



# Newscast



An information bulletin for recreational fishers

Edition 31, July 2004

## **New name for NSW Fisheries**

NSW Fisheries is now part of the new NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI). The new department consists of NSW Fisheries, NSW Agriculture, Mineral Resources and State Forests of NSW. What does this mean for anglers? On the water very little has changed. Our Fisheries Officers are still on the beat, and recreational fishing programs continue as before. We will now have access to a wider range of resources to provide better service to anglers, especially those in rural areas. The biggest change is the departure of long time NSW Fisheries Director-General, Steve Dunn. Steve has moved on to greener (or bluer) pastures in the Solomon Islands. We wish him the best of luck with his new job for the Forum Fisheries Agency. Barry Buffier has been appointed the Director-General of DPI.

## **Message to licence agents**

A package containing new monthly licence return books with the Department's new ABN are currently being sent to licence agents. Agents that have received this package should use the new book for returns submitted from 1 July 2004. Old books should be returned. If you have any questions please contact Amalia on (02) 9527 8585.

## **Have your say on licence spending**

Two angler committees – one saltwater and the other freshwater, oversee the expenditure of money raised by recreational fishing licence. The people on these committees are anglers who are passionate about their sport and wish to see the licence funds used to benefit anglers. We are now seeking people who wish to be members of these committees. Vacancies are available on the freshwater committee for representatives from Sydney/Central Coast; South Coast and Inner South West. There is also a vacancy on the saltwater committee for someone from the coast with interests in game fishing and other recreational fishing activities.

Successful applicants will be appointed for a three-year period and required to attend meetings in Sydney three to four times a year (travelling expenses and sitting fees paid). If you are interested, send a written expression of interest outlining your: reasons for applying; knowledge; relevant skills and experience; and any memberships you have with recreational fishing organisations. **Applications close on 13 August 2004.** Applications should be sent to Recreational Fishing Trusts Expenditure Committees, C/- Bryan van der Walt, PO Box 21 Cronulla NSW 2230, or fax (02) 9527 8522. If you need more information give Bryan a call on (02) 9527 8411.

## **Spearfishing - did you know?**

Remember – all protected fish and the blue groper cannot be speared. Using a light while spearfishing is also illegal. Most parts of ocean beaches, many estuaries and parts of aquatic reserves and marine parks are closed to spearfishing. Plan your trip well and ask about restrictions or closed areas at your local Fisheries office – it is your responsibility to know the rules.

## From the courts

A 68 year-old commercial fisherman from Iluka was convicted and received a \$2,500 fine for using a net with undersize mesh on the Clarence River. The net, seized by Fisheries Officers, was 400m long and constructed of mesh 20-25mm below the legal minimum mesh size of 80mm. The nets have a minimum mesh size to stop the catch of small fish.

## The rules simplified for Hume and Mulwala anglers

Under a new agreement between NSW and Victoria, all fishing in Lake Mulwala is now subject to NSW fishing rules and licences. Similarly, all fishing in Lake Hume will be subject to Victorian fishing rules and licences. Previously each lake was split down the middle with different rules and licences on either side of the line. Mulwala is considered the premier Murray cod fishery in Australia and Hume has a mix of trout, redfin, silver and golden perch, and Murray cod. This agreement is the result of an extensive 18-month consultation process with recreational fishing stakeholders. The new arrangements at Lake Hume and Mulwala come into effect on 1 September 2004. For more information contact the Albury Fisheries Office on (02) 6042 4200.

## Fishcare Volunteers

The successful Fishcare Volunteer Program is the flagship education initiative of the Recreational Fishing Trusts. The program started in 1999 and now involves over 350 volunteers in 26 regions. Volunteers are community members involved in face to face education of the recreational angling community. They donate their time and effort promoting awareness and advising anglers about the rules and values of sustainable recreational fishing. The volunteers are easily identified in their bright blue uniforms. If you see them out and about take the time to stop and have a chat.

Some of the events volunteers will be at in the next three months are:

Date	Event	Where
29 July - 3 August	International Boat Show	Darling Harbour
6 August	Wauchope 4WD, Camping & Boating Show	Wauchope
August	Bonnells Bay Fishing Club Expo	Bonnells Bay
6-8 August	Blacktown City Council Family Fish In	Emerton
14 August	Lake Keepit Fishing Clinic	Lake Keepit
August, Sept October	Mangrove Regeneration Project	Shoalhaven River
12 September	Spring Into the Lakes- International Regatta Centre	Sydney
18 September	Dutton Fishing Clinic	Dutton
02 October	Gaden Fishing Clinic	Jindabyne
31 October	Activate Day- International Regatta Centre	Sydney

For more information please contact the State Co-ordinator on (02) 8437 4912, 0408 437 547 or email [dee.mcelligott@fisheries.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dee.mcelligott@fisheries.nsw.gov.au)

## Charter fishing boats now on DPI website

To promote awareness of licensed charter fishing businesses, a list of businesses is now available on the DPI website ([www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/rec/charter/map-nsw.htm](http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/rec/charter/map-nsw.htm)). The list is designed to tell anglers of licensed businesses in each area and to warn against using unlicensed operators. Details are available for all businesses that wish to be listed.