

Edition 49, August 2006

New angler facilities funded by the 3 Recreational Fishing Trusts

Shoalhaven Council will receive \$12,000 to construct three fish cleaning tables at Sanctuary Point, Lake Conjola, and Greenwell Point. These three locations are adjacent to boat launching ramps serving popular recreational fishing locations. The council will also receive funding for educational signage and engraving, including carving the legal sizes and shapes of the most common fish into the timber decking of three new fishing platforms recently constructed at Burill Lake.

Lake Keepit State Park near Gunnedah will receive \$5,000 for the installation of a fish cleaning table and fish measuring station. The new facility will supply water and solar lighting to the new fish cleaning table, and will compliment the existing fish cleaning table located on the western foreshore of the park, which was also previously funded by the Recreational Fishing Trust.

Kempsey Shire Council in conjunction with the Crescent Head Fishing Club will receive \$5,000 to replace an existing fish cleaning table that is in disrepair. Crescent Head is a popular fishing spot and the existing fish cleaning facilities are inadequate for the large number of anglers that fish in the area.

Urana Shire Council will receive \$3000 for two fish cleaning tables and a small upgrade to the rock boat ramp. For the past two years the Urana Aquatic Centre Lake has been stocked with Murray Cod, golden and silver perch for anglers to catch when they reach legal size in the future.

Another bumper stocking season

A total of 7.6 million fish made up of native, trout and salmon, perch were released in the State's waterways in 2005/06. These fish were bred in the four DPI hatcheries at Jindabyne, Ebor, Narrandera, Port Stephens and also private hatcheries. In a joint operation between community groups, angling clubs and DPI officers, the fish were released into rivers and dams across NSW. Many of the fish stocked this season will reach legal size within approximately two years. DPI is committed to working with the community in managing freshwater fish stocks to provide opportunities for quality recreational fishing.

Funds Available to restore fish habitats

Community groups, individuals, fishing clubs, Landcare and Rivercare groups, and local councils interested in restoring fish habitats are invited to apply for a new round of funding for projects that help rehabilitate fish environments and encourage native fish back into our waterways. A total of \$360,000 is available for the 2006/07 financial year, including \$200,000 for freshwater projects and \$160,000 for saltwater. Up to \$30,000 is available for individual projects on a matching dollar-for-dollar basis. Past projects have included the removal of barriers to aid the movement of native fish, the restoration of tidal flows, the re-establishment of native riparian vegetation, and re-snagging rivers. For more information or to download an application form, please visit, www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/recreational or call the NSW DPI Tamworth office on (02) 6765 4591. Applications close 27 October 2006.

General information 1300 550 474

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

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

Illegal Fishing Activities

- A man has been fined \$500 and ordered to pay \$130 in court costs after being caught lifting commercial crab traps on the Clarence River.
- A man has been apprehended at Dalmeny with 105 live abalone (101 of which were prohibited size). The abalone were counted, measured and photographed and returned to the water alive. The legal limit of abalone is two per person and the minimum size is 11.5cm.
- A joint operation between NSW DPI Fisheries Officers and police has resulted in charges being laid against 5 people caught illegally fishing near Munmorah, Eraring and Vales Point Power Station outlets. There is currently a night time ban between 6pm and 6am which is designed to protect juvenile fish, which gather around the warm water in the power stations discharge area.
- A joint operation between NSW DPI and NSW Food Authority recently checked 293 restaurants, seafood retailers, wholesalers, processors and commercial fishers between Tweed Heads and Eden. A total of 35 offences were recorded under the NSW fisheries legislation and 255 offences were recorded under the Food Act. The most serious charges were for fish substitution, incorrect labelling, temperature control and hygiene offences. Ongoing investigations and follow up inspections will be carried out by compliance officers including where these breaches were detected.

2006/07 Native Fish Stocking Plan for Dams and Lakes

There are many impoundments and reservoirs suitable for native fish stocking throughout NSW and over the last two decades a large number of excellent recreational fisheries have been established. To ensure that the best use continues to be made of publicly funded fish stocking programs, NSW DPI is seeking input from people who have an interest in the State's stocked native freshwater fisheries. For more information on the waterways to be stocked in the upcoming year, please refer to the NSW DPI website: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/recreational. Closing date for comments is Friday 31 August 2006.

Search for carp breeding 'hotspots' underway

NSW DPI scientists are searching for potential carp breeding sites in inland NSW rivers in order to identify recruitment 'hotspots' for the fish that has become Australia's number one inland freshwater pest. Recent rain throughout inland NSW has led to reasonably high flows in many river systems and these are a cue for initiating spawning in many fish including the noxious carp. DPI research has found carp do not reproduce throughout entire river systems and that the vast majority of carp breed at a relatively small number of locations. Sampling for carp larvae is being carried out at, and downstream of, potential carp breeding sites, soon after high flows pass through the Murray-Darling basin. Identification of these 'hot spots' provides important opportunities for carp control and once located, will be targeted using a range of control options developed under an Integrated Pest Management strategy.