

The days are getting warmer and the fish are biting

October marks the start of the annual fishing season for many throughout NSW and those who intend to throw a line in are being reminded to obey the fishing rules and fish safely. Fishers are reminded that they need to have paid the recreational fishing fee to fish in all waters of NSW, unless they are otherwise exempt, and that they must carry the receipt with them while fishing. The fee can be paid on the DPI Internet site www.dpi.nsw.gov.au, bait and tackle stores, NSW Kmart Stores, Shell service stations in NSW or by calling 1300 369 365. DPI Fisheries Officers will be out on the water to answer questions and make sure that fishers are obeying the rules.

Funds available to restore fish habitats

Community groups, individuals, fishing clubs, Landcare and Rivercare groups, and local councils interested in restoring fish habitats are invited to apply for a new round of funding for projects that help rehabilitate fish environments and encourage native fish back into our waterways. A total of \$360,000 is available for the 2006/07 financial year, including \$200,000 for freshwater projects and \$160,000 for saltwater. Up to \$30,000 is available for individual projects on a matching dollar-for-dollar basis. Past projects have included the removal of barriers to aid the movement of native fish, the restoration of tidal flows, the re-establishment of native riparian vegetation, and re-snagging rivers. For more information or to download an application form, please visit, www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/recreational or call the NSW DPI Tamworth office on (02) 6765 4591. **Applications close 27 October 2006.**

Expressions of Interest for recreational fishing committee representatives

Expressions of Interest are invited from persons with expertise in recreational fishing to be appointed to fill upcoming vacancies on the Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing (ACoRF), Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFSTEC), Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC), Ocean Trawl Management Advisory Committee, Ocean Trap and Line Management Advisory Committee, Ocean Hauling Management Advisory Committee and Estuary General Management Advisory Committee. Potential members should have specific expertise in recreational fishing as well as knowledge of issues relating to recreational fishing and factors affecting recreational fish stocks. The two upcoming vacancies on ACoRF require representation from people with freshwater and underwater fishing experience. Positions on RFSTEC/RFFTEC represent NSW regional areas.

Upcoming vacancies on RFSTEC include: Region 2 - Evans Head to Woolgoolga, Region 3 - Woolgoolga to Port Macquarie, Region 4 - Port Macquarie to Seal Rocks, Region 5 - Seal Rocks to The Entrance, Region 6b - The Entrance to Wollongong, Region 8 - Narooma to Victoria border and representatives of major fishing organisations.

Upcoming vacancies on RFFTEC include: Region 2 - Central Coast, Region 3 - South Coast, Region 6 - South Inner West and representatives of major fishing organisations.

For an information pack, contact Nick James on (02) 9527 8474 or nick.james@dpi.nsw.gov.au
Closing date for applications is 24 November 2006.

Trout back on the menu as the 2006 season opens

Trout streams in NSW opened on 30 September and will remain open until the end of June 2007 long weekend. The trout season opening marks the end of annual spawning run when trout travel up rivers and streams to breed. Outstanding trout fishing is found in the headwaters of the Murrumbidgee, Eucumbene and Thredbo Rivers, the lakes of the Snowy Scheme (Eucumbene, Jindabyne and Tantangara), Talbingo Dam and Khancoban Pondage. Six million trout and native fish will be released across NSW over the next year. There have already been 486,000 rainbow trout fry released into the rivers and streams of the New England and 163,000 fry released in the Central Tablelands area. Regulations vary in different waterways so anglers should check local daily bag and possession limits and fishing methods with their nearest NSW DPI Fisheries Office.

Redeployment of FADs (Fish Aggregating Devices)

A total of 12 fish aggregating devices (FADs) have been redeployed along the NSW coast for the coming summer season, after being removed for winter maintenance. The re-installed FADs are located in waters off Ballina, Evans Head, Wooli, Coffs Harbour, South West Rocks, Port Macquarie, Forster, Terrigal, Broken Bay, Port Hacking and two devices off Botany Bay. There will be a total of 21 FADs deployed this summer with the remaining FADs to be deployed in the coming weeks (weather permitting). You can obtain FAD locations (GPS coordinates) and the best access points on the NSW DPI FADs webpage at: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/recreational/fads.

Responsible fishing to reduce wildlife injuries

Birds and other aquatic animals can be injured by accidental hooking and they may also become entangled in unattended lines or discarded fishing tackle. A brochure is available to download on our website or by phoning 1300 550 474, it provides information on steps to take to avoid injuries and what to do if you accidentally injure an aquatic animal. For rescue advice or if you see injured wildlife, please contact Australian Seabird Rescue: North Coast 02 6686 2852 or 0428 862 852, Central Coast 0438 862 676 and South Coast 0431 282 238.

Artificial reefs

The artificial reefs installed in Lake Macquarie in December 2005 and Botany Bay in June 2006 are proving a great success, with a huge variety of popular angling species such as snapper, bream and leatherjackets settling on the structures. The reefs have been constructed using concrete 'Reefball' modules which have been used successfully around the world to create habitat for marine fish. The reefs have been installed in identified barren areas and pending approval, similar small artificial reefs will also be deployed in St Georges Basin in January 2007.

GPS coordinates (WGS84):

Lake Macquarie Galgabba Point	Botany Bay
1) 33°05.583' S, 151°36.743' E	1) 33°58.939' S, 151°12.952' E Yarra Bay
2) 33°05.670' S, 151°36.804' E	2) 33°58.859' S, 151°13.112' E Yarra Bay
3) 33°05.745' S, 151°36.876' E	3) 33°58.940' S, 151°13.447' E Yarra Bay
4) 33°05.801' S, 151°36.902' E	4) 33°59.448' S, 151°13.742' E Astrolabe Cove
5) 33°05.887' S, 151°36.602' E	5) 33°59.596' S, 151°14.007' E Congwong Bay
6) 33°05.969' S, 151°36.942' E	6) 33°59.654' S, 151°14.136' E Congwong Bay

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