



Newscast



An information bulletin for recreational fishers

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Your opportunity to help improve recreational fishing

Recreational fishing groups, individual anglers, councils and other organisations are being encouraged to apply for grants to improve recreational fishing. Last year alone more than \$10 million was spent on big and small projects across the State, including:

- building artificial reefs in estuaries
- stocking of freshwater native fish and trout and mulloway and prawns in estuaries
- research on key fish species and fishing methods
- fish aggregating devices (FADs)
- Fisheries Officers
- Fishcare volunteers
- fishing clinics, fishing platforms and fish cleaning tables.

Money raised from the sale of the recreational fishing licence fee is placed into two trusts - one for saltwater and the other for freshwater - and must be spent on projects to improve recreational fishing in NSW. Expenditure from these trusts is overseen by committees of expert fishers on behalf of the recreational fishing community. Funds are available for new programs that will benefit recreational fishing in 2008/09 and beyond.

Applications for 2008/2009 funding close on Monday, 7 April 2008. The Trust Expenditure committees will meet soon thereafter to consider the applications. Funding applications must benefit recreational fishing. Contributing funding and in-kind support, such as voluntary labour, is encouraged. To obtain an application package or for assistance with applications contact DPI on (02) 9527 8411 or email recreational.fishingtrust@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Record number of Murray cod released

A total of 776,500 Murray cod fingerlings have been released into freshwater dams across western NSW this year. This is great news for inland anglers who can look forward to catching the highly prized Murray cod when they reach legal length in about two to three years.

The Murray cod have all been bred at the NSW Department of Primary Industries' (DPI) Fisheries Centre at Narrandera and this year's stocking beats the previous record set in 2005/06 by 107,500 fish. The NSW Government, through DPI, has provided more than \$1 million for native and salmonid stocking programs this year, and the Recreational Fishing Trusts has contributed more than \$500,000 to this year's program.

The Recreational Fishing Trust matches funds from angling clubs and community groups to enable the purchase of native fingerlings from registered private hatcheries for stocking in approved sites. This year a further 136,300 Murray cod fingerlings will be stocked under the Dollar-for-Dollar program. If you would like to participate in the Dollar for Dollar stocking program, please phone 02 6765 2781 for an application kit.

Hook in for the Namoi Carp Muster

A carp muster will be held on March 1 and 2 on the riverbed below the Narrabri Crossing Theatre. This is part of the Namoi Aquatic Habitat Initiative, a joint initiative of NSW DPI and Namoi CMA, with support for the day coming from the Narrabri Amateur Fishing Club. The muster is designed to improve the health of the Namoi River. Further information about the Namoi Carp Muster or the Namoi Aquatic Habitat Initiative can be obtained from Milly Hobson or Anthony Townsend at NSW DPI in Tamworth on 6765 4243, Ryan Breen (Namoi CMA) on 6742 9210, or by visiting www.namoi.cma.nsw.gov.au.

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