



Newscast



An information bulletin for recreational fishers

Edition 56, October 2007

Reminder - New fishing bag and size limits

NSW fishers are reminded that changes to saltwater and freshwater fishing rules came into effect on 3 September 2007. A full list of the changes can be found on the DPI website or pick up information material from recreational fishing fee agents (most tackle shops), your local fisheries office or 1300 550 474.

Bag and size limits are reviewed regularly to ensure a sustainable future for high quality recreational fishing in NSW. The size limits also apply to commercial fishing. The changes reflect the findings of scientific assessments, the National Recreational and Indigenous Fishing Survey, the Palmer inquiry into illegal fishing, advice from expert committees of fishers and more than 3300 public submissions.

New submarine cable protection zones in NSW waters

Fishers operating off NSW should be aware that the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) has declared protection zones over two key submarine cables in the greater Sydney region.

The protection zones will come into effect on 1 October 2007 as follows:

Northern Sydney Protection Zone: extending from Narrabeen beach to 40 nautical miles offshore covering northern branches of the Australia Japan Cable and Southern Cross Cable, including the area between these two cables.

Southern Sydney Protection Zone: extending from Tamarama and Clovelly beaches and extending 30 nautical miles offshore covering the southern branches of the Australia Japan Cable and Southern Cross Cable, including the area between these two cables.

Activities which pose a risk of damage to a cable are restricted within the zones and vary with distance from shore, water depth or both. Rules that may affect the activities of recreational fishers in the zones include:

Anchoring:

- Permitted up to 500 metres seaward from the low-water mark
- Restricted depending on the weight and breaking strain of the anchor line between 500 metres from the low water mark to the 100 metre depth contour
- Not permitted in waters more than 100 metres deep

Fishing using j-hooks:

- Permitted up to 500 metres seaward from the low-water mark
- Permitted beyond 500 metres from the low-water mark, providing that the line has a breaking strain of 50 kg or less

It is an offence to engage in a prohibited activity or contravene a restriction in a protection zone, or, to damage a submarine cable. Further information about the zones, including location information (GIS coordinates) and maps are available at www.acma.gov.au/subcables or by calling 1300 856 337.

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

Fish Stocks in the Tweed and Richmond Rivers get a major boost

Nearly thirty thousand mulloway fingerlings have been released into the Tweed and Richmond Rivers as part of an ongoing research marine stocking program to determine the survival and growth of stocked fish. 14,000 juvenile mulloway were released into the Richmond and another 14,000 into the Tweed. The fingerlings are between 70 and 80 mm in length and should reach the minimum legal size of 45 cm in about two years. The fingerlings were released into known habitat patches along the Tweed and Richmond rivers after scientists determined the carrying capacity of each habitat patch. Fish stocking is another great example of fishing fees being put back into the water to improve recreational fishing in NSW.

Two men found guilty and fined after being caught with 79 times of legal bag limit of cockles

Two Ulladulla men have been ordered to pay more than \$12,000 in fines and court costs, after being found guilty of possession of nearly 4,000 cockles, which were all returned to the water in St Georges Basin. The legal daily bag limit for cockles (and mussels and pipis) is 50 in total. Bag and size limits are in place to ensure the long term sustainability of the resource so it can be enjoyed by all fishers now and in the future.

Murray cod and Murray crayfish season closures

From 1 September until the end of November anglers are reminded that the taking of Murray cod is prohibited in all waters in NSW. The annual closure is designed to protect Murray cod during their breeding season. During these months the trout cod protection area in the Murray River from Yarrowonga Weir wall downstream to the Tocumwal Road bridge is also closed to all forms of fishing to ensure the trout cod breeding season is not interrupted. The trout cod, a close relative of the Murray cod, remains totally protected all year round. The Murray crayfish season came to a close on 1 September, ending the annual four-month open season. Murray crayfish, the largest freshwater crayfish in NSW, are slow growing and take up to eight years to reach legal size. The closure ensures that recreational fishing for crayfish in the Murray and Murrumbidgee River catchments remains sustainable.

Annual trout season opens

The NSW October long weekend marks the start of the trout fishing season. The opening, on the 29th follows the completion of the annual spawning period, which allowed trout to travel up rivers and streams to breed uninterrupted.

The trout fishing industry is important for economies of regional NSW. A survey of the value of trout fishing in the Snowy Mountains alone showed it is worth \$70 million to that region's economy, while also creating hundreds of jobs in the region. Outstanding trout fishing is often found in the headwaters of the Murrumbidgee, Eucumbene and Thredbo Rivers, the lakes of the Snowy Scheme (Eucumbene, Jindabyne and Tantangara), Talbingo Dam and Khancoban Pondage. Other renowned trout fishing areas include the New England region and the Central Tablelands.

The 2007/08 fish stocking season has already begun and by the end of the October long weekend approximately 312,000 rainbow trout fry will have been released into the rivers and streams of the New England area, while an additional 120,000 fry would be released in the Central Tablelands area. These are the first of many planned trout releases, with approximately three million trout and salmon to be released across NSW this stocking season.

The season opens on 29th September and closes at the end of the June long weekend.

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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