



Newscast



An information bulletin for recreational fishers

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Message for Licence Agents

With the October long weekend approaching, don't be left short - order more licence books now. To order more books please contact the recreational licensing team on (02) 9527 8585.

Exciting fish recaptures

The following are some interesting recaptures from the Gamefish Tagging Program

A black marlin was recaptured after traveling 3,500nm in 205 days, in a north-easterly direction. The marlin was tagged on 11 January 2004 on the Gold Coast and recaptured on 3 August 2004 in the Pacific Ocean.

A yellowtail kingfish was recaptured after traveling 400nm in 256 days, in a north easterly direction. The kingfish was tagged on 24 November 2004 at Mowarry Point, NSW, and recaptured on 6 August 2004 at Coffs Harbour.

The Gamefish Tagging Program is funded through the recreational fishing licence and provides valuable information on the growth and migration of gamefish. For more information on the program refer to our website at http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/rec/gamefish/home_tagging.htm.

New management arrangements for Hume and Mulwala

New management arrangements for Lakes Hume and Mulwala came into effect on 1 September 2004. Under the new arrangements, fishing in Lake Mulwala falls under the jurisdiction of NSW and fishing in Lake Hume is the responsibility of Victoria. The agreement is the result of an extensive consultation process with recreational anglers.

Fish stocking season gets underway

The 2004-05 fish-stocking season has kicked off with the release of 168,000 rainbow trout fry on 31 August, into rivers and streams around Walcha. This was followed by a release of 98,000 rainbow trout fry on 5 September into the waters around Dorrigo and Ebor. Trout stocking in the New England is conducted in conjunction with the New England Trout Acclimatisation Society (NETAS), a dedicated group of club members who volunteer their time to help with the liberations. These releases mark the first of an anticipated 1.6 million brown and rainbow trout, which will be released from the Dutton trout hatchery in the New England area.

From the courts

Two women and a man have been fined more than \$12,000 after being caught illegally harvesting pipis at Seven Miles Beach, near Gerroa on the NSW south coast. The trio were found with over 3,200 pipis in November last year. The pipis were later returned to the beach. In NSW, anglers can only use pipis for bait, and it is an offence to remove them more than 50 metres beyond the high tide mark. There is also a bag limit of 50 pipis per angler. There are possible health concerns related to consuming recreationally harvested pipis, due to possible algal outbreaks. Pipis harvested commercially undergo a vigorous food safety program to ensure they are safe to eat.

Collecting Abalone – did you know?

Abalone must be measured before you place it into a keeper or catch bag and before you leave the water. You must not shuck (remove the meat from the shell) when you are in, or adjacent to the water. The minimum size for abalone is 11.5cm and the possession limit is 10 abalone per person at any one time. Plastic abalone measuring devices can be obtained free of charge from NSW DPI (Fisheries) offices or by phoning 1300 550 474. Abalone must not be taken with scuba or hookah apparatus.

To allow abalone stocks to recover following outbreaks of an aquatic parasite, all fishing for abalone is banned between Port Stephens and Jervis Bay. The parasite is not harmful to humans but has been a key factor in the decline of abalone stocks. Poaching and black marketing of abalone is a serious problem and a reward of up to \$1,000 is offered for information leading to the conviction of abalone thieves, so contact 1800 043 536 if you know or see anything.

“Hook Line and Sinker”

The Trust funded tournament monitoring program collects angler catch data to monitor and assess fish stocks. Recently the program was at the Hillston “Hook Line and Sinker” fishing event, held over 26 -29 August 2004. Information was provided by 208 anglers who caught a total of 430 fish. Despite the current low water levels, the Lachlan River fished well and appears to be improving for native species. The carp catch rates have significantly declined over the past four years while the catch rates of golden perch and Murray cod have improved. The average size of the golden perch has increased steadily for the past four years from around 36cm to 41cm. A number of small Murray cod were caught which indicates good recruitment in previous years. This is hopefully a good sign for future fishing in the river.

Watch out for Fishcare Volunteers

NSW Recreational Trust Fishcare Volunteers will be involved in a myriad of events this month, some select events across the state include:

Date	Event	Where
1-5 Nov	Snowy Mountains Trout festival	At Lake Jindabyne, Trust funded bluey will be on display and volunteers will assist with surveys
6 Nov	Dutton hatchery children's fishing clinic	Ebor, Trust funded fishing clinic
13 Nov	Wyangala Dam, Fishing competition	Wyangala, Advisory stand and assist with surveys
12-14 Nov	Bateman's Bay 4WD & Boating Expo	Batemans Bay, Trust funded Bluey will be on display
27 Nov	Gaden Fishing Clinic	Jindabyne, Trust Funded fishing Clinic
28 Nov	Guided Reef Walk	Long Reef Aquatic Reserve, 3.30pm & 5.30pm

If you would like more information relating to these or other events and activities volunteers are involved in please contact the Recreational Trust State Coordinator, Community programs on (02) 9527 8531 or dee.mcelligott@fisheries.nsw.gov.au.