



# Newscast



An information bulletin for recreational fishers

Edition 31, August 2004

## Reward for tagged black bream and luderick

Anglers are being called on to help a study of black bream and luderick. The growth and movement of these species are being studied as part of a tagging project funded by the Saltwater Trust. Fish are caught, measured and tagged by NSW DPI staff, before being released. Luderick from along the NSW coast and black bream from the State's south are being tagged.

Anglers who catch these species should look for yellow tags in the back of the fish. Each tag bears a number, the words NSW FISH and the phone number, 1300 799 374. If you catch a tagged fish please call this number as soon as possible. A reward is offered for the return of each tagged fish with the tag in place, together with information about the capture. Along with the reward, details about the fish will also be sent to anglers. For further information contact DrJamesHaddy on (02)95278421, 0439032935 or james.haddy@fisheries.nsw.gov.au.

## Marine vegetation – did you know?

Marine vegetation is critical to the life cycle of many of our marine animals. It is illegal to harm or destroy marine vegetation without a permit. Marine vegetation includes all seagrasses, mangroves and seaweeds (there are exemptions for using green bait weed). If you want to collect dead seaweed from beaches for the garden, you can collect up to 20kg per day without a permit. The Department needs your help to look for any suspected illegal works, including dredging and reclamation, and cutting of mangroves. If you suspect illegal activity, please report it to your nearest NSW DPI Fisheries office or call 1800 043 536.

## Funding the little things: Fish cleaning tables

Licence funds are not only used for big projects, they are also used for smaller projects that make a big difference to anglers out for a days fishing. One of the smaller initiatives is the installation of fish cleaning tables throughout the state. So far, the Trusts have spent over \$55,000 to install 17 tables across NSW. Details about tables installed to date; including photos are available at [www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/rec/coastal/small-grants/fish-cleaning-tables.htm](http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/rec/coastal/small-grants/fish-cleaning-tables.htm).

The latest tables to be funded are on the Gwydir River. Bingara Anglers Club have received licence funds of \$5,000, to build three fish cleaning tables in reserves north of Bingara. The river is a popular fishing spot for Murray cod and golden perch. Along with the installation of cleaning tables, the Gwydir Shire Council will also maintain rubbish bins at these sites.

### **Improving freshwater habitats**

The Freshwater Trust has made another \$100,000 available to help restore freshwater fish habitats in NSW. This is the third year of a three-year community program, managed by NSW DPI. The Freshwater Fish Habitat Grant Program provides funding on a matching dollar-for-dollar basis. Individuals, angling clubs, community groups, local councils, Rivercare and Landcare groups can apply for grants up to \$10,000 per year for projects.

If you are, or a group that you belong to is, interested in the program, further information and application forms can be obtained from Milly Hobson, on (02)67654591. Applications forms are also available online at [www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/rec/fw/call-fw-rehab.htm](http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/rec/fw/call-fw-rehab.htm). The closing date for applications is Friday, 29 October 2004.

### **Following bass in the Shoalhaven River**

Australian bass in the Shoalhaven River will be tagged, and their movements monitored, by the Southern Bass Fishing Club. The club has received \$2,800 from the Freshwater Trust to carry out the tagging experiment in cooperation with NSW DPI. Fish will be tagged with internal transponder tags, similar to those used for pets. Club members will use GPS to record exact locations of individual fish. The project will provide essential pre-construction information about bass movements prior to the installation of the large-scale fishway at Tallowa Dam.

### **The dangers of recreationally harvested shellfish**

Some recreational anglers eat the shellfish they collect, including oysters, cockles and mussels. Recreationally caught shellfish are not subject to the same strict food safety controls as commercially harvested shellfish, and can be unsafe to eat in some circumstances. Contaminated shellfish can cause serious illness or, in extreme cases, death. The NSW Food Authority and the Department have produced a fact sheet on eating shellfish. It provides information on why it can be dangerous to eat recreationally caught shellfish. However, if you choose to eat recreationally caught shellfish, the fact sheet also has tips on how to reduce the risk of food poisoning. The fact sheet is available on the NSW Food Authority's web site.

### **From the courts**

Two men have been fined more than \$7,000 after being caught using illegal setlines in the Murray River, upstream of Euston. Fisheries officers seized eight setlines with a total of 170 hooks attached. Three Murray cod were also seized and returned to the water alive. Fishers can only use four set lines (each with only one hook) to catch native fish in rivers west of the Great Dividing Range. Each line must be labelled with the fishers name and address or boat registration.

### **Rock fishing safety**



### **Edition 31, August 2004**

The recent tragic deaths of two people fishing from the rocks in Sydney again highlights the need for rockhoppers to take care when fishing. Rock fishing is the most dangerous sport in the country, but you can minimise the risks. Remember to never fish alone, plan your trip well, carry safety equipment, and wear appropriate clothing and shoes. Never fish when the conditions are unsafe – no fish is worth your life. Additional information about rock fishing safety can be found at [www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/rec/sw/rock\\_fishing\\_safety](http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/rec/sw/rock_fishing_safety).

### **Comment on native fish stocking for 2004/05**

There are many dams and reservoirs suitable for native fish stocking throughout NSW. To ensure that the best use continues to be made of publicly funded fish stocking programs, NSW DPI is seeking input from people who have an interest in the State's stocked native freshwater fisheries.

A draft native fish stocking plan for 2004/05 has been released and we are seeking comments. If you wish to propose the stocking of other dams, you will need to also provide a letter of support from the relevant dam Manager. All proposals will be reviewed to ensure that the stocking is consistent with the Department's fish stocking policy. For more information, contact Mat McLellan at the Narrandera Fisheries Centre on (02) 6959 for a copy of the plan. The closing date for comments is Friday 24 September 2004.