



# Newscast



An information bulletin for recreational fishers

Edition 40, April 2005

## **Interested in having a say in where your licence fees go?**

Currently, expressions of interest are invited for committee membership to the inner north west NSW (region 4) position on the Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC). RFFTEC reviews applications for funding and oversees expenditure from the Recreational Fishing (Freshwater) Trust. Applicants should have knowledge of freshwater recreational fishing issues and a willingness to assist in consultation on these issues. For further information visit the NSW DPI website [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au) or contact Mr Craig Watson on (02) 6765 4591. Applications close 20 May 2005.

## **Sewage spill forces Coffs Creek fishing closure**

A spill of raw sewage has forced the closure of Coffs Creek in Coffs Harbour to shellfish collection and all forms of fishing upstream of the Promenade Shopping Centre for the next two months. The ban was introduced due to concerns that consumption of fish may pose a food safety risk. Contaminants may remain in shellfish after the spill has cleared the waterway. The two-month closure allows sufficient time for the spill to disperse and any contaminants that may have been present in the shellfish to return to background levels.

## **Two charged over illegal netting**

Two men fishing on the Darling River near Menindee have been summoned to appear in court for a number of offences including: possessing silver perch, a protected fish; unlawfully using 8 gill nets and failure to pay the NSW recreational fishing licence fee. The men, both 52, had their boat and nets seized by NSW DPI Fisheries officers and face a total of \$112,000 in fines and or six months in jail or both. These illegal activities threaten the sustainability of native species in our inland waterways. It is the angler's responsibility to know the rules and to ensure that they have the proper gear. If you witness or suspect illegal fishing activities contact your local fisheries officer or phone the Fishers Watch Hotline 1800 043 536. All information received will be treated as confidential.

## **Fishing skills workshop for kids with special needs**

Twenty-four young children with special needs had a whale of a time at a fishing workshop held at Ballina Fishing Park on 7 April 2005. The children, aged 12 to 16, from Southern Cross High School at Ballina, experienced fishing in a safe and friendly environment. The children learnt how to bait a hook and cast, and learnt about bag and size limits, responsible fishing, and the importance of maintaining a healthy aquatic habitat. Noel Porter of Ballina Fishing Park kindly supported the activity by providing free access to his facility for the event. Fishing workshops for school age children are held on a regular basis across NSW. For more information on fishing workshops visit the website or contact Dee McElligott on 02 9527 8411.

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)

### **Know your aquatic reserve fishing rules**

Anglers should make sure they know the rules about fishing in aquatic reserves. Several anglers have recently received warnings from the DPI Fisheries Officers about fishing in the Fly Point - Halifax Park Aquatic Reserve. The reserve is located in Port Stephens between Fly Point and Nelson Head and extends seaward from the mean high water mark out to 500m. All fishing is prohibited in the reserve, except for line fishing, which is permitted at the two jetties at Little Beach and between the two jetties. The collection of all marine organisms whether dead or alive, and empty shells is also prohibited. Aquatic reserves are permanent reserves established to protect biodiversity and are representative of samples of our marine life and habitats. They are also established to protect important habitat and nursery areas and protected species, or for research and education. For more information on Aquatic Reserves in NSW visit our website.

### **FADS – New email address**

If you want to know more about the NSW DPI Fish Attracting Devices (FADs) program or have any questions about the devices, you can now email the program directly [fads@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:fads@dpi.nsw.gov.au). Please note starting June 2005 the FADs will be removed for maintenance (over winter) and redeployed in October.

### **Fine and court order issued for illegal riverbank works**

Riverbank landholders are being reminded they need to apply for government approval before undertaking any works within 40 metres of waterways, following the conviction of a man for unauthorised reclamation works on the banks of the Clarence River. The Ebor resident was fined \$750 and ordered to pay court costs and carry out remediation works on the riverbank to rectify the illegal works. An investigation of the alleged works was initiated after receiving information from a member of the public. Over 800 old car tyres had been used to reclaim approximately 80 metres of the river foreshore. The use of car tyres and any other waste materials is an unacceptable method of bank stabilisation. Car tyres can pollute waters and damage aquatic habitats if the river bank stabilization works fail and the tyres wash away. The maximum penalty for an offence of this nature is \$110,000. NSW DPI is committed to conserving fish habitats and reminds landholders to seek advice and apply for the relevant approvals before undertaking any works near our precious waterways. Foreshore stabilisation works can be very beneficial if they are conducted in accordance with best practice guidelines. To receive the most current guidelines contact the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources on (02) 9762 8044 or your local council.

### **Show us your catch! Send your photos for the Recreational Fishing Photo Gallery**

NSW Fisheries invites you to send in your fishing images for the recreational fishing photo gallery. For more information visit our website or contact Jenny on 9527 8505.