



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 Easter holiday period. Calling NSW Fisheries now on 9527 8589.

Apply for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts

NSW Fisheries invites clubs, organisations, councils, community groups and individuals to apply for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts. In 2002/03 \$8.4 million was raised from licence sales and anglers are already enjoying the results. The recreational fishing fee is funding projects such as more coastal and inland Fisheries Officers, fish stocking, angler facilities such as fish cleaning tables and fishing platforms, Game Fish Tagging programs, Fishcare Volunteers, restoration of fish habitats to improve fish stocks, fish aggregating devices, essential research on popular angling species and recreational fishing havens. New applications must be received by NSW Fisheries by 26 March 2004. For an application kit or more information call 9527 8411 or visit www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au

Stocking native fish: we need your help!

NSW Fisheries is seeking Expressions of Interest from the community to stock native fish into public waters in NSW. For the next stocking season, October 2004–May 2005, dollar-for-dollar funding has been set aside from the Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust to stock Australian bass in eastern streams and rivers, and Murray cod and golden perch in western streams and rivers. For each proposal, offers of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 will be considered for matching funding. For an application kit or more information phone (02) 6765 4591 or visit www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au. Closing date for proposals to stock Australian bass is **19 March, 2004**, and **28 May, 2004** for Murray cod and or golden perch.

Botany Bay Catch and Release Challenge fishes for answers to anglers' questions

More than 200 anglers took part in NSW Fisheries' Botany Bay Catch and Release Research Challenge on the 14 and 15 February. The Challenge was the first part of a massive recreational fishing project to estimate the survival rates of fish that are caught and then released by anglers using hook and line fishing gear. This information will teach us more about the overall impact of recreational fishing on fish stocks. It is estimated that anglers throw back around one third of all fish they catch. The \$430,000, two-year project is jointly funded by the Recreational Saltwater Trust (\$299,000) and NSW Fisheries. Preliminary results show that of the 350 fish and 15 species caught by anglers, 310 fish (88%), survived the first day, 10 fish died on the second day (3%) and another 10 on the third day. The study is ongoing and will compare the mortality of the fish caught by anglers, with fish caught by nets from beaches.

Find out more about how your recreational fishing licence fees are being spent!

We'd like you to know exactly how your licence fees are being used: log onto www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/lol/where.htm

\$360,000 study into north coast recreational fishing havens

The Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust is providing \$360,000 over three years to Southern Cross University for a major study into the benefits of recreational fishing havens. The study will focus on recreational catches and fish stocks in three north coast rivers: the Tweed, Richmond and Camden Haven Rivers. The study will look at:

- Are there more fish species of recreational importance within the havens compared to areas near them?
- Are there higher recreational catches in havens compared to areas near them?
- Do anglers have a better angling experience in havens?

The study will complement a separate research project involving interviewing around 3,000 anglers at Lake Macquarie and 900 at Tuross Lake recreational fishing havens. The main objective of this research is to help ensure recreational fisheries are managed sustainably, and to better understand the impact of recreational and commercial fishing.

More fish stocks for NSW anglers

The NSW Fisheries 2003/04 native fish stocking program is well underway. Stockings take place in lakes and dams open to public fishing. For example, at Blowering Dam, Burrinjuck Dam, Lake Wyangun, Googong Dam, Lake Hume and Lake Mulwala in southern NSW, Windamere Dam, Burrendong Dam, Lake Cargelligo, Wyangala Dam and Carcoar Dam in central NSW, and Keepit Dam, Split Rock Dam, Chaffey Dam, Copeton Dam and Pindari Dam in northern NSW. Murray cod, golden perch and silver perch are bred at the Narrandera Fisheries Centre and released between December and April, for the benefit of anglers. To date, more than 1.4 million fish have been stocked.

New fish cleaning table for anglers at Keepit Dam, Gunnedah

Anglers are set to benefit from a new fish cleaning table and fish measuring station at Lake Keepit near Gunnedah. The Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust's Small Grants Program and the Lake Keepit State Park Trust are each contributing \$2,600 to the project. The new table and fish measuring station will allow anglers to prepare their catch in a well-lit and covered cleaning area. Under the Small Grants Program, community groups are invited to apply for grants of up to \$5,000 on a matching dollar-for-dollar basis. An application form can be obtained from the NSW Fisheries website at www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au.

Weed bait for anglers to help protect Kooragang Wetlands

NSW Fisheries has announced a scheme to provide weed bait for anglers, and help protect the Kooragang Wetlands near Newcastle. The scheme is funded by the Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust and includes the installation of a large bait tank to give anglers a free, reliable source of weed bait. The Hunter estuary is the most important coastal habitat in NSW for migratory wading birds, and is a valuable habitat for fish, prawns, crabs. Much of the area is listed as an internationally important wetland. The tank will be built near the Kooragang City Farm on Ash Island. It will help minimise the risk of anglers disturbing wading birds, and damaging Ash Island's fragile habitats. Educational signs explaining the project will be installed at Stockton Sandspit and on Ash Island.