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NSW fishers to get new waterproof licence

For the first time recreational fishers in NSW will be issued with a new plastic, waterproof fishing licence (receipt). Fishers will be able to carry a waterproof and durable licence, which is the size of a credit card. Anglers can purchase the new plastic recreational fishing licence via:

- The internet - www.licence.nsw.gov.au
- The phone - 1300 369 365
- Any Touch Fishing agent, which can be viewed at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

Fishers who already have a one or three year licence receipt will automatically receive a renewal letter in the post before their receipt expires. If fishers renew their fishing licence using one of 5 easy methods highlighted in their renewal letter, they will also receive a plastic licence. Unfortunately there is no capacity at this stage to issue plastic licences purchased at other DPI agents such as most fishing tackle stores and Kmart stores (service desk) and these agents will still issue paper receipts.

Anglers reminded Murray cod and Murray cray season closed September 1

The Murray cod season is closed from **1 September to 30 November** every year to protect this native species during its breeding season. It is one of Australia's largest freshwater fish growing up to 1.8 m and weighing up to 50 kg. The season is closed for three months every year, so there will be more Murray cod for fishers in the future. When the season reopens on **1 December** anglers should note that the minimum size of Murray cod would increase to 60 cm.

The trout cod, a close relative of the Murray cod (found in parts of the Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers alongside Murray cod) and the eastern cod (found in the upper Clarence River in north eastern NSW) are also totally protected all year round. Trout cod can be differentiated from Murray cod by their overhanging upper jaw, convex forehead and spotted markings. The trout cod protection area on the Murray River between Yarrowonga Weir Wall and Tocumwal Road bridge is also closed to all forms of fishing during the Murray cod closed season.

The Murray crayfish season also closes on **1 September** and reopens on 1 May next year. The closure provides protection for these species during their dormant period. Anglers are reminded that fishing for Murray crayfish is prohibited at all times in notified trout waters and in Blowering Dam.

Western Region Fishcare Volunteers Recruitment

Keen fishers located in the Western Region are invited to join the NSW Government's successful Fishcare Volunteer Program. The two-day training session is planned for the weekend of the 22nd and 23rd November 2008 at Bathurst. For more information about the program or if you would like to apply to become a Fishcare volunteer in inland NSW, contact Brett Smith on (02) 6332 5314 or 0447 219 618.

Kalang River shellfish closure

As a precautionary measure, the Kalang River has been closed to the recreational harvesting of molluscan shellfish (including oysters, mussels, cockles etc) and barnacles due to public health concerns arising from a possible contamination. The closure does not apply to crabs, prawns, squid, octopus or cuttlefish. The recreational closure was effective as of 25 August 2008. For more information contact the Coffs Harbour DPI Fisheries Office on 02 6652 3977 or call 1300 550 474.

NSW fish stocking season began in August 2008

The start of the 2008/09 NSW fish stocking program kicked off in August with the release of thousands of juvenile trout into the State's waterways. More than 188,000 rainbow trout fry have been released into rivers and streams of the New England Tablelands including:

- 84,000 into the Wollomombi River near Wollomombi;
- 42,000 into the Gwydir River near Armidale;
- 76,000 into the Styx River near Ebor, and;
- 12,000 into Oaky River near Ebor.

These are the first major releases of the fish stocking season, which runs from August to May each year. The freshwater stocking program provides huge spin off benefits for regional areas, both in boosting tourism and providing economic opportunities for regional economies. In two years these trout will be mature - that's great news for anglers.

Man fined for killing endangered grey nurse shark

A man from Lake Munmorah has been fined \$2,000 for killing an endangered grey nurse shark. The shark was taken at Halliday's Point - about 15 kilometres from The Pinnacle off Forster, an important habitat site for grey nurse sharks. Grey nurse sharks are endangered and protected from all forms of fishing. Any fisher who catches one of these harmless sharks is obliged to release it or face prosecution. Grey Nurses are placid sharks, not aggressive to humans and a pleasure for divers to watch in the water, helping to boost tourism in the area. Anyone who sees a person harming a grey nurse shark should contact their nearest NSW DPI Fisheries office or Fishers Watch on 1800 043 536.

Fisheries Operation nets three men with 1300 abalone

More than 1300 abalone were seized when Fisheries officers from the Statewide Operations and Investigations Group swooped on three members of an abalone stealing syndicate. The alleged thieves were caught at Shelley Point, Kiola, twenty kilometres south of Ulladulla, following surveillance of their diving activities. Nine fisheries officers seized 1303 shucked blacklip abalone and three sets of diving gear. The 75 kilograms of shucked abalone seized would have been worth \$11,250 on the legitimate market. Penalties range up to a fine of \$22,000 and six months imprisonment for the offence.

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