

Murray Cod season opened on December 1

Freshwater anglers are now able to fish for Murray cod again from Friday 1st December after the three-month annual closure came to an end on 1 December 2006. Murray cod are a prized catch of freshwater anglers and are found mainly in the Murray Darling River system. Every year a three-month ban on fishing from September to the end of November protects this native species during its breeding season. There is a daily bag limit of two per person per day and a total possession limit of four from either rivers or dams. The minimum legal length of Murray cod is 50 cm, but anglers can keep only one fish more than 100cm in length.

2006-2007 Saltwater and Freshwater Fishing Guides Released

Anglers in NSW now have access to the latest information on fishing rules, bag and size limits and safety advice with the release of the 2006-2007 Saltwater and Freshwater Fishing Guides. For freshwater anglers there is information on DPIs fish stocking programme, the type of nets and traps which can be used and a list of all notified trout waters. The saltwater guide contains specific information on gear and tackle restrictions, fish aggregating devices (FADs), nets and traps, knots and rigs, invertebrates and diving and spearfishing. The free guides are available from NSW DPI offices, fishing fee agents like bait and tackle shops, from Fishcare volunteers, or at <http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/recreational>. More information about the guides or NSW fishing rules visit the website or call 1300 550 474.

Sydney Harbour Dioxins

Recent test results have revealed elevated levels of dioxins in fish and crustaceans across the Harbour, including Parramatta River and other connected tidal waterways. A ban has been placed on commercial fishing as a precautionary measure. **Recreational fishing in the Harbour has not been banned, but fishers are urged to follow dietary advice on the consumption of seafood from the Harbour.** Fishers can also continue to practice catch and release fishing.

An expert panel has recommended that fish and crustaceans caught **west of the Sydney Harbour Bridge** should not be eaten. You should release your catch.

For fish caught **east of the Sydney Harbour Bridge**, you should generally not eat more than 150 grams of fish per month. Higher amounts of some fish and crustacean species may be eaten. Testing of popular species has allowed for more accurate dietary advice. The table below provides advice on the maximum consumption of single species.

Species	Number of 150 gram serves	Amounts per month	Species	Number of 150 gram serves	Amounts per month
Prawns*	4 per month	600 g	Sea Mullet	every 3 months	50 g
Crab	5 per month	750 g	Silver Biddie	1 per month	150 g
Bream	1 per month	150 g	Silver Trevally	5 per month	750 g
Flounder	12 per month	1800 g	Tailor	1 per month	150 g
Kingfish	12 per month	1800 g	Trumpeter, Whiting	12 per month	1800 g
Luderick	12 per month	1800 g	Yellowtail, Scad	8 per month	1200 g
Sand Whiting	8 per month	1200 g	Squid	4 per month	600 g

Important note: This advice is provided if one single species is being eaten, eg eating 150 g of bream and 600 g of prawns in one month would exceed the recommended intake. Eating 300 g prawns, 300 g sand whiting and 300 g yellowtail scad in one month would equal the recommended maximum intake. For more information contact the Food Authority on 1300 552 406 or visit www.food.authority.nsw.gov.au.

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

30,000 mulloway fingerlings lift fish stocks in Tweed and Richmond

Thirty thousand mulloway fingerlings were released into the Tweed and Richmond Rivers as part of a major three-year fish stocking program of the highly-prized sport fish. This round of releases involved batches of fingerlings, each 70 mm long, being let go into known habitat patches along the Tweed and Richmond rivers. Scientists have established the carrying capacity of each habitat patch and have been releasing the optimum number of fingerlings for successful fish stockings.

Redeployment of FADs (Fish Aggregating Devices)

A total of 21 fish aggregating devices (FADs) have been redeployed along the NSW coast for the summer season, after being removed for winter maintenance. 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.

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. For co-ordinates log onto www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/recreational.

Marine Parks Zoning Unveiled

After an extensive consultation process that involved more than 130 stakeholder meetings held in Port Stephens, Seal Rocks and Forster, the final zone plans for the Port Stephens–Great Lakes and Batemans Bay Marine Park has been unveiled. Maps of the new zoning plan are available from the Marine Parks Authority website www.mpa.nsw.gov.au, and local DPI and DEC offices in the coming weeks.

District Fisheries Officer to the Rescue

Steve Ward, District Fisheries Officer, Macquarie District was patrolling Windamere Dam when he came across a recreational fisher who was clearly very upset. The fisher explained that he had put his favourite rod down for a moment and the rod had promptly disappeared into the dam when a fish took the bait. Against all odds, DFO Steve Ward located the rod with his net grapple on the first throw and the fisher was astounded to see the fish was still hooked on the line. The fisher landed a Murray Cod, his first ever and was absolutely delighted.

Fish find more room to move in Tweed Shire

Water flow and fish passage have been improved in the Tweed's Rowlands Creek and Rous River after the removal of two disused road crossings. The Tweed Shire Council had removed a concrete causeway over Rowlands Creek and a log sill on the Rous River, opening up 11 kilometres of upstream habitat for native fish in the area. During certain times of year, the old crossings blocked fish from migrating upstream to potential breeding and feeding habitat due to the waterfall effects the structures created. Native fish such as Australian bass, sea mullet, short finned and long-finned eels, freshwater mullet and freshwater herring rely on a variety of habitat types to complete their life cycle and need free movement along rivers and streams to migrate.

Sydney Fishcare Volunteer awarded Volunteer of the Year at recent Recfishing awards.

Sydney Fishcare volunteer Bob Audsley was recently nominated and awarded Volunteer of the year at the inaugural Recfishing awards held in Brisbane on Nov 4th. Recfishing awards are in recognition of the contribution and excellence to recreational fishing in Australia. Bob was one of many volunteers who could have been nominated from the Fishcare program, he is the leader for the Botany Bay region.

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