



Newscast



An information bulletin for recreational fishers

Edition 54, June 2007

Trout Season closes midnight 11 June 2007

The annual trout season in NSW will close at midnight on Monday 11 June to allow brown, rainbow and brook trout a chance to breed uninterrupted. Designated trout streams will be closed to recreational fishing after the June long weekend and will reopen at midnight on Friday 28 September 2007, enabling trout fishers to fish during both long weekends. NSW DPI in conjunction with the acclimatisation societies has been stocking our trout dams and rivers for many years. During the previous 12 months, more than three million trout have been stocked into our waterways. NSW DPI Fisheries officers will be out in force during the June long weekend to advise anglers on the fishing laws, enforce size and bag limits and ensure NSW fishing rules are being obeyed.

Night fishing ban at Lake Macquarie and Tuggerah Lakes

Recreational fishers are being reminded that a complete ban on night fishing around power station outlets at Lake Macquarie and Tuggerah Lakes came into effect on Tuesday May 1st. The restrictions, which are in place for the fourth year, have been introduced to help protect juvenile fish, which gather around the power station outlet's warm water discharge area and are vital to ensure the long-term sustainability of fish stocks in these lakes in years to come. The restrictions are in place from 1 May through till 31 August each year. Anglers are prohibited from fishing from boats and on the shore, in or near the power station outlets in Lake Macquarie and Tuggerah Lakes between 6pm and 6am. Fisheries officers will conduct regular night patrols and those who are caught fishing illegally within the closed areas could face a \$500 on the spot fine.

Fishcare volunteers needed for inland NSW and South Coast

Keen fishers are invited to join the NSW Government's successful Fishcare Volunteer Program, which has nearly 300 volunteers State-wide. Fishcare volunteers play a vital role in promoting awareness and do a terrific job in advising anglers about the rules and values of sustainable recreational fishing in NSW. Anyone with a passion for recreational fishing and is able to donate eight hours a month can join this important community program, which is helping to promote good fishing practice in NSW. Volunteers take part in kids fishing workshops and collect fishing information by conducting surveys but do not have any enforcement powers.

- Inland NSW - Tamworth to Wagga Wagga. The two-day training session is planned for the weekend of the 16 and 17 June at the Bathurst campus of TAFE. For more information contact Brett Smith on 02 6332 5314 or 0447 219 618.
- South Coast - North Wollongong to Eden. The two-day training session is planned for the weekend of the 23rd and 24th of June at the Shellharbour campus of TAFE. For more information contact Gavin McDonall on 02 42951809 or 0438 245 190.

All training sessions will include presentations by DPI staff about recreational fishing, rules and regulations, conservation, research and communicating the rules of sustainable fishing to anglers. There is also a TAFE training component in fish biology and identifying fish species and participants will receive a statement of attainment in fish care. After reaching volunteer milestones and completing sea safety training volunteers will then have opportunities to assist in dedicated Fishcare boats.

General information 1300 550 474

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

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/recreational

Introducing a Code of Practice for Competition Fishing in NSW

Recreational fishing representatives and DPI are working together to develop a Code of Practice for Competition Fishing in NSW. Our joint vision is for all fishing competitions to follow the voluntary Code of Practice so that the organisers and participants in these events operate in a safe, environmentally and socially responsible way. Competition rules and activities should demonstrate best practice and where possible, enhance the economic benefit for the community. The main principles underpinning the Code of Practice are that the fishing competition organisers and participants:

- Operate in an environmentally and socially sensitive manner
- Promote responsible fishing practices
- Comply with Fisheries, Maritime and Environmental Protection regulations
- Maximise opportunities to help the sport, the environment and the community
- Operate in a safe manner

More information on ways to achieve these principles are provided in "Recommended Practices for Fishing Competitions in NSW" which can be found on the NSW DPI website at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/recreational_fishing.competitions@dpi.nsw.gov.au or phoning DPI on (02) 95278476 or email fishing.competitions@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Recreational Fishing Surveys in the Greater Sydney Region

The Greater Sydney Region stretches from Newcastle southwards to the Illawarra area. This bioregion contains the three largest cities in New South Wales and a great number of the state's recreational fishers. Recreational fishing surveys, funded by DPI and the Saltwater Recreational Fishing Trust are collecting information on fishing effort, catches and the opinions of fishers about the quality of the fishery. These surveys will allow researchers to determine the size of the recreational harvest, the catch rates of fishing parties and the sizes of important fish species over a 2 year period. These interviews are voluntary and selecting fishing parties for an interview will be randomly conducted by NSW DPI research staff covering various survey sites. Your cooperation in providing accurate information will assist in the sustainable management of these important recreational fisheries.

Local kids learn from their Elders

A group of 30 Aboriginal students aged from 10 to 14 years from the lower Murray area were given the chance to swap fishing stories and learn about responsible fishing during a special workshop that was held in May. NSW DPI staff along with elders from the Aboriginal community and Aboriginal Educators from the Buronga, Dareton, and Wentworth Public Schools and the Coomealla High school passed on valuable fishing skills and knowledge. Fishing has played an important role in Aboriginal culture and the workshop was a wonderful opportunity for younger children to carry on that tradition. The students learned how to identify different types of fish, how to clean the fish for eating, and all about rigging, baiting and casting. Every child received a rod and reel, a tackle box, a hat and water bottle together with Fishing Guides and other fisheries information. This workshop follows similar workshops recently held with Aboriginal primary and high school children in Narooma, Inverell and Nambucca Heads, helping to ensure that recreational fishing remains a sustainable and enjoyable pastime in the future and also provide a great opportunity to share with the local Aboriginal community their knowledge of local cultural fishing and stories.

Reminder to all Agents

To order additional licence books, monthly return books and recreational fishing advisory information, contact the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) recreational licensing team on (02) 9527 8589 or fax your order to (02) 9527 0034.

To be added to the **Newscast** electronic mailing list, please send your email address to fisheries.newscast@dpi.nsw.gov.au

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