



Newscast



An information bulletin for recreational fishers

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Reminder – is your licence about to expire?

Remember to renew your fishing licence before you go fishing this Easter. Peak holiday periods are popular fishing times, so to make the process of getting a licence as easy as possible for fishers and licence agents, buy your licence in advance to avoid the rush. You can buy your licence from more than 1100 outlets, including major bait and tackle shops, NSW DPI Fisheries offices, over 50 Kmart stores and selected Shell service stations, by calling 1300 369 365, or by logging onto to internet at www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/lol/home_licence.htm.

Invitation to stock native fish in public waters

Expressions of Interest are sought from the community to stock native fish into public waters in NSW on a dollar-for-dollar basis. For the next stocking season (October 2005 to May 2006), dollar-for-dollar funding has been set aside from the recreational fishing licence to stock Australian bass in eastern drainage waters and Murray cod and/or golden perch in western drainage waters. For each stocking proposal, offers of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 will be considered for matching funding. For an application kit or more information phone 02 6765 4591 or visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au. The closing date for proposals to stock Australian bass is 8 April 2005 and for Murray cod and or golden perch is 27 May 2005.

FADS – New email address

If you are wanting 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. Please note starting June 2005 the FADs will be removed for maintenance (over winter) and redeployed in October.

Fish habitat rehabilitation work continues across NSW

Fourteen new projects across NSW will receive freshwater fish habitat rehabilitation work worth more than \$110,000 funded by the recreational fishing licence fees. The projects cover a range of popular fishing spots, including around Brewarrina, Condobolin, Wagga Wagga, the Hawkesbury and the Parramatta River. The work will rehabilitate about 70 hectares of floodplain and freshwater wetlands; improve fish passage along 200km of river, re-s snag 17km of river and improve more than 40km of river through weed removal and restoring vegetation. Fish populations are a good indication of the general health of our waterways; so improving the ability of our fish to survive, breed and migrate is important for all aquatic biodiversity. Freshwater fish such as silver perch, golden perch, Murray cod, eastern freshwater cod, freshwater catfish and Australian bass will benefit directly from this rehabilitation work.

More fish thanks to weir removal

A disused road crossing on Duck Creek near Wollongong, which was preventing local fish from swimming upstream, has been removed in a joint project funded by the Environmental Trust, World Wildlife Fund Australia and TXU Australia Pty Ltd. Duck Creek is a tributary of Lake Illawarra and is frequented by recreational anglers. The removal of this structure has reinstated free fish passage to an additional 5 km of freshwater habitat.

Tournament Monitoring

The Game Fish Tournament Monitoring Program is funded by the recreational fishing licence and aims to collect angling catch and effort data to assist in the management of fisheries resources. During the NSW Interclub Game Fishing Tournament held at Port Stephens from 26 February to 6 March 2005 the following catch was recorded.

Species	Weighed in	Tagged and Released
Black Marlin	5	506
Striped Marlin	9	141
Blue Marlin	1	9
Yellowfin	3	18
Mahi Mahi	5	14
Whaler Shark	0	20
Hammerhead Shark	1	9
Tiger Shark	9	1
Mako Shark	6	1
Blue Shark	1	0
Totals	40	719

Nearly 95% of fish were tagged and released by anglers as part of the NSW DPI Gamefish Tagging program (also funded by the licence). The Game Fishing Tagging program provides valuable information on the growth and migration of game fish.

Help bring the Silver Perch back from the brink

The NSW Government has launched a detailed recovery plan for one of the State's most popular recreational angling fish – the threatened silver perch. The plan includes further research and monitoring, improving community awareness, restoring habitat and managing aquaculture, stocking and fishing. Anyone with an interest in threatened fish species is encouraged to have a say in the future management of silver perch and make formal submissions on the draft recovery plan. The draft silver perch recovery plan is available by calling (02) 4916 3811. Submissions close on 8 April 2005. It is currently illegal to catch, keep, buy, sell or possess silver perch from the natural environment, apart from dams and lakes which have been stocked.