



# Newscast

An information bulletin for recreational fishers



**Edition 64 November 2008**

## **Fish Attracting Devices – ready for the summer season**

Popular fish attracting devices (FADs) have been reinstalled in the waters off Ballina, Evans Head, Wooli, Coffs Harbour, South West Rocks, Port Macquarie, Laurieton, Forster and Port Stephens following annual winter maintenance. FADs are yellow buoys, marked with a cross and navigation light on top, that are moored to the ocean floor and are very popular amongst fishers - they attract mahi-mahi or dolphin fish and even marlin. The location of a FAD may fluctuate slightly depending on wind, swell and current direction and Department of Primary Industries relies on anglers to report missing FADs. To report a lost or damaged FAD please contact NSW DPI on (02) 9527 8411. GPS locations for the FADs are posted on the Department of Primary Industries web site. For more information check out [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/saltwater-fishing/fads](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/saltwater-fishing/fads).

## **NSW Future Leaders in Recreational Fishing Program**

The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW is seeking interested recreational fishers, including women and indigenous fishers to participate in the NSW Future Leaders program. Selected participants will ideally be between 20 – 45 years old and will be mentored by a group of recognised leaders in recreational fishing advocacy and fisheries management. The program will provide the opportunity for participants to be exposed to a raft of current state fisheries issues in fresh and saltwater, to see how fisheries management and compliance operates, and to spend time viewing one of Australia's pristine marine environments. A 5 day workshop will be held in Coffs Harbour in February 2009 and NSW DPI will be contributing some expertise to the workshop. If you are interested in participating visit [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/future-leaders](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/future-leaders) or for more information contact the RFA NSW on (02) 4362 1687 or 0403 125 766. Applications close 5 December 2008.

## **Fishing for Fame**

Freshwater fishers will have a chance to catch more than a fish this summer if they enter a fishing photography competition. NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and the Freshwater Recreational Fishing Trust have teamed up to run the competition, which will see 12 of the best fishing photos published in a special 2010 calendar. The theme for the competition is 'Freshwater recreational fishing and all that it is to you'. Entry is easy. Photographers can enter online, or through the post. Given the proposed shape of the calendar, horizontal pictures will have a better chance of selection. Photographs must be sent in by 30 July 2009 in time for selection. There are 12 prize packages to be won (all currently valued at more than \$800), one for each photo to be featured in the calendar. Every entrant will also receive a free fishing lure. More details can be found on the DPI Fisheries web site at: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/freshwater-fishing/competition](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/freshwater-fishing/competition).

### **Manilla Carp Muster**

Manilla's first carp muster will be held on November 22-23. Anglers will be able to learn about the impact of carp and how planting trees, removing willows and re-snagging the water benefits native fish. It is the second carp muster for the Namoi River - the first was held in Narrabri in March. The muster is open to everyone and only legal fishing methods can be used. Thousands of dollars worth of prizes are on offer for category winners, including the biggest carp caught, and mystery prizes in both senior and junior prize categories. Registration will be at the Manilla Showground 7am – 5pm Saturday 22 November and 7am – 12pm Sunday 23 November. For more information ring Milly Hobson NSW DPI on 02 6763 1206 or Anne Ferguson Namoi CMA 02 6742 9202.

### **Plastic waterproof licence now available**

Anglers can now purchase a waterproof plastic recreational fishing licence via:

- The internet - [www.licence.nsw.gov.au](http://www.licence.nsw.gov.au)
- The phone - 1300 369 365
- Any Touch Fishing agent, which can be viewed at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au)

Fishers who already have a one or three year licence receipt will automatically receive a renewal letter in the post before their licence receipt expires. If fishers renew their fishing licence using one of 5 easy methods highlighted in their renewal letter, they will also receive a plastic licence.

### **Recreational fishers in for a treat with Lake Conjola Artificial Reef**

Recreational fishers will get their 4th artificial reef this month, the latest reef being installed in Lake Conjola. The reef will be made up of 400 concrete modules known as 'Reef Balls', which can be moved, or removed, if necessary. This is the first NSW DPI artificial reef that will use three different sized Reef Balls which is expected to create a complex reef. NSW DPI deploys artificial reefs in areas that are lacking in reef habitat. The reefs provide a place for fish to live and shelter, and potentially redirect fishing effort from more traditional fishing areas. Previous DPI studies have shown that artificial reefs attract a large variety of popular recreational fish species such as flathead, bream, tarwhine, snapper, leatherjacket and whiting. Artificial reefs have already been installed in St Georges Basin, Botany Bay and Lake Macquarie, with other potential locations currently under investigation including Merimbula Lake.

### **More facilities for anglers**

The Harrington Hotel Blue Water fishing Club received funds from the Recreational Fishing Trust for the construction of a new solar boat ramp light at popular Crowdy Head boat Ramp to enable recreational fishers to utilise the ramp at night. The project has recently been completed by the club.

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)