



Newscast



An information bulletin for recreational fishers

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Abalone Bust

Two young men from the Sutherland Shire may face court charges over allegedly catching more than 250 times the legal bag limit of abalone at Aragunnu in the Mimosa Rocks National Park, near Tathra. DPI fisheries officers seized 566 live abalone, 529 were of prohibited size, as well as scuba diving gear. The abalone were counted, measured, photographed and returned to the water alive. Strict size and possession limits apply to abalone in NSW. The recreational bag limit for abalone in NSW is two per person and the minimum size limit is 11.5 centimetres. DPI officers regularly conduct covert and overt operations along the NSW coastline using land, sea and aircraft patrols. Any illegal diving or fishing activity should be reported immediately to DPI Fisheries Officers or the Fisher's Watch Line on 1800 043 536.

Study to learn more about Salmon

Researchers are studying the biology, population and catch composition of eastern Australian salmon to work out how best to manage stocks of the fish in NSW waters. Aspects to be studied include how fast the salmon grow, when and where they breed, where they move and what they eat. Commercial and some recreational fishers believe that the salmon are feeding on large quantities of baitfish, such as garfish and pilchards, as well as other important species such as whiting. The study will provide information to assist decision-making regarding the status of the stock, the optimum scale of commercial harvesting and the effects on the ecosystem of an a potential larger salmon population. The research also involves investigating the importance of salmon to Aborigines in NSW.

Two new Fishing Cleaning Tables for Lake Cathie

Lake Cathie Landcare Group will receive \$1,350 to build two fish cleaning tables at Lake Cathie after successfully applying for a Recreational Fishing Trust grant. The two steel fish cleaning tables will be located near popular recreational fishing spots. One table will be installed on the southern shore of the lake in Aqua Reserve and the other directly opposite on the northern shore in Jabiru Reserve, next to the boat ramp. The Lake Cathie Landcare Group and the Lake Cathie Amateur Fishing Club have volunteered to assist with construction.

Boosted Fish Stocks for Riverina

Fish stocks in the Riverina area will get a boost with the release of thousands of fingerlings in Billabong Creek, north of Deniliquin. Approximately 48,000 Golden perch were released into the creek. The fingerlings, which have been bred at the NSW Government hatchery at Narrandera, are about 35 mm in length. Recreational anglers can look forward to catching these fish in a couple of years when they reach the minimum legal size of 30 cm. The average size of a full grown Golden perch is about two kilograms. The daily bag limit is five per day in streams, rivers and dams. The stocking is part of an ongoing commitment by the Recreational Fishing Trusts to improve fishing in NSW.

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

Out and About with NSW Fishcare Volunteers

Over the past two months the Recreational Fishing Trust Fishcare Volunteers have been very active and a total of 54 angler advisory events have been undertaken. Additionally, Fishcare Volunteers were out on Sydney Harbour providing advice to anglers on 15 days.

Highlights of the last two months include:

- Fishing workshops were held for 30 children at Dutton Trout hatchery (Ebor) in March and 23 children at Cronulla in April. The workshops were a great success and the children were given fishing gear and taught the skills of good fishing practices.
- Sixteen Volunteers assisted at the NSW DPI Easter show stand in Sydney talking to anglers and promoting the many programs funded by the recreational fishing fee to improve recreational fishing.
- Fishcare Volunteers participated in the Lake Illawarra Clean-Up Australia Day. Volunteers and DPI staff undertook water clean up using two DPI boats. Twelve bags of garbage were collected along with other larger items such as shopping trolleys and 44 gallon drums.
- Five major inland catch competitions were attended by volunteers and staff. These included the popular Bidgee Classic with over 400 participants and the Narromine catch and release fishing competition held over the Easter long with over 180 participants.
- Brett Smith joined the Fishcare program as the new Education Officer for the western region. Brett will be based at Bathurst.

Calendar dates for the months of May and June are booking up fast - if you have any local events you think volunteers could assist with please contact the Fishcare State Coordinator on (02) 95278531 or visit www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/general/fishcare_volunteer_program to get in touch with your regional education officer.

Murray Cray Season Opens May 1

The annual four-month Murray crayfish open season begins on Tuesday 1 May and anglers should ensure they know the rules for catching this prized native species. The species is found mainly in the Murray, Murrumbidgee and Edward Rivers and is protected from over-fishing because of its slow growth rate. The rules are:

- A daily bag limit of five applies to Murray crayfish with a total of 10 in possession. They must have a carapace (head) length of at least nine centimetres long, but only one crayfish with a carapace greater than 12 centimetres may be kept.
- Murray crayfish can only be taken during the months of May, June, July and August.
- A ban applies to taking Murray crayfish in trout waters.
- Any female crayfish taken that are carrying eggs must be returned to the water immediately. Removing claws, head or tail in, on or adjacent to water, is also banned.
- Five hoop nets per person are permitted with the user's name and address on the float.

Murray crayfish measuring devices and brochures, which also provide details of areas closed to Murray cray fishing, are available free from NSW DPI Fisheries offices.

Reminder to all Agents

To order additional licence books, monthly return books and recreational fishing advisory information, 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