



NEWSCAST

an information bulletin for recreational fishers

February 2016



A new reef for the mid north coast!

February saw the ongoing expansion of the DPI offshore artificial reef program with the deployment of the third reef off Port Macquarie on the state's mid north coast.

The 20 concrete modules, each weighing 23 tonnes and standing more than 5 metres tall, were constructed in Newcastle and loaded onto a large barge which was towed more than 250 kilometres to the artificial reef site. Each module was expertly

placed on the ocean floor at a depth of approximately 50 metres, 6.3km off the coast.

New offshore artificial reef for Port Macqu...



ready to make the 2 day journey,
250km north to Port Macquarie.

The modules were positioned on the sea floor to maximise the volume of the reef, which is an impressive 1,600 cubic metres. The success of the long towing and deployment operation opens up opportunity for future reefs to be deployed anywhere along the NSW coast. Colonisation of the reef is expected to be rapid with a strong East Australian Current delivering consistent water temperatures in excess of 24 degrees celsius this time of year. The new reef was installed using funds from the Recreational Fishing Licence fee. To find out more about the [Port Macquarie reef including the coordinates visit the website.](#)



South coast prawn stocking

Get your scoop nets out! DPI released 4.3 million juvenile Eastern King Prawns into Lake Tabourie and Wallagoot Lake on the South Coast in December to boost opportunities for recreational fishers. Recent sampling of the prawns in both lakes indicates excellent growth rates with many already at harvestable size.

Prawns are stocked each year by DPI using recreational fishing licence fees. So dust off your prawning gear and plan a trip to the lakes! Remember, there is a bag limit of 10 litres of prawns in total.



Apply now for fishing trust grants

Got an idea to improve fishing in your local patch? Applications to the Recreational Fishing Trust are once again open for projects to improve recreational fishing. Anyone can apply for funding for projects, including fishing clubs and organisations, to enhance local fishing facilities or increase fish stocks.

Hundreds of small and large projects have been funded in the past and another 90 projects are currently underway.

It is easy to apply, [check out the guidelines online](#). Applications close 21 March 2016.



Trout Cod stocking continues

This summer DPI has continued its Trout Cod breeding and stocking program. In December the Narrandera Fisheries Centre released 21,500 Trout Cod fingerlings at a number of sites in the upper Macquarie River, upstream of Lake Burrendong, to continue the conservation stocking program.

More than 5,000 Trout Cod fingerlings have also been released into Talbingo Dam (near Tumut), to add to the 4,000 fingerlings released into the dam in 2014 to create new recreational fishing opportunities for the species in the dam.

[Trout Cod](#) are a native fish species listed as endangered in NSW. This species was once widespread throughout the southern tributaries of the Murray-Darling system, including tributaries of the Murray River in Victoria and the upper half of the Macquarie River. To assist with their recovery, DPI has conducted an annual Trout Cod breeding and stocking program since 1986.

Caught out

A call to the Fishers Watch hotline (Ph: 1800 043 536) by a concerned member of the public has led to the apprehension of 3 men and 1 woman from Auburn in joint possession of 133 prohibited size Blue Swimmer Crabs measuring between 4.1cm and 5.5cm at Lake Wollumboola on the NSW South Coast. The call was made to the hotline on 31 January 2016 immediately



sending alerts to Shoalhaven Fisheries Officers. They attended the lake shortly afterwards and located the people...[See More](#)



Two men from Nymboida and Coutts Crossing have been apprehended by Fisheries Officers in joint possession of 56 Mud Crabs. Fisheries Officers encountered the men at a campsite on the Sandon River within the Solitary Islands Marine Park during the early hours of 3 February 2016. A search of the campsite by the officers located the crabs contained in two tubs and a cast net was also found in the camp. The use of cast nets and possession of them adjacent to NSW water...[See More](#)



DPI school holiday fishing workshops

Did you know DPI runs kids fishing workshops every school holidays? Our experienced Fishcare volunteers and DPI Fisheries Education Officers ensure the kids receive safe and expert tuition.

showing family and friends the bag of goodies and her rod. It was a great experience, thanks DPI"

Some recent feedback shows how popular these workshops have become, "Hi - Thanks so much, Abbey had a great time and hasn't stopped talking about the workshop and loves

Check out the [timetable of upcoming fishing workshops](#) in the upcoming April school holidays.



Mangrove Jack stocking

3,000 Mangrove Jack fingerlings will be stocked soon into Clarrie Hall dam in northern NSW to boost recreational fishing opportunities. The baby jacks are around 45mm in length. This follows on from last years stocking event. Mangrove Jack have a unique life cycle which involves spawning in seawater at offshore reefs, and later migrating into the estuaries and even right up into the freshwater.

Mangrove Jack are a prestige sportfish and well known for their aggressive fighting nature. The Mangrove Jack Breeding Project is based at Southern Cross University's National Marine Science Centre at Coffs Harbour, and is run in part using funds from the Recreational Fishing Licence fee. [Check out the project's Facebook page.](#)



NSW Research Angler Program off to excellent start with new species

The recently expanded NSW Research Angler Program has begun receiving its first donations of frames from the four new key recreational fish species in the program. Some impressive sized fish frames have been donated across a range of sizes including Snapper, Yellowtail Kingfish, Tailor and Dusky Flathead. All these species are hugely important to the recreational fishing sector and effective future management relies on getting as much data on them as possible.

In addition to these new species, 93 Mulloway frames were also donated over spring. An incredible 220 fish were also tagged over winter as part of the NSW RAP-ANSA pilot Mulloway tagging project. Eleven Mulloway were also recaptured over spring, including a 66 cm fish which swam 35 km up the Georges River from Botany Bay to Chipping Norton in 163 days.

Get involved, [visit the program web page](#) or contact the program co-ordinator at research.angler@dpi.nsw.gov.au to learn more. This program is run using funds from the Recreational Fishing Licence fee.



Did you know?

Despite growing to large sizes, Yellowtail Kingfish have tiny otoliths (earbones). This 10 mm otolith above came from a 90 cm kingfish. Despite this, researchers can still use these tiny structures to estimate the age of the fish.



Go Fishing NSW Day a great success

On Sunday 6 December, anglers across NSW got to celebrate one of Australia's favourite pastimes – fishing! Six locations across NSW hosted over 2,000 anglers, keen to wet a line in their local waterway. Locations included Coffs Harbour, Sydney, Nowra, Jindabyne, Narrandera and Ebor.

Free goodie bags were given away to keen anglers both young and old who got to participate in casting competitions, fishing workshops, guided tours, seafood tasting, advisory displays and a kids activity corner. Some great fish were caught on the day, encouraging anglers to get out again over the festive season to put their new skills into practice. Mark the date for the next [Go Fishing NSW Day](#) on 16 October 2016.



Photo competition a winner with anglers

As part of Go Fishing NSW Day, DPI held a photo competition and awarded 50 prize packs. Young Tenzin pictured here was one of the winners and was absolutely stoked with the new fishing rod and reel he scored. His dad Thomas entered his photo with this email...

This is our 5 year old son Tenzin with a whiting he caught all by himself yesterday at Boambee Creek! Of course all the fish were carefully released. He loves letting them go! Tenzin loves fishing more than anything else he could name. It's his

favourite activity by far. Almost every waking moment is spent talking about fishing – and that isn't really exaggerating! The Go Fishing day yesterday down at Boambee Creek reserve was probably one of the best things the little guy has ever seen!



Land-based Kingfish recapture

A Yellowtail Kingfish released on the 5th of September 2015 by Daniel Anderson of the Penrith Panthers Fishing Club whilst fishing Twelve Mile Reef off Sydney has recently been recaptured.

The kingfish measured 90cm total length when tagged and was recaptured at the end of December at Bass Point, Shellharbour, some 49 nautical miles south of its release location. Roger

Gebrail recaptured the fish whilst lure casting from the shore and measured the kingfish at 90cm fork length. This means the fish had grown approximately 8cm during its 113 days (near 4 months) at liberty. The [Game Fish Tagging Program](#) is run using funds from the Recreational Fishing Licence fee.



Get Hooked...it's fun to fish program gears up for another bumper year

In 2015, 87 NSW Primary schools participated in DPI's popular Get Hooked...it's fun to fish program and reeled in over 1,000 young anglers from across NSW to local waterways. Here they put theory learnt in the classroom into practice at free fishing workshops.

Students were rewarded with a goody bag filled with the essentials such as a tackle box, Get Hooked activity book, pencil case, hooksafe and various advisory resources, encouraging them to become active, responsible anglers of the future. The response from teachers and parents has been very supportive with many students summing up their experience as "the best excursion ever!"

The program is free and registrations are now open for 2016 to all primary schools in NSW. For further information email gethooked.fisheries@dpi.nsw.gov.au or [check out the website](#).



Snowy Trout - What's the latest?

Researchers from the Narrandera Fisheries Centre have just finished a 3 month survey of anglers on Lake Eucumbene where preliminary data suggests that this fishery is performing strongly. The survey was conducted after reports from anglers of low numbers of Rainbow Trout.

Interviews have been conducted with around 600 fishing parties (over 1,200 anglers) with the largest Rainbow Trout measured so far at 52 cm and the largest Brown Trout at 62 cm. Slightly more Rainbow Trout than Brown Trout are evident in anglers creels, but of those fish caught and released most are Rainbow Trout. Observations by researchers indicated that early mornings and evenings are the best times to fish and that fish were caught by anglers using bait, lure or fly. The

survey concluded at the end of January and researchers are currently analyzing anglers responses with more results expected to be released later in 2016.



Let's keep the Sydney Harbour ferry wharves clean

Sydney Harbour Ferry Wharves are well known as being great fishing spots, providing easy and safe access to a number of productive locations around the Harbour and Parramatta River. However, the actions of a small number of irresponsible fishers are putting continued access to these areas at risk.

DPI appreciates that the vast majority of fishers do the right thing and respect that the ferry wharves have a lot of users but unfortunately a small minority continue to engage in anti-social behaviour. Recent complaints about excessive noise and offensive behaviour have been received at some wharves around the Abbotsford and Mosman areas.

Respect your access to these great fishing spots. Please dispose of all litter, bait, fish waste and discarded tackle properly. Be mindful of nearby residents and keep noise to a minimum. Note that surveillance cameras are in use at public wharves. So make sure you do the right thing and let's keep fishing! Tight lines.



31 new fish habitat projects kick off

New funded projects have been announced under the Habitat Action Grants program. The 2015 funding round saw \$748,000 of funds from the Recreational Fishing Licence fee allocated to 31 new fish habitat improvement projects, with nearly \$1.2 million committed as matching in-kind support from landholders and land managers.

See the [website for a full list of successful projects](#). To keep up to date with the Habitat Action Grants program and other fish habitat news, [subscribe to the Newstreams newsletter](#).

This year's new projects will:

- install 163 complex woody habitats
- revegetate 6 kms of riparian zone, planting at least 19,500 trees, shrubs and sedges
- control over 17 kms of invasive riverbank weeds
- implement 2.4 kms of bank erosion control
- reinstate 2 kms of fish habitat through better floodgate management
- restore over 180 square metres of crayweed that has been lost off the coast of Sydney.

You hold the key in aquatic biosecurity

Public reporting is vital for managing aquatic pests and diseases in NSW. Be on the lookout for aquatic life that seems out of place in your local area. This includes watching for new species, changes in fish physiology (for example curvy backbones,



inflamed gills or white spots) or fish mortality events. By reporting suspected pests and diseases, you can play an important role in the biosecurity of our aquatic environment. Remember, biosecurity is a shared responsibility!

Aquatic pests are difficult, if not impossible, to eradicate once established. Prevention, such as cleaning and drying equipment between waterways, is our best defence to aquatic pests.

Aquatic diseases can only be diagnosed using laboratory analysis. Legal fish with suspected disease should be kept on ice (but not frozen) and reported to DPI. Record the capture location and take good quality photographs of the fish. Other observations such as water quality and weather conditions can also help DPI with disease investigation.

Report suspected aquatic pests and diseases to the [DPI Aquatic Biosecurity Unit](#) on 02 4916 3877 (24 hour recorded service), aquatic.pests@dpi.nsw.gov.au, or [online](#).



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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