



Newscast



An information bulletin for recreational fishers

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Running low on licence books? Order more now!

A reminder to all licence agents: don't wait until you've run out of licence books before ordering more for the summer period. You can order more by calling NSW Fisheries on 9527 8589.

Be prepared: buy your fishing licence before the long weekend!

NSW Fisheries is urging holidaymakers wanting to fish over the Australia Day long weekend to buy their recreational fishing licence before they head off. Over the Christmas/New Year period bait and tackle shops, and other licence agents, reported huge numbers of people buying their licences at the last minute. Buying your licence in advance will help relieve the burden on small outlets. You can buy a NSW recreational fishing licence from more than 1100 outlets, including major bait and tackle shops, NSW Fisheries offices and Shell Select service stations, by calling 1300 369 365 or online at www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au

Protecting wildlife from falling for a cruel line

NSW Fisheries and the Australian Seabird Rescue have produced a brochure 'Responsible Fishing to Reduce Wildlife Injuries'. The brochure, produced with funding from the Recreational Fishing (Saltwater) Trust small grants program, encourages fishers to fish responsibly, particularly by disposing their gear and tackle thoughtfully. It also shows anglers how to avoid hooking or entangling an animal or bird and, in the unfortunate case that a fisher does hook a bird or animal, the brochure explains how to give the animal the best possible chance of survival. The brochure is available from licence agents, NSW Fisheries offices, and from the NSW Fisheries website.

Have your say about the future of sustainable recreational fishing

NSW Fisheries recently launched the "Sustainable Recreational Fishing - A Vision for the Future" brochure, which explains the consultation process for the development of a management strategy and environmental impact statement for recreational fishing. The next step involves distributing the papers through fishing tackle shops, fishing clubs, Fishcare volunteers and NSW Fisheries offices. The papers cover issues such as saltwater bag and size limits, freshwater bag and size limits, fishing competitions, spearfishing and charter boats. Your comments will shape the future of recreational fishing. At a later date, NSW Fisheries will also exhibit for comment the draft long-term management strategy and environmental impact statement. For more information, go to www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au or phone 1300 550 474. This initiative is co-funded by the Recreational Fishing Trusts and NSW Fisheries.

Stop rock fishing deaths over summer

Two recent rock fishing deaths in NSW highlight the need for anglers to play it safe over the summer fishing season. NSW Fisheries urges anglers to follow a basic checklist:

- Never fish by yourself, always fish in a group of at least three people and within sight of each other. Tell friends and family where you are going and when you will return.
- Wear light clothing and suitable non-slip footwear.
- Carry safety gear eg. life jackets, buoyancy vest, ropes and torches.
- Never fish in exposed areas during rough or large seas. Always check local weather, swell and tidal conditions before going fishing.

- Spend some time watching your intended spot before fishing to get an idea of conditions over a full swell or wave cycle.
- Plan an escape route in case you are washed in.
- Always stay alert - never turn your back on the sea.
- Ask for advice from locals who know the area.

NSW Fisheries has issued a brochure on rock fishing safety, which is available free from NSW Fisheries offices and bait and tackle shops.

Better facilities for anglers at Marsden Weir, Goulburn

Anglers are set to benefit from a re-development of the Marsden Weir foreshore, including the installation of a fishing pontoon, jetty and gangway and the erection of fishing signs. \$5,000 in funding has been allocated from the Recreational Fishing Trust's Small Grants Program for this project. Goulburn City Council will match the \$5,000 in funding. The work will open the area for recreational activities on weekends and improve access to the foreshore. The recreational fishing licence funds will also pay for 10,000 brochures promoting fishing at Marsden Weir.

Sustaining blue mackerel stocks

The Recreational Fishing Trust, Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, the Australian Fisheries Management Authority Trust and NSW Fisheries are funding a program aimed at assessing the stocks of blue mackerel in NSW and determining the patterns of bait collection by recreational fishers. The study is part of a wider collaborative project titled 'Development and evaluation of egg-based stock assessment methods for blue mackerel, *Scomber australasicus*, in southern Australia'. In NSW, Fishcare Volunteers, recreational and commercial fishermen and charter boat operators are collecting bait samples and providing information about baitfish use and fishing effort. The study will assist with the development of management arrangements to ensure the long-term sustainability of these stocks.

More bass stocks for NSW anglers

NSW Fisheries has completed its Australian bass stocking program for 2003/04. Stockings take place in water storages on the east coast of NSW, open to the fishing public. Fish are bred at the Port Stephens Fisheries Centre and are released between October and December, for the benefit of anglers. This year 204,200 bass were stocked. Details are as follows: Glenbawn Dam (41,100), Glennies Creek Dam (11,200), Lostock Dam (7,500), Lake Liddel (7,200), Toonumbar Dam (9,200), Clarrie Hall Dam (9,100), Manly Dam (10,000), Lake Parramatta (4,000), Salamander Wetlands (3,600), Brogo Dam (44,400), Lake Toolooma (4,700), Fitzroy Falls (21,600), Thirlmere Lakes (4,600), Danjera Dam (15,400), Flat Rock Dam (5,100), Cambewarra Dam (1,400), Jerrara Dam (4,100).

New fishing deck for anglers at Toonumbar Dam, Kyogle

Facilities at Toonumbar Dam are being upgraded by the Kyogle Fish Acclimatisation Society, with \$2,000 in recreational licence funds. A boat ramp and fishing deck at Bells Bay camping area, north of Lismore, is being repaired. Funding for this project comes from the Recreational Fishing Trust's Small Grants Program. Under the program, community groups are invited to apply for grants of up to \$5,000 on a matching dollar-for-dollar basis. This year \$50,000 is available for projects to improve recreational fishing under the saltwater trust's small grants program, with a further \$20,000 available for freshwater projects from the freshwater trust. An application form can be obtained from the NSW Fisheries website at www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au.