



# Newscast



An information bulletin for recreational fishers

Edition 52, February 2007

## **Call for 2007/08 funding applications for projects that benefit recreational fishing in NSW**

All revenue raised by the recreational fishing fee is placed into two trust funds dedicated to recreational fishing - one for saltwater fishing and the other for freshwater fishing. Committees of expert anglers oversee expenditure from the trusts. Last year more than \$10 million was spent on projects across the state. Funding went towards artificial reefs, ongoing fish stocking programs, fishing methods, fish aggregating devices (FADs), the restoration of fish habitat, fishcare volunteers and fish cleaning tables and fishing platforms. Expert angler committees are meeting again in April 2007 to make recommendations on funding opportunities in 2007/08 and beyond. Contributing funding is encouraged by the Expenditure Committees and can be provided as in-kind support, such as voluntary labour etc. **The closing date for applications is 7 March 2007.** If you would like to discuss a proposal or require assistance with your application, please contact the Recreational Fishing Trusts Executive Officer on 02 9527 8411 or email [recreational.fishingtrust@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:recreational.fishingtrust@dpi.nsw.gov.au). Further information is available on the NSW DPI website [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/recreational](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/recreational).

## **More prawns on the menu for recreational Fishers**

In an Australian first, a total of four million juvenile Eastern King prawns have been stocked into Wallagoot and Back Lakes on the NSW south coast. The prawns were stocked into seagrass areas at night in a bid to improve their survival rates. The stocking is part of a three-year project which is funded through the Recreational Fishing Trusts, and it is being carried out by researchers from the University of New South Wales to determine the survival and growth of the prawns. NSW has a large recreational prawn fishery but the life cycle of prawns in Wallagoot and Back Lakes is usually disrupted because these estuaries are only open to the ocean for limited periods. The stocked juvenile prawns are about 15 mm in length and fishers will be able to harvest them when they reach about 50mm.

## **20,000 Reasons to Throw a Line In**

Fish stocks in the George's River, and the mid north coast got a boost in early February with the release of 20,000 juvenile mulloway fish as part of a major three-year fish stocking program. The releases involved two batches of 10,000 juvenile fish, each about 8 to 15 cm long, being let go into the George's and Manning Rivers. This is great news for anglers who can look forward to catching these fish in a year or two when they reach the minimum legal size of 45 cm. The program now in its second year, is funded by the Recreational Fishing licence fees.

## **Six Artificial Reefs for St George's Basin**

Six artificial reefs have been deployed in St George's Basin in a bid to improve recreational fishing in the area. The reefs are part of a three-year \$386,000 pilot program funded by the Recreational Fishing Trusts and will create valuable fish habitats at depths of 6.5 metres in this popular recreational fishing spot, attracting various species of fish. The Artificial Reefs will be made up of 180 concrete modules known as 'Reef Balls', which can be easily moved, or removed completely, if necessary. Reef Balls are made using a special mix of concrete that allows algae to grow quickly, creating ideal marine habitat for fish and invertebrates. St Georges Basin is the third recreational fishing haven (RFH) in NSW to trial the artificial reefs, after similar structures were deployed in Lake Macquarie in December 2005 and Botany Bay in June 2006. Check out [www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/recreational/general/artificial\\_reefs](http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/recreational/general/artificial_reefs) for the GPS coordinates of the reefs.

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](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/recreational)

### **Fishing safety Advice**

The recent tragic deaths of three fishermen are a timely reminder for all those who enjoy the sport to fish safely and not to take risks when near the water. Around one million people throw in a line in NSW every year and while the majority remain safe, tragedies do occur. Fishing is a really popular pastime but it can be dangerous, particularly when fishing off rocks or near fast moving water. Anglers are encouraged to remember to follow some simple guidelines to ensure they return home safely:

- Observe first, fish later.
- Check weather and water conditions before you start fishing.
- Never take risks when fishing, even when fighting fish or trying to retrieve tackle.
- Never enter the water after a lost rod, tangled line or lost lure.
- Wear a lifejacket or buoyancy vest when boat fishing or when fishing in hazardous locations such as rock platforms or those located near areas of fast moving water.
- Always wear appropriate non-slip shoes.
- If someone falls into the water, do not jump in after them, instead look for an angel ring, life buoy or something that floats and throw it to the person in the water.
- Alert emergency services by dialling 112 from a mobile phone or 000 from a landline.
- Inform others of your fishing plans. Always let friends or family know where you are going and when you will be back.

### **More Recreational Fishing Trust Grants underway**

Grants totalling almost \$300,000 have been allocated to community groups, landholders, recreational anglers and local Councils for 18 fish habitat projects throughout NSW. In addition to the funding more than \$1.1 million has been committed as in-kind support from the successful applicants. The program now in its fifth year, is funded by the Recreational Fishing Trust. The 18 projects cover a range of popular fishing spots such as the Hawkesbury, Richmond, Macintyre, Bombala, Manning, Nambucca and Clyde catchments. They include saltmarsh and mangrove rehabilitation in coastal estuaries, improving fish passage at a number of barriers including the causeway to Stuart Island on the Nambucca River, and the construction of a fishway on the Gloucester River. Projects will enhance the health of NSW waterways including Mullet Creek near Wollongong and the Murrumbidgee River near Hay, through the removal of weeds, river bank stabilisation, and fencing to exclude cattle. Rehabilitation of fish habitat will provide long-term sustainable benefits for native fish stocks which will ultimately benefit anglers and local communities.

### **500 metre Protection Zone established for WWII Japanese M24 Midget Submarine Shipwreck**

This internationally significant wreck, located off Sydney's Northern Beaches in November 2006, has been provisionally declared a historic shipwreck under the *Commonwealth Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976*. The Federal Minister for the Environment and Heritage has also declared a **no-entry** protected zone around the site, restricting access including fishing and boat traffic. As the wreck is within the limits of NSW State waters, an interim Heritage Order under the *NSW Heritage Act 1977* has also been placed over the site and fines of up to \$1.1 million now apply for any damage to the wreck structure. The protected zone is an area with a radius of 500 metres, the centre of which is 33° 40' 21'' S, 151° 22' 58'' E.

### **Reminder to all Agents**

With summer holidays over and the Easter ones fast approaching, now's the time to make sure your monthly returns are up to date and to order more licence books well in advance, if necessary. To order more books, contact the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) recreational licensing team on (02) 9527 8589 or fax your order to (02) 9527 0034.

To be added to the **Newscast** electronic mailing list, please send your email address to [fisheries.newscast@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:fisheries.newscast@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

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