



Newscast



An information bulletin for recreational fishers

Edition 45, November 2005

New fish tables for Port Macquarie's Westport Park

Port Macquarie Blue Water Fishing Club will be receiving \$5,000 from the Saltwater Recreational Fishing Trust to help construct two new fish cleaning tables at Port Macquarie's Westport Park. The new tables will be constructed closer to the access ramp near the floating pontoon and will have a curved roof for shade and rain protection. This should reduce the present overcrowding at the old table, which has been in place for more than 20 years.

More Fish for the Hunter Region

Fish stocks in the Hunter Region have received a significant boost with more than 200,000 Australian bass fry released into local dams and reservoirs. These were the first bass releases for the season and should be ready for anglers to catch in a couple of years. The fish have been bred at the NSW Government hatchery at the Port Stephens Fisheries Centre, which is one of five government hatcheries that produce fish for public release. The Freshwater Recreational Fishing Trust has also contributed funding to enhance hatchery production of native fish fry.

North Coast and Sydney FADs deployed for summer

So far 17 of the 19 NSW DPI fish aggregating devices (FADs) have been deployed for the summer fishing season. The remaining 2 FADs off Wollongong and Jervis Bay will be deployed soon. Check the website at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au for up the -to-date locations of the FADs. Please report missing FADs! The Department relies heavily on anglers to inform us about missing FADs. Remember the location of FADs may fluctuate slightly depending on wind, swell and current direction. If you find that a FAD is not on its correct coordinates or is missing, please contact the Department on (02) 9527 8411, or email: FADs@dpi.nsw.gov.au to allow DPI staff to investigate.

Fresh new 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 2005-2006 Fishing Guides. The two free guides, for saltwater and freshwater fishing, have been distributed to fishing licence outlets across NSW for the third year in a row. This information is just what families and holiday anglers need to know to enjoy a great day's fishing. The guides are produced by the NSW Department of Primary Industries, and are funded by the two independent 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. They also provide information about fishing licences, recreational fishing havens, protected areas such as aquatic reserves and marine parks, and rock fishing safety tips. Fishers can call the NSW-DPI Information Advisory Phonenumber on 1300 550 474 to obtain a free copy. You can also download the guides from the DPI website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

General information 1300 550 474

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

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

NSW DPI operation helps ensure anglers do the right thing

Fisheries officers from the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) South West Zone spent their Labour Day long weekend taking part in a DPI operation aimed at making sure that anglers in south west and central NSW were obeying the fishing rules and fishing safely. Six fisheries officers participated in the operation targeting fishing activities from 30 September to 4 October in the Lachlan River, Merrowie and Willandra Creeks in the north and Murray River and Swampy Plains Rivers, Khancoban Pondage and Lake Mulwala in the south. A range of fishing equipment was seized during the operation including 52 unattended set lines, eight wire fish traps and one cord drum net.

Lions come to the aid of Lake Macquarie fishers

The Lions Club of Gwandalan in the southern Lake Macquarie area has come to the aid of the local fishing fraternity to help construct a fish cleaning table with a grant from the Saltwater Recreational Fishing Trust. The site for the fish cleaning table is the prime boat launching ramp for the Gwandalan/Southern Lake Macquarie areas. Lions Club members are undertaking the brickwork and timber pergola construction with supervision from a licenced builder after obtaining planning approval from the Wyong Council. The Trust has provided \$5,000 towards the \$10,812 cost of the project.

Illegal fishing

Two lobster fishers were fined nearly \$12,000 when they appeared in Taree Local Court in October on 12 charges. The offences related to the rock lobster fishery including failing to tag the lobsters, failing to complete daily log sheets and not marking their lobster holding pens. Both fishers were also ordered to pay part of the Department's legal costs, which the magistrate set at \$2500 each. One also faces the loss of his lobster licence after accumulating demerit points.

A NSW fishing licence agent from Yarrawonga has been prosecuted for backdating a NSW fishing licence in March 2005. The agent was fined \$400 and court costs for backdating a NSW fishing licence. The fisher who obtained the backdated licence from the agent after being approached by an NSW DPI Fisheries Officer while fishing on Lake Mulwala was fined \$200 for not having a licence and \$300 for knowingly producing a false document.

Reminder to all 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 8589.