



# Newscast



An information bulletin for recreational fishers

Edition 36, December 2004

## **Fresh new FREE fishing guides out now!**

The NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has just released its 2004-2005 Fishing Guides for freshwater and saltwater angling in time for the State's peak recreational angling season. These free fishing guides contain essential information for more than one million anglers around NSW. The fishing guides include information on:

- Bag and size limits;
- Fishing tips and safety advice;
- How to identify fish species;
- An outline of the many programs funded by the recreational fishing licence;
- Fishing licences;
- Recreational fishing havens;
- Native and pest species and trout waters (for freshwater anglers);
- Other protected areas such as aquatic reserves, Marine Parks; and
- Rock fishing safety.

The fishing guides are available from: NSW DPI Fisheries offices; fishing licence agents such as bait and tackle shops; and Fishcare volunteers. For more information about the fishing guides and NSW fishing rules, see the NSW DPI website at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au) or call 1300 550 474.

## **More fish stocks for the central west and tablelands**

Anglers in the central west are set to benefit from the NSW Government's latest release of up to 42,000 Murray cod into Lake Windamere near Mudgee on 16 December. The dam is regarded as one of the State's premier native fisheries. The fish were bred at the NSW Government's Narrandera Fisheries Centre, which produces Murray cod, golden perch and silver perch for stocking into impoundments for the benefit of anglers.

A total of 60,000 Trout Cod were also stocked into the Macquarie River near Dubbo on 16 December as part of the NSW Government's trout cod conservation recovery program. Trout cod are an endangered species and must be returned unharmed to the water if accidentally caught. These stockings build on the recent release of 216,000 rainbow trout and 147,000 brown trout across the central tablelands. The trout stockings were undertaken in October with the help of the Central Acclimatisation Society, a dedicated group of volunteers who advise on release sites and volunteer their services to distribute the fish.

## **Fifteen Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) are now in place!**

All fifteen FADs have now been installed along the NSW coast for the 2004/05 fishing season to enhance angler catch of pelagic fish such as mahi-mahi and even marlin. For exact GPS coordinates (WGS84) and more information on the program visit [www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au). We rely on anglers to help us monitor the FADs. If you find that a FAD is damaged, not on its correct coordinates or is missing, please call us immediately on (02) 9527 8411 so that NSW DPI staff can investigate.

General information 1300 550 474

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

[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au)



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### **Summer's here and licence sales are increasing!**

A reminder to all licence agents to order more licence books for the Christmas School Holiday period. To order more books or brochures, contact the NSW DPI recreational licensing team on (02) 9527 8585.

### **Reminder – is your licence about to expire?**

Remember to renew your fishing licence before you go fishing this summer. Peak holiday periods are popular fishing times, so to make the process of getting a licence as easy as possible for fishers and licence agents, buy your licence in advance to avoid the rush.

You can buy your licence from more than 1100 outlets, including major bait and tackle shops, NSW DPI Fisheries offices, over 50 Kmart stores and selected Shell service stations, by calling 1300 369 365, or by logging onto to internet at [www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/lol/home\\_licence.htm](http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/lol/home_licence.htm)

### **Season open for Murray Cod**

The Murray cod fishing season opened on Monday, December 1, 2004. Murray cod are a prized catch of freshwater anglers and 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 1.8 m and can weigh up to 50 kg. The daily bag limit for Murray cod is two per person for either rivers or dams. The minimum length of Murray cod is 50 cm, with only one fish over 100 cm in length allowed.

### **Rockhoppers - play it safe over the summer fishing season!**

- 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.

The NSW DPI, in conjunction with the Water Safety Taskforce and the Department of Sport and Recreation, has produced a brochure on rock fishing safety, which is available free from fisheries offices and bait and tackle shops or online at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au).