducted a three-year pilot project which allowed scientists to collect data on the FADs and how they work, with results suggesting they are very successful.

Tagging project to uncover the secret life of 'Bluey'

NSW Department of Primary Industries' Scientists will tag and monitor the Blue Groper population off Sydney's eastern beaches in a groundbreaking research project designed to learn more about the iconic fish species. The \$200,000 tagging project will be funded by the NSW DPI, with support from Waverley Council and Randwick City Council. The project is part of an overall protection strategy for the Eastern Blue Groper, which is one of the state symbols for NSW. In 2002 the NSW Government and Waverley and Randwick Councils joined together to declare the Bronte-Coogee Aquatic Reserve, which provides an extra level of protection for the fish by banning all forms of fishing for the species between Clovelly and Gordons Bay. This new tagging and monitoring project will provide DPI scientists with a wealth of new information about the goppers' movements, feeding patterns and other behaviour, which will help us build on existing protection measures. The tagging project is expected to begin in early October.

Message to Licence Agents

A reminder to all licenced agents to prepare for the September school holidays and the October Long weekend and order your licence books now. You can order more licence books, guides and brochures by calling DPI on (02) 9527 8589.

Recreational fishing closure in Tilligerry Creek, Port Stephens

To protect public health a closure prohibiting the recreational harvest of all shellfish in the upper 6km of Tilligerry Creek, Port Stephens came into affect on 26 August 2005. The closure is based on advice from the NSW Food Authority which has reported detection of high levels of human waste in the Creek. The contamination in the Creek is likely to have resulted from the failure of septic systems in the catchment area and the consumption of oysters, cockles, crabs, prawns, worms, limpets, sea urchins and lobsters poses potentially serious health risks.