



Newscast



An information bulletin for recreational fishers

Edition 69 August 2009

Expression of Interest for Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee

All revenue from the recreational fishing fee is placed into two Recreational Fishing Trusts to be spent on projects which benefit recreational fishing. The Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC) is a committee of the Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing (ACoRF). The Committee reviews applications for funding and oversees expenditure from the Recreational Fishing (Freshwater) Trust. Expressions of Interest are sought for upcoming vacancies for committee members representing three regions across the State: Central Coast (region 2), South Coast (region 3) and Inner South West (region 6). Applicants should have knowledge of freshwater recreational fishing issues and a willingness to assist in consultation on these issues. For further information visit the NSW DPI website: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au or contact Cameron Westaway on (02) 6042 4211 or email: cameron.westaway@industry.nsw.gov.au. **Closing date for applications: Friday 28 August, 2009.**

Fishcare Volunteers needed for Western Region

Keen fishers from the Western Region are invited to join the NSW Government's successful Fishcare Volunteer Program, which has more than 300 volunteers State-wide. The two-day training session is planned for the weekend of the 15-16 August at Bathurst. The training weekend will include presentations by DPI staff, as well as a TAFE training component in fish biology and identifying fish species. At the end of the weekend, participants will receive a statement of attainment. Fishcare volunteers work to educate, collect information and promote the benefits of ethical fishing. They assist with children's fishing workshops, as well as displays at field days, trade shows and expos. Volunteers also help with angler surveys, fisheries' research projects and river related habitat projects. Volunteers do not have any enforcement powers and are not involved in compliance operations. For more information about the Fishcare Volunteer Program or the upcoming training, contact Brett Smith on (02) 6881 1222 or 0447 219 618.

Does your school want to get hooked on fishing?

Get Hooked... It's Fun to Fish, is an educational program for middle and upper primary school students. The program aims to foster aquatic environment awareness and promote safe, responsible fishing practices. During the course of this program, students are introduced to freshwater and marine fishing, the significance of aquatic life and life-cycles, catch and release skills, and the importance of sustaining a quality fish habitat, while practising sustainable fishing behaviours. Schools are currently being encouraged to register for 2010. If your school is interested please email gethooked.fisheries@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Angling Facilities update

The Recreational Fishing Trusts fund a number of angling facility projects each year, to date the Trusts have funded: 25 fishing platforms, 83 fish cleaning facilities, 18 signage projects and measuring stations, 6 minor boat ramp improvements and a number of other infrastructure projects. Projects that have been recently completed include fish cleaning facilities at Sunshine Foreshore Reserve on Lake Macquarie and also at Mummuga Lake, Dalmeny. Projects nearing completion include fish cleaning stations at Dobell Park Wangi, Biriban Reserve Coal Point, 7 in the Tweed area (including Boyds Bay, Fingal, Kingscliff Beach and Pottsville South), Lake Keepit eastern foreshore and Pallamallawa. If you would like assistance in gaining Recreational Fishing Trusts funding to improve the angling facilities in your area, please contact the Angling Facilities Manager on 02 6648 3917 or email mel.bradbury@industry.nsw.gov.au

Would you like to help make more fish.....naturally?

Grants of up to \$30,000 are now available for projects to improve fish habitat. Fish Habitat rehabilitation projects of direct benefit to recreational fishing that involve recreational fishers will be given preference. To find out more go to www.dpi.nsw.gov.au and search for 'Fish Habitat Grants' or contact Charlotte Jenkins on 02 6626 1107 or Sharon Molloy on 02 4916 3926 or email fish.habitat@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

NSW DPI Surveillance Operation nets big fish haul

A number of fish, including a Murray cod weighing more than 27 kilograms, have been seized from two men caught allegedly fishing illegally in the state's south west. NSW DPI Fisheries officers recently undertook surveillance in the Goodradigbee River Arm of Burrinjuck Dam, an area known for illegal fishing activity. Two men, aged 61 and 56 from Tumut, were captured on video retrieving a number of fish and 14 excess lines. The men were apprehended by Fisheries officers, who also seized an illegal gaff and a quantity of fish including five golden perch, and five Murray cod, one of which weighed over 27 kilograms. Penalties for these offences range up to \$22,000 and 6 months imprisonment. Fishers can legally use two attended lines in all inland waters (except for trout rivers and streams where only one rod can be used) and these gear restrictions are put in place to limit pressure on species such as Murray cod. Attended lines must be within the fisher's line of sight and also within 50 metres of the fisher. Information relating to illegal fishing should be immediately reported to the Fishers' Watch Phone Line on 1800 043 536.

Reminder to Anglers – Zero bag limit for Australian bass and estuary perch until August 31

NSW DPI is reminding anglers a ban on taking Australian bass and estuary perch from all rivers and estuaries is in place until August 31 to protect these important recreational species. The zero bag limit does not close any waters to fishing and does not affect anglers fishing for other estuary species such as bream or flathead.

NSW DPI Game Fish Tagging Program – Exceptional recaptures -First shortbill spearfish recapture

The first recapture of a shortbill spearfish was recorded on 10 April 2009. The fish was tagged off Port Stephens on 23 February 2009 during Ladies Day at the NSW Interclub competition. The fish was at liberty for 45 days and was recaptured by a commercial longline boat fishing approximately 50 nm east of Fraser Island. This is a straight line distance of approximately 492 nautical miles. The NSW DPI Program is funded by the NSW Recreational Fishing Trust. If you would like to participate in the program please phone (02) 9527 8411 or email gamefish.tagging@dpi.nsw.gov.au. More information on the Program and tagging tips are available at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/recreational.

