



Newscast



An information bulletin for recreational fishers

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Want to apply for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts?

Anyone can apply for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts, including fishing clubs and organisations, councils, community groups, individuals and so on. Programs that promote sustainable recreational fishing, access and facilities for anglers and recreational fisheries research will receive priority. Commercial ventures and the business of organisations will receive low priority. The expenditure committees next meet in April and applications should be submitted to the NSW DPI **no later than 11 March 2005** in order to be considered at these meetings. For further information or an application kit visit our website at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

Monster tailor caught at Laurieton

An angler fishing in the estuary last year at Laurieton was surprised to hook and land a monster tailor which weighed in at 9.5 kg. The female tailor was 1.2 m long. The head of the fish was sent to NSW DPI, which in collaboration with Queensland Fisheries scientists, aged the fish at 9 years old. Scientists count growth rings in the otoliths or earbones to obtain an age reading. Other tailor have been known to reach 130cm and 14kg. However, this Laurieton tailor was of the same age as the previously oldest known aged fish. You can view the fish at www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/rec/gen/photo-gallery.

Have juvenile fish populations increased in Botany Bay?

The Australian Catholic University has been granted funding of \$4,884 from the Saltwater Trust to survey the abundance of juvenile fish in the saltmarsh, mangrove and seagrass habitats in the wetlands at Towra Point, Botany Bay. Two reference wetlands in the Parramatta and Hawkesbury River estuaries will also be surveyed. The results will be compared with a previous survey undertaken before the recreational fishing haven was created in Botany Bay to determine the effectiveness of the haven. The Australian Catholic University is providing matching funding for the project.

Fishcare Volunteers in action

The successful Fishcare Volunteer Program is the flagship education initiative of the Recreational Fishing Trusts. Recently the volunteers conducted a pipi advisory campaign at Seven Mile Beach from Gerroa to Shoalhaven Heads to remind anglers that pipis can only be used as bait and that it is an offence to possess pipis beyond 50 metres of the high tide mark. The Shoalhaven area enjoys an influx of visitors during holiday periods, and many of these people are not aware that pipis should not be eaten. The South Coast Fishcare Volunteers also restored and donated a fish tank to the Wollongong Hospital's children's ward. The tank has been stocked with fish, filters and heaters donated by Aquascene at Kiama Downs.

Mussel-building to clean up Penrith Lakes

The Freshwater Trust has allocated \$5,000 to the University of Western Sydney to reintroduce freshwater mussels back into the Nepean Catchment to improve ecosystem health, water quality and fish habitat for recreational fish species, particularly Australian bass. Evidence indicates that these mussels improve water quality and fish habitat in local freshwater systems by acting as a 'scrubber'. Bass have been stocked into the Lakes for anglers and the reintroduction of this mussel species will provide essential habitat for these fish.

Interested in representing the recreational fishing sector?

Currently, expressions of interest are invited for the:

Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing (ACoRF) - The Council provides advice to the Minister for Primary Industries on recreational fishing and related issues. Persons should have expertise in one of the following: marine biology, tackle sales, estuarine habitat and/or charter boat fishing, as well as knowledge of issues relating to recreational fishing.

Marine & Estuarine Recreational Charter Management Advisory Committee (MERCMAC) - The Committee provides advice to the Minister for Primary Industries on a range of recreational charter fishing issues. Expressions of interest are invited from people with expertise in Commercial Fishing, Recreational Fishing or Indigenous Fishing as well as knowledge of the fisheries of NSW and fisheries policies. Applications for the above 2 committees close on 18 February 2005.

Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC) - This Committee reviews applications for funding and oversees expenditure from the Recreational Fishing (Freshwater) Trust. Persons should reside in one of the five following: North Coast (region 1), Inner North West (region 4), Inner Central West (region 5), North West (region 7) and South West (region 8) and should have knowledge of freshwater recreational fishing issues. Applications close on 4 March 2005.

For further information visit our website at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au.

'Perchy' on Wheels

The Freshwater Trust recently allocated \$27,300 to fund an inland advisory trailer to complement the three eye-catching 'Bluey' trailers used to educate anglers on the coast. The trailer will assist the Fishcare Volunteer program to inform and educate the community about responsible fishing through the use of colourful, practical education units which will be used at shows, school visits, fishing competitions, fishing clinics and field survey events.