



Newscast



An information bulletin for recreational fishers

Edition 28, April 2004

How long does your catch live off the hook?

NSW Fisheries has released preliminary results from the Botany Bay Catch and Release Research Challenge held on 14-15 February 2004. The study looked at the rate of survival for different fish, caught and released by anglers. Early results show that more than 75% of the fish caught and released during the study survived. More than 200 recreational fishers, on 95 boats, took part in the massive recreational fishing study on Botany Bay, to help us learn more about the impact of recreational fishing on fish stocks. This is the first in a series of experiments to assess the survival rates of fish that are caught and released. Overall, 351 fish were caught, and classified according to how they were captured - with bait or lure - and according to what type of bait was used. The \$430,000 two-year project is funded by the Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust (\$299,000) and NSW Fisheries. NSW Fisheries scientists are now conducting more detailed research on the results of this study.

CARE FOR YOUR CATCH:

- Bring the fish in quickly - a long fight stresses a fish and it is more likely to die.
- Cut the line rather than removing hooks from gut or gills.
- Use barbless hooks - unhooking is easier if you flatten barbs on hooks, or use single hooks on lures.
- Avoid lifting the fish from the water. If you must lift it out of the water, wet your hands.
- If you put the fish down to take the hook out, put it on a smooth, wet surface, or a piece of vinyl-covered foam. Fish skin is easily injured.
- Don't use a net to pick the fish up, unless it is of knotless mesh. Knotted polypropylene landing nets damage a fish's skin and eyes.
- Upon release, help a fish regain equilibrium, by holding it upright in the water and moving it to and fro for a while.

Anglers get fishing licence reminder letters

Anglers are now being sent letters reminding them to renew their recreational fishing licences. The new reminder system was requested by anglers and makes it easier to renew licences at the right time. The letters include advice on how to renew licences and information on how funds from the licence are spent.

Record fish production, Narrandera Fisheries Centre

The NSW Government hatchery at Narrandera has produced a record 2,449,000 native fish for stocking into public waters in NSW. This figure includes 1,440,000 golden perch, 574,000 silver perch, 369,000 Murray cod and 66,000 Trout cod. This financial year to date, an overall total of more than 8.2 million fish have been released through the Government's native fish and trout stocking program and the community-based Dollar-for-Dollar program. This figure sets a new record over last year's record level of 7.9 million fish. These programs are supported by \$500,000 from the recreational fishing freshwater trust. The Government provides more than \$1 million for its stocking program.

From the courts

NSW Fisheries officers have:

- Apprehended a man for using illegal fishing nets and traps on the Darling River. The man had his boat, eight drum nets and five fish traps seized and will be summonsed to appear in court later this year. Around 20 golden perch were returned to the water alive.
- Seized 12 rainbow trout, eight Australian bass and one brown trout as part of the operations that apprehended two men for illegal gill netting in Lake Lyell near Lithgow.
- Issued more than \$45,000 worth of fines to over 100 people for illegally gathering more than 35,000 pipis at Seven Mile Beach near Gerroa in recent months. There is a bag limit of 50 pipis per person per day. It is an offence to possess pipis beyond 50 metres from the high tide mark. There are important health concerns related to collecting pipis, because some may contain natural poisons which could be harmful to humans if eaten. Pipis gathered commercially are purified to ensure they are safe to eat.

Expenditure Committees meet

The Recreational Fishing Freshwater and Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committees met early this month to discuss the 2004/05 budget for the recreational fishing trusts. The committees are made up of anglers from across NSW. They help the Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing (ACoRF) in setting expenditure priorities from the trusts, by providing expertise on regional fishing issues. The committees also review recreational fishing programs and provide advice on new funding initiatives, for the benefit of anglers. Watch future newscasts for more information on the Committees recommendations.

Fishing in the city?

NSW Fisheries staff and Fishcare Volunteers have been working hard to personalise fishing for families in the busy Sydney Region. Over 44,000 individuals visited our stands at the Royal Easter Show and the Fishing Show to see our live fish displays and interact directly with staff and Volunteers. And since January 2004, 680 children have participated in 26 fishing clinics in the region, learning all about the pleasure of fishing. Contact Chris Waugh on (02) 8437 4941 to find out about events and fishing clinics coming up in your area!

Department of Primary Industries

NSW Fisheries, NSW Agriculture, State Forests of NSW and Mineral Resources will form the new Department of Primary Industries. The integration of the departments, which formerly takes effect from 1 July 2004, provides an opportunity for the Government to better integrate the research, extension, regulatory, advisory and policy development for the State's primary industries while at the same time streamlining the duplication of cross-agency functions. The Department of Primary Industries will maintain close links with industry and have front line service delivery as a priority. In creating this Department, NSW will also be brought into line with the Federal structure that includes agriculture, forestry and fisheries in the one department.