



# Newscast



An information bulletin for recreational fishers

Edition 35, November 2004

## **Summer's on the way - order your fishing licence books NOW!**

A reminder to all licence agents: with the summer holidays approaching, now's the time to make sure your monthly returns are up to date, and to order more licence books if necessary. To order more books, contact the NSW Department of Primary Industries' (DPI) recreational licensing team on (02) 9527 8585.

## **Bass boost for Lake St Clair**

The Singleton Fly Fishing Club received matching funding from the Dollar for Dollar Native Fish Stocking Program to stock 24,000 bass into Glennies Creek Dam (Lake St Clair) in October. Glennies Creek Dam near Singleton is a popular fishing spot in the Hunter River catchment. It provides for an excellent mixed fishery of Australian bass, golden perch, silver perch and catfish.

The Singleton Fly Fishing Club also obtained funding through the Freshwater Trust to install fishing advisory signs at the Lake St Clair boat ramp. The advisory signs will provide pictures of the recreational fish species caught in the dam and give details on the waterway, stocking program and fishing regulations.

## **Murray Cod season opens on December 1**

Freshwater anglers are reminded the Murray cod season starts on Wednesday, December 1. Murray cod are a prized catch of freshwater anglers and are found mainly in the Murray Darling river system. Every year a three-month ban on fishing - from September to November - protects this native species during its breeding season. Murray cod is one of Australia's largest freshwater fish. It grows up to 1.8m and can weigh up to 50kg. There is a daily bag limit of two per person per day from either rivers or dams. The minimum legal length of Murray cod is 50cm, but anglers can possess only one fish more than 100cm in length. A similar species, the endangered trout cod, is fully protected and anglers must release any trout cod they catch. NSW DPI Fisheries officers regularly patrol inland waterways to ensure anglers are following fishing rules for Murray cod.

## **Maximum size limit for eastern rock lobster reduced**

The maximum size limit of eastern rock lobster has been reduced from 200 mm carapace length to 180 mm for commercial and recreational fishers from 12 November 2004. The increased restriction is required because of concerns over the status of the breeding stock of eastern rock lobster in the last few years. Departmental surveys indicate that extra protection is required to boost the number of breeding lobsters.

### **Deep Creek mangroves destroyed**

NSW DPI Fisheries Officers are investigating the destruction of mangrove trees on Deep Creek, at Hyland Park, north of Nambucca Heads. The vandalism has left a 20-metre scar in an otherwise healthy mangrove stand near a park on The Glen Road. Mangroves are essential habitat, providing shelter for juvenile fish and other aquatic life. Mangroves also stabilise river banks and estuary beds and improve water quality. A previous offender in the Northern Rivers area was ordered to pay \$60,000 in fines and costs for damaging mangroves. If you suspect illegal activity, including dredging and reclamation, and cutting of mangroves please report it to your nearest NSW DPI Fisheries office or call 1800 043 536.

### **No fishing or shellfish collecting in Penrhyn Estuary**

Penrhyn Estuary, a small waterway at the northern end of Port Botany in Sydney, has been closed to all forms of fishing and shellfish collection for the next five years. The ban was introduced as a precautionary measure following advice from the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) and the NSW Food Authority. Signs advising people not to collect marine life for consumption have been in place at Penrhyn Estuary for several years. The ban formalises this advice.

### **Illegal fish traps drown our native animals**

Following the discovery of a number of illegal fish traps, it is timely to remind anglers that the use of fish traps is banned in our freshwater rivers and creeks. The fish traps are capable of illegally catching large numbers of native fish and native animals, such as platypus, turtles, water rats and birds. These air-breathing animals enter the traps looking for food, and drown. Yabby traps are also banned in waters where the platypus are found, as they can enter traps in search of yabbies and are not able to escape. Yabby traps are only permitted in waters west of the Newell Highway, and must be fitted with a ring at the entrance to stop other wildlife from entering the trap. If people find a trap, they should leave the trap where it is, and call their local NSW DPI Fisheries Office or call 1800 043 536.