



NEWSCAST

an information bulletin for recreational fishers

November 2015

Mark the date for the inaugural NSW Fishing Day on 6 December



NSW is being encouraged to go fishing on 6 December, with the NSW Government launching its inaugural [Go Fishing Day](#).

DPI will be running events at six locations around the State, so if you have ever thought about trying fishing or are already a keen fisher, get down to one of the 6 locations for the 'Go Fishing NSW' Day.

A range of fun filled fishing activities will be held at each location:

- Free 'try fishing' sessions for beginners (adults and children 5 years old and over welcome)
- Free goodie bags with lots of 'fishy' giveaways
- Casting competitions
- Check out the DPI fisheries display with everything you need to know about fishing in NSW
- Free local seafood tastings at Coffs Harbour, Kurnell, Nowra
- Free fish hatchery tours at Jindabyne, Narrandera and Ebor

Locations included in special 'Go Fishing' day events include:

- Kurnell, Sydney, Kamay Botany Bay National Park (at end of Captain Cook Drive)
- Nowra, Greys Beach on Shoalhaven River (Fairway Drive)
- Coffs Harbour, Boambee Creek Reserve
- Narrandera Fisheries Centre, Narrandera (Buckingbong Drive)
- Jindabyne, Gaden Trout Hatchery (off Kosciuszko Road)

Ebor, Dutton Trout Hatchery (Point lookout Road)

Can't get to one of the 6 locations, enter a draw to win one of 50 Shimano rod and reel fishing combos (worth over \$350 each) by emailing a photo of yourself fishing in NSW on 6 December to gofishing.nsw@dpi.nsw.gov.au. Or email a photo of yourself collecting litter from your local fishing spot.

More information can be found at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries or phone DPI on 02 4424 7421.



FADs season commences

Good news for offshore fishers is that the East Australian Current has started its annual push down the NSW coast bringing with it warmer water. DPI is well underway with its annual deployment of fish aggregating devices (FADs).

A new FAD will be deployed this season off Narooma, bringing the total number of FADs being deployed for the 2015/16 fishing period to 30.

To stay up to date with the FAD deployments, subscribe to our [FADs update email service](#) or [visit the website](#)



4 new species for NSW Research Angler program

The NSW Research Angler Program has recently been expanded due to its popularity with anglers. In addition to donating Mulloway frames for research, fishers can now also donate frames and / or otoliths from Snapper, Yellowtail Kingfish, Dusky Flathead and Tailor.

The involvement of recreational fishers in improving our scientific knowledge of Mulloway has been crucial. It is hoped that by expanding the program to include a number of other species, this will also increase the number of recreational fishers getting involved.

Recent findings: This enormous 86 cm Tailor (pictured above) caught in St Georges Basin was estimated to be just 6 years old. Over winter 98 Mulloway frames were donated to the program and included 15 fish larger than 120 cm, including a 168 cm Newcastle fish estimated to be 26 years old and a 151 cm fish from Laurieton that was 24 years old. Nine Mulloway were also recaptured over winter, as part of the NSW RAP-ANSA pilot Mulloway tagging project, including a 61 cm fish which swam 100 km north from the Hawkesbury River to the Hunter River (Newcastle) in 305 days.

So if you are a recreational fisher who is passionate about your sport and would like to contribute some crucial biological data on your favourite recreational fish species, please visit the [program web page](#) or contact the program co-ordinator at research.angler@dpi.nsw.gov.au to learn more.



Port Stephens Black Marlin Swims to Solomon Islands

A black marlin released on 28 February 2015 off Port Stephens has been reported as recaptured by a local fisherman off the Malaita Province, Solomon Islands. DPI was recently contacted with news of the recapture by the tag recovery officer at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

Some of the recapture details provided to the SPC by the fisherman were unclear, specifically the exact date of recapture, however it is thought that it was caught during the month of May, 2015. The fish was confirmed as caught using a lure and was estimated at 3 meters total length having originally been released at an estimated 70kg. Images of the tag were provided to DPI for further verification of the catch. The fish was recaptured approximately 1,530 nautical miles from its original release location.

The DPI Game Fish Tagging Program issues tags free of charge and works in close association with the NSW Game Fishing Assoc, the Game Fishing Assoc of Aust and the ANSA (NSW Branch). The program is run using funds from the Recreational Fishing Trust. Over 430,000 fish have been tagged under the program so far. If you would like to get involved in the program please phone (02) 4424 7423 or email gamefish.tagging@dpi.nsw.gov.au.



New accessible fishing platform for Lake Cathie

Port Macquarie – Hastings Council received funding through the Recreational Fishing Trust this year to design and construct a disabled accessible fishing platform at Lake Cathie. Early consultation is underway to determine the best site for the platform, accessible design requirements and ensuring the platform is located in an area that provides the best fishing opportunities. DPI recently met with Council on site to discuss

various location options and design aspects (pic left). Once completed the platform will be a huge boost to fishing and tourism for Lake Cathie.

Other Recreational Fishing Trust funded projects currently underway include a new fishing platform at Moruya, and new fish cleaning facilities at Coffs Harbour, Morpeth and Windsor.

Did you know: Anyone can apply for funding from the Recreational Fishing Trusts to carry out projects that improve recreational fishing. Applications can be lodged at any time of the year and are assessed by expert anglers. To find out how to apply and what is eligible [go to the website for more information](#).



Illegal fishers caught

More than 3000 shellfish illegally caught at Iron Cove in Sydney have been seized by Fisheries officers after they observed two men on the mud flats with large buckets beside them. Police from Burwood Local Area Command provided assistance and a search of a nearby vehicle located 8 buckets, a wheelbarrow and two large tubs full of shellfish.

In total, 1844 cockles, 1328 oysters, eight tapestry shells and four other marine snails were located and seized. [Read more...](#)



Wise words from Lester

Do you fish on a Sydney Harbour Ferry Commuter Wharf? Some complaints from the community have been received about fishing litter, discarded tackle and fish waste.

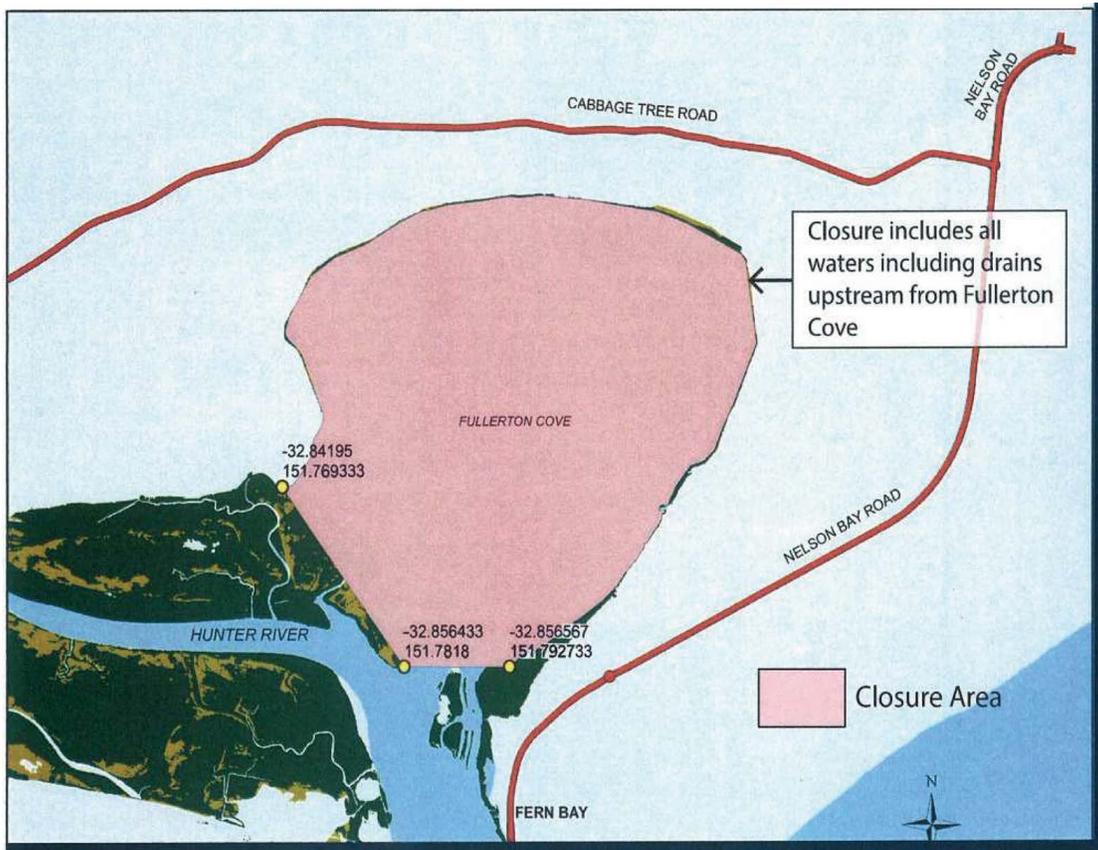
Lester the fisherman says these wharves provide good fishing locations but please don't forget to collect and dispose of your litter, bait, fish waste and tackle responsibly. Some damage to new wharf roofs has also been reported so anglers should take

care when casting out.

DPI is reminding fishers again to do the right thing or risk losing our fishing access to these wharves. Thanks to all fishers who respect and look after our access to these great fishing locations.

Fishing closures extended in Fullerton Cove and Tilligerry Creek





The recreational and commercial fishing closures in Fullerton Cove and upper Tilligerry Creek have been extended to 30 June 2016, as an ongoing precautionary measure, based on a recommendation from the Williamstown Contamination Expert Panel. DPI is assisting the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), NSW Health and Hunter Water as part of a multi-agency response following a contamination incident caused by fire-fighting foams used at the Williamstown Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Base, near Newcastle prior to a change in Defence policy.

The extended closure period is necessary to allow Defence to complete a Human Health Risk Assessment and to ensure the Assessment adequately takes into account all possible individual and cumulative pathways for human exposure to Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA).

Please note the fishing closure does not permit catch and release fishing in the closed areas.

For more information contact the Environment Line on 131 555 or visit www.epa.nsw.gov.au or www.dpi.nsw.gov.au.



Fishers reminded not to harvest pipis for human consumption

Recreational fishers are reminded that there is a longstanding closure in place which makes it unlawful for recreational fishers to take pipis from beaches to eat or to remove them more than 50 metres from the high tide mark, right along the NSW coastline. This is because pipis may contain toxins due to

natural algal blooms, which may not always be visible.

Algal blooms can occur anywhere along the coast and are normally the result of the upwelling of nutrient rich deep ocean water onto the continental shelf, and can often be seen after rainfall events in estuaries and in river mouths. Some of these algae produce harmful toxins that can build up in marine shellfish and the toxins are capable of making people very ill and cooking does not destroy the toxins. It is recommended only eating shellfish harvested under a recognised commercial program. [More information](#)



Get Hooked wraps up free annual workshop weeks 2015

The "[Get Hooked it's fun to fish](#)" program is wrapping up the end of year free fishing workshops for 2015. This year over 1,000 NSW primary school students attended a free fishing workshop and put the theory they learnt in class during the year into practice. 39 workshops were held all over the state from Brunswick Heads to Bermagui and out to Dubbo and Mulwala, some great fish were caught. Check out a short video of the program in action on the [DPI Facebook page](#).

Registrations for 2016 are now open. Get Hooked is free and open to all primary schools in NSW. It is run using funds from the Recreational Fishing Trust, so if you you are a teacher or know of any schools that would be interested in joining this FREE program please contact us by emailing gethooked.fisheries@dpi.nsw.gov.au.



Public reporting helps to answer questions about mysterious flathead diseases

Two separate cases of flathead disease have been reported to DPI in recent months. Both have been confirmed as parasite infections, which are not known to be harmful to humans. The first involved cases of south coast Sand Flathead with misshapen "curvy" backbones. A Myxosporean parasite known to cause spinal deformities has been identified as the culprit.

Second, Lake Macquarie anglers have reported numerous sightings of flathead with yellow bumps in their mouths. The cause of these bumps has been identified as a Trematode parasite. Parasitic infections in wild fish are relatively common and are part of the natural aquatic ecosystem. The number of affected fish can vary depending on a range of environmental factors.

The DPI Aquatic Biosecurity unit encourages public reporting of pest and disease issues across the state. Suspected aquatic pest and disease cases should be made to the NSW Pest and Disease hotline: 02 4916 3877 or aquatic.pests@dpi.nsw.gov.au and DPI Aquatic Biosecurity will consider what further actions should be taken.

Note: Fish legally retained by a recreational fisher that are frozen are not suitable for laboratory disease investigation



New Hammerhead Sharks Guide for Fishers

DPI has just published a new '**Hammerhead Sharks in NSW - Guide for Fishers**'. This identification guide clearly explains the differences between the 3 species of hammerhead sharks in NSW.

Two hammerhead shark species (Great and Scalloped Hammerhead) are listed as threatened species in NSW and one species (Smooth Hammerhead) is not listed and is still permitted to be caught. DPI has also published a new [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) on hammerhead sharks in NSW](#) explaining what to do if you catch a hammerhead shark. Copies of the guide can be [downloaded from the website](#) or picked up from coastal [Fisheries Offices](#) or can be sent to you by emailing fisheries.threatenedspecies@dpi.nsw.gov.au



Fishcare and school holiday workshops

Fishcare Volunteers have been very busy this year assisting at school holiday fishing workshops and various events all around the state. Fishing workshops are run during school holidays for kids 8-14 years old. Fishcare Volunteers and staff dedicate many hours to ensure kids have a great fishing experience. Check out the [fishing workshops timetable](#) for

upcoming clinics in your area.

Fishcare volunteers have also attended over 50 events, fetes, fishing workshops and open days across the state in the past few weeks. With the busy summer season on its way, there will be plenty of events and workshops still to come. If you see "Bluey" our advisory trailer, make sure to visit and pick up the latest recreational fishing advisory information.



Fish of the month - Estuary Perch

Estuary Perch are a long lived (up to 40+ years) moderate sized species (up to 75cm) that inhabits the coastal estuaries of NSW from the Richmond River south to the Murray River (South Australia) and the Arthur and Ansons Rivers in Tasmania. Estuary Perch are a popular sport fishing species especially along the south coast of NSW.

Estuary Perch are very similar in appearance and distribution to Australian Bass. The best method of identifying Estuary Perch from Australian Bass is the dorsal profile of the head which is concave whereas the Australian Bass has a straight to barely concave head profile. The Estuary Perch prefers the more saline brackish waters of estuaries compared to Australian Bass, but can be found in fresh water above the tidal influence. Spawning occurs at river mouths in the cooler months and the eggs and fry have a marine planktonic stage before re- entering estuaries to mature.

The most common method for targeting Estuary Perch is by using soft or hard bodied lures fishing around structure on the lower sections of estuaries.



Aquatic habitat news

Did you know that the Northern Rivers Floodplain Network is a DPI co-ordinated knowledge sharing group who meet twice a year to discuss emerging issues in natural resource management?

Developed 10 years ago as a means for people who are working in the same field to exchange ideas and stop “re-inventing the wheel”, the Network has grown to have over 60 members from a range of disciplines including state agencies, local councils, research providers (universities), non-government organisations, recreational fishers, and floodplain farmers.

Each meeting sees the Network visit a different catchment to discuss a particular topic, followed by site visits to areas around the featured topic. Previous topics covered have included acid sulfate soils, fish passage, wetland restoration and carbon sequestration. The next meeting will cover the use of large woody debris in waterways. For more information about the Northern Rivers Floodplain Network contact Simon Walsh on 02 6626 1256 or simon.walsh@dpi.nsw.gov.au. To keep up to date with the Habitat Action Grant program and other fish habitat news, [subscribe to the Newstreams newsletter](#).

Have you changed address?

If you have changed address since you last purchased your fishing licence, you can update your contact details by phoning 02 4424 7499 or email recfish.licensing@dpi.nsw.gov.au You need to provide your licence number, name plus your new contact details. You can also update your contact details when you renew your licence online.

Your fishing licence at work



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