



The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP

Minister for Primary Industries

Minister for Small Business

MEDIA RELEASE

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FISH CALL SYDNEY'S REEF HOME

Monitoring of the State's first offshore artificial reef has revealed Sydney's fish populations are flocking to the newest underwater attraction, Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson said today.

"In just six months the purpose-built reef off the coast of Sydney is already proving a huge success with both fish and the State's anglers and is a great example of money collected from fishing licences at work," Ms Hodgkinson said.

"Underwater vision of the reef taken by NSW Department of Primary Industries researchers shows a diverse range of fish species are calling the reef home including yellowtail kingfish, silver trevally, snapper, bream, leather jacket, flathead and even the occasional mako shark.

"This initial monitoring is proving that the architecturally designed reef is able to provide a habitat for a large and diverse community of fish.

"This is exciting news for anglers whose recreational fishing licence fees were invested to make the reef a reality."

The steel artificial reef unit, which stands 12 metres high and weighs approximately 42 tonnes, was lowered into the ocean at a water depth of 38 metres in October 2011.

It is located approximately 1.2 kilometres off The Gap at Vaucluse and 1.9 kilometres off South Head and is the first and largest Australian designed artificial reef structure constructed in Australia.

Ms Hodgkinson said the purpose-built reef is the first of three planned for NSW fishers over the next five years.

"The reef structure was subject to thorough environmental assessments before being lowered into water off the coast of Sydney late last year," Ms Hodgkinson said.

"The reef will now be monitored by NSW DPI researchers for three years using diver surveys and advanced underwater video technology to assess the impacts and effectiveness of the reef.

"This information will be used by the NSW Government to plan and design future reefs off the coast of NSW."

To view footage of the State's first offshore artificial reef please visit

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jlYEZnfFHEw&context=C453f14fADvjvQa1PpcFPnCxXwdBeSN9x0z0BP4x-IBI5qfZ-3fx4=>