

## **I&I NSW Game Fish Tagging Program – Tag Times Issue 5**

The latest issue of the I&I NSW Game Fishing Tagging Program newsletter “Tag Times” is now available from the I&I NSW website at [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/fisheries](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/fisheries). Issue 5 contains a number of interesting tagging stories including that of a record breaking Blue Shark recaptured in April by a longliner fishing approximately 100nm off the south east coast of South Africa. This Blue Shark clocked up the record distance travelled by a shark tagged as part of the Program travelling a straight line distance of 5,073 nautical miles having swum across the Indian Ocean after being released at Port MacDonnell (SA) on 20 May 2005. The fish was estimated to weigh 9kg when tagged and upon recapture had grown to 47kg. If you wish to receive the Tag Times newsletter, please email [gamefish.tagging@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:gamefish.tagging@industry.nsw.gov.au).



## **St Georges Basin Estuarine Artificial Reef Expansion**

In November 2010, I&I NSW completed the first stage of the expansion of the St Georges Basin artificial reef. Over a two week period a total of 300 artificial reef concrete modules called Reefballs were transported by barge and placed on the bottom of the Basin by a crane. Two types of Reefballs were deployed - one weighing 250kg and the other 900kg. The reef will create good fish habitat and a quality fishing location over the coming summer fishing season. A small pilot artificial reef was deployed in 2007 and proved very popular with recreational fishers. A further 300 Reefballs are planned for deployment in the Basin in 2011, which will make this reef system the largest estuarine reef constructed so far by I&I NSW. Further information on the estuarine artificial reef project including reef locations is available at [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/fisheries](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/fisheries) or by phoning (02) 9527 8411.

## **Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs)**

In preparation for the summer fishing season I&I NSW has reinstalled all 25 FADs along the NSW coast. Early reports of Mahi Mahi (Dolphinfish) around some of the FADs indicate that this is likely to be a great fishing season. Check out the I&I NSW website [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/fisheries](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/fisheries) for the FAD locations. To report a lost or damaged FAD please contact I&I NSW on (02) 9527 8411 or email [fisheries.FADs@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:fisheries.FADs@industry.nsw.gov.au).

## **The Sydney Catchment Management Authority needs your ideas!**

Whatever your involvement in boating and fishing, the Sydney CMA invites you to complete an online survey to help develop an education strategy for boaters and fishers. The strategy is being funded by the Federal Government’s Caring For Our Country and everyone that completes the survey could win a voucher to spend at their favourite boating and fishing tackle store. The survey should only take about seven minutes and entries close on 16 February 2011. To participate in the survey go to [www.surveymonkey.com/s/MTTKMDC](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MTTKMDC).

### **More fishing facilities for anglers**

Fishing clubs and local councils have been busy this year constructing and improving angling facilities around the state using funds allocated from the NSW Recreational Fishing Trust. Recently completed projects include fish cleaning stations at Lake Keepit, Copeton Dam, Mannus Lake, Norah Head, The Entrance, Iluka, Merimbula, Wangi, Coal Point, Moruya and Malua Bay. Fishing platforms have also been constructed this year at Stockton, Clifton Gardens and Merimbula. It looks like 2011 will be another busy year with another thirty angling facility projects planned. Fishing clubs, local councils and other organisations are encouraged to apply for funding from the NSW Recreational Fishing Trusts to improve or provide angling facilities. If you would like to discuss a potential project please contact the I&I NSW Angling Facilities Manager on (02) 6648 3917 or email [recreational.fishingtrust@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:recreational.fishingtrust@industry.nsw.gov.au).

### **Toxic marine algal bloom: Wagonga Inlet**

The temporary recreational fishing closure in Wagonga Inlet prohibiting the recreational harvest of shellfish, including all species of mollusca (excluding cephalopods) and all barnacles, by all fishing methods has been extended until 23 January 2011 following further advice from the NSW Food Authority. Toxic marine algal blooms have been detected in the Inlet, which can cause Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP). In NSW, commercial harvested shellfish produced by oyster and mussel farmers and commercial fishers collecting shellfish, such as Pipis, must comply with a comprehensive food safety program. This program assists commercial shellfish harvesters in controlling the risks associated with harmful substances in shellfish to safeguard public health. A copy of the Wagonga Inlet fishing closure notice and information on marine algal blooms is available on the I&I NSW website at [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/fisheries](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/fisheries).

### **Fishcare Volunteers out and about over the summer break**

Fishcare Volunteers will be out and about over the New Year period assisting I&I NSW Education Officers and regional staff with the summer workshop program. Fishing workshops for children between 8-14 yrs will be run in both freshwater and saltwater locations at Jindabyne, Narrandera, Ebor, Ballina, Lake Macquarie, Port Stephens, Narrabeen, Cronulla, Merimbula and Narooma. In the morning children will learn the skills of baiting, rigging and casting and receive information about catch and release, habitat awareness, responsible fishing practices and recreational fishing rules and regulations. After lunch the fun starts when the children get a chance to wet a line in a local waterway, putting newly acquired catch and release skills into practice. To register your children for the workshops please contact your local I&I NSW Education Officer or visit the I&I NSW website.

### **Want to become a Fishcare Volunteer? Applications close 28<sup>th</sup> Jan 2011**

Coastal NSW community members are invited to join the NSW Government's successful Fishcare Volunteers program, with training for 2011 to be held on 26-27 February at Cronulla. The weekend includes presentations by I&I NSW staff, as well as a TAFE training component in fish biology & fish species ID. Participants receive a statement of attainment. They work to educate, collect information and promote the benefits of ethical fishing. Volunteers assist with children's fishing workshops, water advisory, as well as displays at field days, trade shows and expos. Volunteers also help with angler surveys, fisheries' research projects and river related habitat projects. Volunteers do not have any enforcement powers and are not involved in compliance operations. Applications will close on 28 January 2011. For more information please visit [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/fisheries](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/fisheries).

