



# Newscast



An information bulletin for recreational fishers

Edition 38, February 2005

## Message for Licence Agents

A reminder to all licence agents to return licence books once all the licences in the book have been sold. The return of used books is essential for audit purposes.

## Anglers asked to help study fish migrations

Researchers are using microchip tags to record the movement of native and introduced fish such as Murray cod, silver perch, golden perch, carp and redfin perch along the Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers. The Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust funded the tracking stations installed at Euston Weir. This work will provide vital biological and movement information. Initial results show that some fish have moved more than 500km along the river in as little as three months and as far as 1,700 km over two years. The fish have also been externally tagged with yellow tags. Anglers who catch a tagged fish are asked to freecall 1800 185 027 to report the date of the catch, tag number, place of catch, length and species of fish.

## FADS – Respect other users!

All 15 FADs are reporting excellent catches with the arrival of the warm summer water off the NSW coast. The FADs are funded by the recreational fishing licence fee and are there for the benefit and enjoyment of all recreational sectors, including boat anglers, spearfishers and charter operators. Anglers should take turns in fishing the FAD and accommodate new arrivals. Always aim to limit your catch – do not catch your limit. Please remember; do not tie your boat to the FADs. This activity has damaged the mooring lines of some of the FADs, causing the device to break free and become lost. Fines of up to \$5,500 apply.

## Cod to be caught on candid camera

Southern Cross University in collaboration with NSW DPI will use fixed underwater cameras to assess the pre-spawning and post-spawning behaviour of eastern freshwater cod using funds of \$5,000 from the Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust. The cameras will be positioned at known breeding sites in the upper Clarence River catchment. Each camera array will provide a 360° view of nesting sites and be fitted with infrared lights to assist with night monitoring. The study will be used to determine the potential effects of angling on nesting eastern cod and to construct a spawning model for the species.

## Farewell to John and Pat Sheather

After 40 years of managing Dutton Trout Hatchery Ebor, John Sheather is calling it a day on the 30 March 2005. John commenced service, as assistant manager in 1965 then became manager in 1983. In his early years the hatchery was producing 500,000 fingerlings a year. John and his staff progressively increased production to where they have been putting out 3,000,000 annually over the past few years. This is testament to his knowledge, hard work and dedication. In recognition of his and Pat's service, NSW DPI has named the visitor's centre "The John and Pat Sheather Visitor's Centre".

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)

### **2005 Family Fishing Bonanza**

The Trust funded Tournament Monitoring Program recently collected angling data from the Laurieton Fishing Club's Family Fishing Bonanza. The 130 anglers in the estuary, on the beach, on the rocks and offshore spent 987 hours fishing over the two days with 1,457 fish caught and 40 different species. Bream dominated the catch (26%), followed by flathead (24%) and whiting (11%). Numerous tailor were caught on the beaches while snapper dominated the deep-sea catches. The establishment of the Camden Haven River as a Recreational Fishing Haven has helped maintain the high quality of fishing for which Laurieton is renowned.

### **Recent exciting recaptures from Game Fish Tagging Program**

The Game Fish Tagging Program is funded through the recreational fishing licence and provides valuable information on the growth and migration of game fish. Recent exiting recaptures include:

- A Striped Marlin was recaptured after travelling 325nm in 185 days in a east north-easterly direction. The marlin was tagged on 8 February 2004 at The Entrance NSW and recaptured on 10 April 2004 at Derwent Hunter Seamount (30 nm E) NSW.
- An Albacore (tuna) was recaptured after travelling 368nm in 2,567 days in a south-easterly direction. The tuna was tagged on 4 June 1997 at Bermagui NSW and recaptured on 14 June 2004 at Eden.
- A Yellowtail Kingfish was recaptured after travelling 347nm in 1,040 days in a north-easterly direction. The Kingfish was tagged on 12 December 2001 at Batemans Bay Canyons NSW and recaptured on 17 October 2004 at Black Rock (South Solitary Island).

For more information on the program go to our website at [www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/rec/gamefish/home\\_tagging.htm](http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/rec/gamefish/home_tagging.htm)

### **Tracking fish in the Hunter**

NSW DPI and Griffith University will conduct a project to track the movement of fish around structural woody habitat (snags) in a section of the Hunter River near Muswellbrook with \$5,000 in funds from the Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust. Australian bass and common carp will be captured and then tagged with radiotracking transmitters. These fish will be monitored to determine movement patterns and distribution in relation to the habitat type. Physical features such as depth, velocity, substrate, aquatic vegetation and cover will be recorded and the amount of time each tagged fish spends near each physical feature will be calculated. This will improve knowledge of how fish use these habitat components and why they are important.