



Department of
Primary Industries

NSW Recreational **Freshwater** Fishing Guide

2016-17



Recreational
Fishing Trusts

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

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A saltwater recreational fishing guide is also available.

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This publication is a guide only, it does not replace the Fisheries Management Act 1994 or other acts and statutory rules applying to, or affecting recreational fishing. It is a summary of laws and regulations at the time of publication and cannot be used as a defence in a court of law.

Recreational fishing regulations may change during the life of this publication. It is the responsibility of fishers to ensure they are acting within the law at all times. Check regulations with your local NSW DPI fisheries office or www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries.

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Golden perch. Ian Osterloh



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NSW Recreational Fishing Fee



When do I need to pay?

When you are fishing in NSW waters, both fresh and saltwater, you are required by law to carry a receipt showing the payment of the NSW Recreational Fishing Fee. This applies when line fishing (rod or hand line); spear fishing; bait collecting or when collecting invertebrates using methods such as hand gathering, digging, pumping, trapping and prawn netting.

In freshwater it applies when fishing in inland (non-tidal) waters of NSW. This also applies when in possession of fishing gear in, on or adjacent to waters. It does not apply when fishing in a dam on private land if

the surface area of the body of water at full capacity does not exceed 2 hectares. NSW inland waters boundaries include the whole of the Murray River to the South Australian border (excluding the waters of Lake Hume), all parts of Lake Mulwala from Yarrowonga Weir wall upstream to the point where the Ovens River enters the Murray River at Bundalong boat ramp and when fishing on the NSW side of the Dumaresq, MacIntyre and Barwon Rivers (a midstream border applies to these rivers).

Note: Hume Weir is managed by the Victorian Department of Environment and Primary Industries. A Victorian fishing licence is required and Victorian fishing laws apply when fishing in Lake Hume on the Murray River arm upstream to the junction with Seven Mile Creek and on the Mitta Mitta River arm upstream to its source.

How much is the fee?

\$7 for 3 days

\$14 for 1 month

\$35 for 1 year

\$85 for 3 years





If you go fishing aboard a charter vessel or with a fishing guide, you may find that your skipper or guide holds an exemption certificate which covers you as well. Always check whether you need to have paid the fee before going fishing.

A fifty per cent concession applies to people who only fish in the tidal waters of the Tweed River and prescribed adjacent beach areas.

Where do I pay the fee?

You can pay at many outlets throughout NSW, such as most fishing tackle shops, caravan parks, service stations, many Kmart stores, via the website www.onegov.nsw.gov.au or call **1300 369 365**.



How do I obtain a plastic receipt?

If you pay for a one year or three year period online, over the phone, at a Touch agent or if you renew your licence using your renewal letter, you will receive a plastic receipt in the post. For all other payment methods you will receive a paper receipt.

Interstate and overseas visitors

Recreational fishing licences issued by other states, territories or countries are not valid for fishing in NSW waters. All visitors must pay the NSW Recreational Fishing Fee.

Exemptions:

- Persons under the age of 18.
- An adult assisting persons under the age of 18 to take fish using a single rod per child or to take Prawns using a single dip or scoop net per child.

- A person fishing in a private dam with a surface area of two hectares or less.
- An Indigenous Australian.

The holder of:

- A current Pensioner Concession Card issued by Centrelink.
- A current Pensioner Concession Card issued by the Department of Veterans' Affairs.
- A Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Treatment Card endorsed "Totally and Permanently Incapacitated".
- A Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Treatment Card endorsed "Extreme Disablement Adjustment".
- A letter from the Department of Veterans' Affairs stating that you receive a disability pension of 70 percent or higher, or an intermediate pension.

These exemptions only apply to the primary card holder.

Recreational fishers must have these cards in their possession to be exempt. Please note that seniors cards, health care cards and repatriation health cards do not exempt you from paying the NSW Recreational Fishing Fee.

This information is current at time of printing but fisheries regulations may change. It is the responsibility of fishers to ensure they are acting within the law at all times.

If unsure whether you need to pay the NSW Recreational Fishing Fee, check our website at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries

Replacement fee receipt

Cost for a replacement fee receipt is \$7.00. Call **02 4424 7499** to obtain a replacement or download a form from our website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries



Where do my fishing fees go?

Recreational fishing trusts

All funds raised from the NSW Recreational Fishing Fee are placed into recreational fishing trusts – one for saltwater and one for freshwater – and can only be spent on improving recreational fishing. Committees of expert anglers provide advice on how funds in the trusts should be spent.

There is a lot more information on the website at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries. Anyone can apply for funding from the trusts to improve recreational fishing. Details can be found at the above website. Examples of some trust funded projects are provided as follows.

Fishcare volunteer program

This dynamic program involves around 300 volunteers across the state providing face to face awareness and advising fishers about the rules and values of sustainable recreational fishing (see community programs section on page 8).





Fisheries officers

Additional fisheries officers are employed across regional NSW to maintain optimal levels of compliance in the freshwater fishery and provide advisory services to recreational fishers.

Fish stocking

Trust funds boost production of native fish and Trout in NSW DPI fish hatcheries at Narrandera, Port Stephens, Jindabyne and Ebor for public stocking. Approximately two million Golden Perch, Murray Cod, Silver Perch and Australian Bass plus approximately three million Trout and Salmon are stocked by the hatcheries into inland rivers or dams each year. The Dollar-for-Dollar native fish stocking program matches the monies raised by community groups to stock their local waterways with native fish.





More facilities for fishers

The small grants program provides funding for fishing clubs, local councils and community groups to improve recreational fishing and facilities including stiles, fish cleaning tables, fish measuring stations, fishing platforms and other infrastructure.

Essential recreational research

- Improving effectiveness of freshwater stocking.
- Research on Murray Cod, Macquarie Perch and Murray Crayfish.
- Fishing tournament monitoring and angler surveys.

Get Hooked: It's Fun to Fish education program

A primary school education program is teaching children in schools across NSW about safe, responsible and sustainable fishing. This includes running fishing workshops enabling students to put into practice skills learned during their Get Hooked class lessons (see community programs section on page 8).





Habitat action program

A range of actions are being funded to protect and repair important fish habitat. Activities include removing barriers to fish migration, replanting and protecting river bank vegetation and restoring water flows in order to provide good water quality, healthy habitats and fisheries.

Fishing safely

The Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) of NSW has produced quality DVDs to promote fishing safely in saltwater and freshwater. The DVDs are available free of charge for anglers. Check out the website www.safefishing.com.au



Want to apply for funding?

More information and the application package can be found on the website at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries or phone **02 6691 9681**.

Want more information?

Check our website
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries



Community programs

Do you have a passion for fishing and would you like to contribute to protecting our aquatic environment? Why not become a Fishcare Volunteer? You can volunteer for general Fishcare activities or specialise as a schools Fishcare Volunteer.

The NSW DPI Fishcare Volunteer program is funded through the recreational fishing trusts. As a volunteer you will be helping to create better awareness among anglers and the wider community about sustainable recreational fishing. Volunteers provide assistance in activities such as childrens' fishing workshops, angler education, habitat rehabilitation, assisting in research programs and advisory displays at trade shows and field days. The program continues to grow with over 300 volunteers across NSW participating in around 500 events per year and making over 170,000 contacts. Volunteers assist both on land and on the water in dedicated Fishcare boats.

Help take a kid fishing

NSW DPI fishing workshops are coordinated by fisheries education officers with assistance from Fishcare Volunteers, staff and some fishing club members. Each year, volunteers assist around 8,000 anglers between the ages of 8-14 years learn the basics of fishing. They are an excellent way for kids to learn hands-on fishing techniques such as casting, rigging, and safe handling of fish at a local fishing spot. Fishing workshops also teach young children about good fishing practices, the importance of protecting our fishing resources, threatened species and aquatic habitat management.

Assist at your local school

The NSW DPI Get Hooked It's Fun to Fish program encourages children to take an active role in the management of their waterways and fish stocks. Aimed at primary school students, each year around 6,000 kids from around 100 schools are introduced to marine and freshwater fishing, the significance of



aquatic life and life-cycles, catch and release skills, and the importance of sustaining a quality fish habitat while practising safe and responsible fishing behaviours. Schools Fishcare Volunteers are a valuable resource for teachers, especially in the fishing workshop component of the program.

Who can become a volunteer?

If you're over 18 years of age and can assist around one day per month you can apply to become a volunteer. Conditions apply. Fishcare Volunteers have no enforcement powers.

If you would like more information about these programs or would like to apply to become a Fishcare Volunteer, please visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries or email fish.care@dpi.nsw.gov.au





Fish stocking

Fish stocking helps maintain natural populations and helps to boost existing stocks for the recreational fishers of the state to enjoy. Fish stocking is also an important conservation tool for safeguarding endangered species. The NSW Government is continuing to run a comprehensive and sustainable fish stocking program based on the Fish Stocking Fishery Management Strategy.

Four government fish hatcheries produce fish for public release. They are the Narrandera Fisheries Centre at Narrandera, which produces Murray Cod, Golden Perch, Silver Perch and Trout Cod; the Port Stephens Fisheries Institute at Taylors Beach, which produces Australian Bass; the Dutton Trout Hatchery at Ebor, which produces Rainbow Trout and Brown Trout and the Gaden Trout Hatchery at Jindabyne which produces Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout, Brook Trout and Atlantic Salmon.

The fish are released into rivers and dams across NSW with assistance from fishing clubs and fish acclimatisation societies. Some native fish species are also stocked by the community through the trust funded Dollar-for-Dollar program, with fish produced from private fish hatcheries.



Hatchery Quality Assurance Scheme

Recreational fishing enhancement of native species is undertaken in NSW in accordance with the Hatchery Quality Assurance Scheme (HQAS). The HQAS accredits both private and government fish hatcheries in NSW for the production of native fish fingerlings for recreational fishing enhancement stocking programs and aquaculture production.

The HQAS applies to the stocking of Murray Cod, Golden Perch, Silver Perch and Australian Bass. Broodstock collected for stocking programs are obtained from distinct regions across NSW and a specific number of broodstock are used in breeding programs to ensure that all fish reared at hatcheries for stocking are of the highest standard and quality. For more information on the HQAS refer to the NSW DPI website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries





Annual fish stocking figures Government hatcheries

2011/12	3,806,625
2012/13	3,701,884
2013/14	4,515,635
2014/15	3,655,506

Annual fish stocking figures HQAS accredited private hatcheries

2011/12	947,854
2012/13	1,155,720
2013/14	1,154,676
2014/15	1,073,137

Fish stocking permit

A fish stocking permit is required from NSW DPI prior to release of fish into public waters. Permits are issued free of charge however certain conditions must be met.

To apply for a fish stocking permit call **02 6763 1217**. A fish stocking permit is not required for stocking fish into farm dams.

Hatchery tours

Visitors can experience the fascinating hatchery work first-hand through daily guided tours. Attractions include feeding large breeding specimens as they surface in a network of broodstock ponds, aquarium displays and audio-visual shows. Individual and group visitors are welcome. Educational tours can be organised for schools. A small admission fee applies.

For more information or to book a tour call:



– Gaden Hatchery
Snowy Mountains
02 6451 3400.



– Dutton Hatchery
New England
Tablelands
02 6775 9139.



– John Lake Centre
Narrandera
02 6958 8200.



Responsible fishing

NSW DPI promotes responsible fishing practices. The following guidelines can be applied whether you take fish for the table or release your fish:




- Only catch sufficient fish for your immediate needs. Release all others using best practice catch and release techniques. Remember all fish, including the scavengers, are important to the ecosystem.
- Dispose of all litter and fish waste responsibly.
- Reduce wildlife injuries by attending your lines and avoid bird feeding areas.

- Use environmentally friendly fishing tackle such as lead-alternative sinkers, biodegradable line and non-stainless hooks where possible.

Catching and releasing fish

Compliance with bag and size limits and various fishing closures means many anglers by law return a large proportion of fish they have caught to the water.

Recent NSW DPI research has shown that most fish survive using current catch and release techniques with the main factors found to reduce survival being deep hooking and poor handling.

Species		Main factors for reduced survival
Australian Bass		Deep hooking
Golden Perch		Poor handling, sub-optimal live well conditions and high water temperature
Murray Cod		Deep hooking, excessive handling and sub-optimal live well conditions

Maximising fish survival

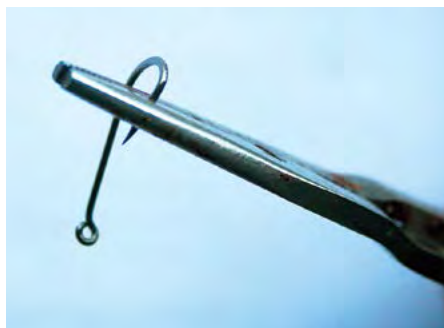
The following tips will help to maximise the survival of angler released fish:

- Use methods and rigs that reduce deep hooking.
 - Target fish using artificial lures.
 - Choose non-offset circle hooks when using bait.
- Minimise the length of time the fish is out of the water and swiftly unhook.
 - Try to remove hooks and release fish as quickly as possible. The use of needle-nosed pliers or hook retrieving devices can greatly reduce time spent unhooking.
 - Remove hooks from mouth-hooked fish.
- Ideally unhook fish while they are still in the water.
- If the fish is hooked deeply, cut the line as close as possible to the fish's mouth rather than removing the hook.
- Use fish-friendly landing nets with knotless mesh.
 - Avoid knotted landing nets which may damage the fish's scales, skin, eyes and fins.
- If live wells are used, ensure they are of sufficient size and maintain good water quality by using a flow through, aerated system. This is especially important during the summer months when water temperatures are high.



Other practices to help increase survival

- Use suitable tackle for the species you are targeting and minimise the time spent to land the fish.
- Handle fish firmly and carefully. Avoid dropping fish on to the bottom of boats and other hard surfaces. Remember, many surfaces, especially metal can become very hot in the sun.
 - Use wet hands or wet gloves when handling a fish to minimise damage to its skin.
 - A smooth, wet surface such as vinyl covered foam is best to lay fish on if they are removed from the water.
- Use barbless hooks or hooks with reduced barbs to make hook removal easier and minimise hook damage.
 - This can be achieved by squeezing barbs down with pliers, or filing down larger barbs.



- Carefully return fish to the water. Do not throw them. Take care to revive any fish upon release if they appear exhausted (struggling to hold themselves upright and/or unable to swim away).
 - Gently hold or push the fish through the water so that it obtains a good flow of water over its gills. If there is any water current, hold the fish upright facing towards the current until it starts to show signs of recovery.
- If you are going to take photos of your fish before release, support the fish properly.
- Do not hold fish by their gills or eyes.

How to use circle hooks

Circle hooks have been shown to increase the survival of angler released fish. With their success already proven for many game fish species, the hooks are now used increasingly for many other common recreational species including Australian Bass, Golden Perch and Murray Cod. Circle hooks bring about many benefits for anglers, but they do require a few minor changes to your normal fishing techniques.

- Do not bury your hook (particularly with tough baits), lightly hook the bait so that the point and barb are exposed.
- When using soft baits like cheese or bread it is not so important to expose the hook as fish will crush the bait during the bite and become hooked.
- Do not strike at the fish, allow the fish time to take the bait into its mouth and then apply slow and steady pressure to set the hook in the mouth area. The fish often hook themselves.
- Non-offset circle hooks are recommended for the best mouth-hooking results.
- Use a de-hooker or needle-nosed pliers to help with unhooking.



Barotrauma

Fish may suffer from barotrauma injuries when they are caught from deep water. Barotrauma occurs as a result of the expansion of gases in the swim bladder and other organs as the fish are not able to adjust to the rapid decrease in water pressure when they are pulled towards the surface.

Returning the fish to capture depth is crucial in maximising the post-release survival of barotrauma-affected fish.

- Release your fish quickly with minimal time out of water. This provides the fish with a good chance to return to depth without any treatment.
- If the fish is displaying barotrauma symptoms and unable to swim down:
 - Use a release weight to help return the fish to depth.
 - If no other option is available, vent the fish to release the expanded gases. This technique requires considerable experience to carry out successfully without inadvertently damaging internal organs as the size and location of the swim bladder varies from species to species.

Steps on how to make your own release weight are available under catch and release fishing at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries

DIY release weight



Note barbless hook, cable ties and small screw to secure hook to sinker.

More information on these techniques is available under best practice at: www.recfishingresearch.org/category/practices

Catch and release mats for recreational fishers

A catch and release measuring mat has been designed to help fishers accurately record their catch. The mat includes full colour illustrations of the most popular species of fish and conversion tables so approximate weights can be estimated from length measurement. Also included are tips on best methods to ensure fish are given a maximum chance of survival after release. Large graduations on the ruler can help in many catch, photograph and release fishing competitions which have emerged in recent years. The mat is manufactured from a UV stable material.

The catch and release mats are available for purchase, contact **1800 025 520** or visit our website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries



Angler access – your right to fish

Anglers have a legal right to fish from a boat or while walking within the bed of a river or stream even if the bed is not public land. This law does not apply to some lakes, within fisheries closures or declared special areas. Wherever you choose to fish please ensure that any rubbish including fishing lines and plastic bags are taken with you and disposed of responsibly.

Crossing private property

Anglers should always request permission from landholders to cross privately owned or managed lands. It is illegal to trespass on private property. If right of entry is granted, make sure you use formed tracks to access the water and take care not to interfere with any stock or pastoral activities.

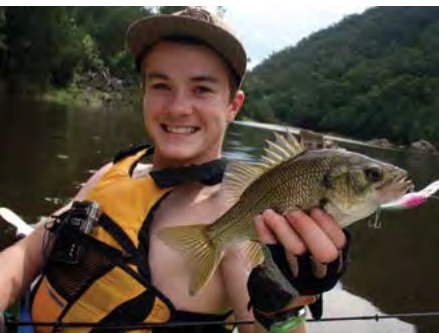
Angler Access Strategy

In inland NSW, it is estimated that there are over 200,000 locations where rivers, streams and lakes can be accessed by public land. Identifying and promoting access locations for anglers is a key priority.

An angler access strategy is being developed on a river reach basis to provide anglers with information that will assist them in accessing rivers in the future. Web delivery of access locations and site details is planned including installation of angler access signage at public roads and reserves adjacent to rivers. Keep an eye out for the angler access symbol, which will show places of free legal fishing access.

For any queries on angler access or more information about the access program, please phone **02 6042 4214** or **02 4916 3827** or email angler.access@dpi.nsw.gov.au





Converting fish lengths to weights

Fish biologists have collected vast quantities of length and weight data from a variety of fish species. This has enabled length and weight relationships to be calculated for some fish species which can be used to estimate the weight of a fish by measuring its length.

Please note that these figures are estimates only and individual fish weight may vary depending on age, sex, season and recent feeding activity.

Australian Bass



Total length used for both legal length measurement and weight calculation.

Total length (cm)	Weight (kg)	Total length (cm)	Weight (kg)
25	0.3	43	1.5
26	0.3	44	1.6
27	0.4	45	1.8
28	0.4	46	1.9
29	0.4	47	2.1
30	0.5	48	2.2
31	0.6	49	2.4
32	0.6	50	2.5
33	0.7	51	2.7
34	0.8	52	2.9
35	0.8	53	2.9
36	0.9	54	3.0
37	1.0	55	3.2
38	1.1	56	3.4
39	1.1	57	3.7
40	1.2	58	3.9
41	1.3	59	4.1
42	1.4	60	4.3

Golden Perch



Total length used for both legal length measurement and weight calculation.

Total length (cm)	Weight (kg)	Total length (cm)	Weight (kg)
30	0.4	41	1.2
31	0.5	42	1.3
32	0.5	43	1.4
33	0.6	44	1.5
34	0.7	45	1.6
35	0.7	46	1.7
36	0.8	47	2.0
37	0.9	48	2.2
38	1.0	49	2.5
39	1.0	50	2.6
40	1.1	51	2.8

Murray Cod



Total length used for both legal length measurement and weight calculation.

Total length (cm)	Weight (kg)	Total length (cm)	Weight (kg)
55	3.1	75	8.6
56	3.3	76	9.0
58	3.7	78	9.8
60	4.2	80	10.7
62	4.6	82	11.6
64	5.2	84	12.5
66	5.7	86	13.5
68	6.3	88	14.6
70	6.9	90	15.7
72	7.6	92	16.8
74	8.3	94	18.0

Trout and Salmon



Rainbow Trout



Brown Trout



Brook Trout



Atlantic Salmon

Total length used for both legal length measurement and weight calculation.



Total length (cm)	Weight (kg)	Total length (cm)	Weight (kg)
25	0.2	49	1.7
26	0.2	51	1.8
27	0.3	53	2.0
29	0.3	55	2.3
31	0.4	57	2.5
33	0.5	59	2.8
35	0.6	61	3.1
37	0.7	63	3.4
39	0.8	65	3.7
41	0.9	67	4.1
43	1.1	69	4.4
45	1.2	71	4.8
47	1.6	73	5.3

Fishing safely

Basic safety tips include:

- Plan ahead. Always let friends or family know where you are going and when you will be back and leave a plan of your route if possible.
- Fish with a mate or two. Having someone nearby makes good sense in case of accident or injury.
- When fishing in potentially hazardous locations such as those located near areas of fast moving water always wear a lifejacket. Carrying ropes and torches may be useful and it may also be appropriate to wear non-slip shoes.
- Never enter the water to retrieve lost tackle or snagged fish. If the location looks dangerous, don't fish there.
- Take a communication device. A mobile phone is a good standby if you are within range. No matter which service provider you are with, 000 will connect you with emergency services from a mobile phone. Consider buying or hiring an emergency beacon for back country trips.
- Observe first, fish later. Always check weather and water conditions before you start fishing and be aware that conditions may change dramatically in a short period of time.
- Keep yourself warm and dry and leave the water if you start to feel cold to avoid hypothermia.
- Ask for advice from locals who know the waterways. They will always tell you when an area is dangerous.
- Make sure nobody is behind you when you cast. Put away sharp objects such as filleting knives and hooks.
- Slow down to less than 10 knots within 30m of other powered vessels, structures or the shoreline, or whenever within 60m of persons in the water or unpowered vessels. Note that modifications are proposed to the distance off requirements under proposed changes to NSW boating laws from 1 December 2015. Visit www.rms.nsw.gov.au/maritime for further information. Always keep a proper lookout and do not cross close ahead of large vessels.

Fishing safely DVDs funded by the recreational fishing trusts and the Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW are available free of charge.

Check website www.safefishing.com.au for details.

Wader safety

Basic wader safety tips include:

- To restrict the amount of water that can enter waders, fasten a belt around your waist. This must be as firm as possible but always comfortable. The belt will also trap air inside and provide some buoyancy but caution is needed as you could finish upside down if you fall into the water.
- If you fall into the water immediately assume a tuck position, then roll on to your back while keeping the knees tucked. Use your arms to balance.
- Do not try to swim but either tread water or float. If close to shore use a sculling motion to return.
- If swept into a fast flowing stream always face downstream and go with the current feet first while working to a safe shore position.
- Always remember not to panic.

Safe boating

- It is important to stay safe when out on the water. Detailed advice on safe boating is available in the Roads and Maritime Services publication 'Boating Handbook'. This booklet, as well as further information, can be obtained in printed and digital formats by calling the Maritime Infoline on **131 236** or by visiting www.rms.nsw.gov.au/maritime.

Key safe boating tips include:

- You must comply with all Roads and Maritime Services requirements including lifejacket wearing rules. For full details of changes to NSW boating laws from 1 December 2015, visit www.rms.nsw.gov.au/maritime.
- Ensure the vessel is in a fit condition and fuel tanks full. Check batteries beforehand and run the auxiliary motor periodically.
- Ensure the vessel is fully equipped for emergencies.
- Know how the safety gear works. Make sure everyone knows where it is stowed and how to use it.

- Always let someone know where you are going and your expected time of return.
- Take plenty of food and water.
- Wear non-slip shoes and take waterproof jackets and warm clothing.
- If possible, fish with another vessel. In an emergency the other can help or radio for help.
- If a front approaches, or the weather changes suddenly, head back to shore.

Boating on inland waters

Boating on rivers, creeks, dams and other inland waterways demands special care. Submerged trees, shallow sand bars and other snags may be encountered.

Inland waterways such as lakes, dams, other impoundments and rivers are often murky and frequently change in water level and flow rates.

You need to be aware of possible dangers and obstructions which may be hidden just below the surface. It is not feasible or practical to remove all hazards nor to mark them all with navigation markers.

Always maintain a safe speed and a proper lookout. Strong winds can occur at any time and create dangerous wind waves on open lakes and dams. It is also advisable to familiarise yourself with an area each time before attempting any high speed activities. Dam walls and spillways should be avoided at all times.

Caution is required in all conditions following heavy rain or flooding where floating trees, branches and other debris are present and may cause serious damage or injury if collision occurs. As water levels recede new navigational hazards may be uncovered.

Food safety

Many people enjoy eating the finfish and invertebrates they catch. If you intend to eat your catch, there are some important tips to follow to be able to enjoy your bounty and avoid causing illness.

Like all fresh food from animals, your catch needs to be handled well to minimise the risk of food poisoning.

Tips for fishing

Important tips for catching or collecting aquatic species include:

- Keep fresh catch cold and covered by putting in ice or a refrigerator straight away.
- Keep equipment and surfaces clean.
- Don't let recreational catch or bait drip on to other food.
- Only catch or collect when water quality is good. Remember that water quality can change and not all harmful things can be seen with the naked eye.
- Check the waterway's current status for known algal 'red alerts' via local signs, local media and the NSW Office of Water website www.water.nsw.gov.au, or telephone **1800 999 457**.
- Fishing closures issued by NSW DPI via website: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/info/closures or telephone **1300 550 474**.
- Avoid collecting and eating shellfish recreationally. If you choose to collect and eat shellfish such as mussels or oysters do not collect after heavy rainfall. Runoff water following heavy rainfall carries pollution into waterways, sometimes including sewage. Wait three weeks after heavy rainfall to reduce the risk of bacterial and viral contamination.

Tips for safe eating

- Always cook your recreational catch thoroughly. In particular, never eat raw shellfish which has been collected recreationally as they are not subject to the same strict food safety controls as commercially harvested shellfish.
- Don't eat fish which have washed up on shorelines. Mass fish kills can sometimes mean numbers of dead or dying fish along the shoreline. The cause of death is often unknown and eating these fish can be a health risk.
- Remember that cooking will not destroy or remove toxins which might be present in species caught in poor quality waters. Eating catch contaminated with toxins can result in serious illness or death.

'Red alert' algal warnings and visible blooms

Some algae produce harmful toxins that can build up in freshwater shellfish; brackish and freshwater crustacea; the gut and, to a lesser extent, the flesh of freshwater finfish.

Algal blooms can appear as water discolouration, including red, green, yellow, brownish, oily or milky appearance. Scum may form on the water surface. The water may have a musty, earthy or pungent smell. Some other blooms are not visible but are highly toxic, even at low levels.

- Do not collect shellfish, gastropods, or crustacea such as Yabbies or Crayfish from waters affected by algal blooms.
- Clean and rinse freshwater finfish thoroughly in uncontaminated water and dispose of internal organs before consumption as they are likely to contain

toxins. The toxin could also be present in the flesh.

For further background on the risks of toxic algal blooms go to www.who.edu/redtide/

Fishing closures

Do not take any species listed in a NSW DPI closure notice.

Some waterways have been contaminated by industrial pollution and are not suitable for catching or collecting certain species for consumption.

Sewage spills sometimes contaminate waters with harmful bacteria and viruses. Sewage spills are especially high risk for shellfish.

More information

For more information from the NSW Food Authority: phone **1300 552 406** or check website www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au

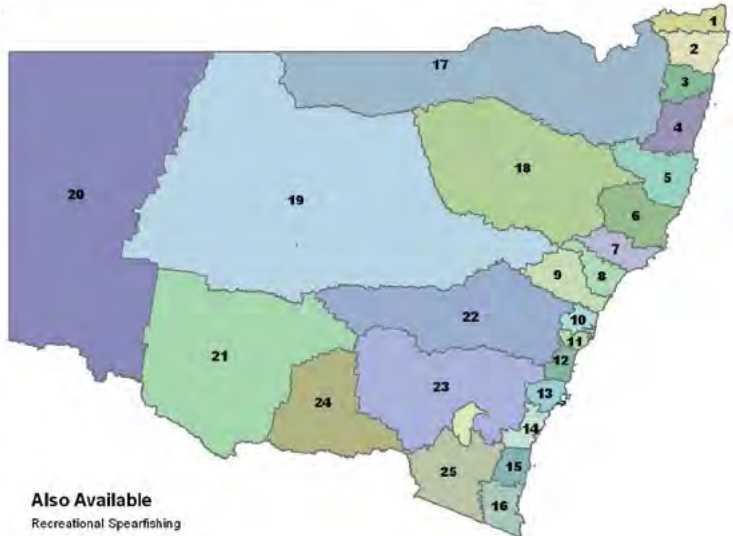
Local recreational fishing guides

Local guides provide valuable information on fishing in inland or coastal NSW. Whether you are a resident or a visiting fisher you can find

details on fishing locations, local fishing rules and closures along with summary maps in the local areas on our website at: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/publications

Primefact Districts

- 1, Tweed
- 2, Richmond
- 3, Clarence
- 4, Coffs Harbour
- 5, Hastings
- 6, Viallis
- 7, Port Stephens
- 8, Hunter
- 9, Central Coast
- 10, Sydney North
- 11, Sydney South
- 12, Illawarra
- 13, Shoalhaven
- 14, Batemans Bay
- 15, Montague
- 16, Far South Coast
- 17, New England
- 18, Peel
- 19, Macquarie
- 20, Far West
- 21, Riverina
- 22, Central Tablelands
- 23, South West Slopes
- 24, Hume
- 25, Monaro



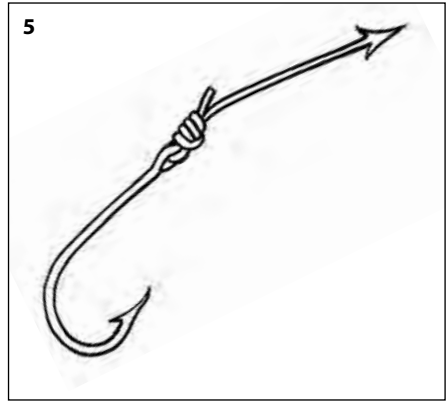
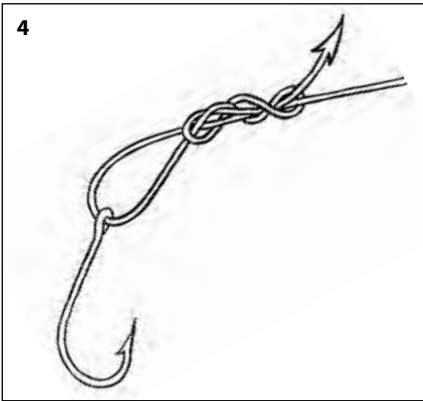
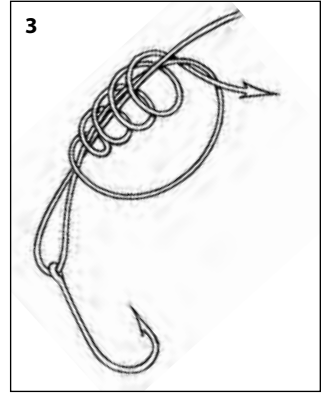
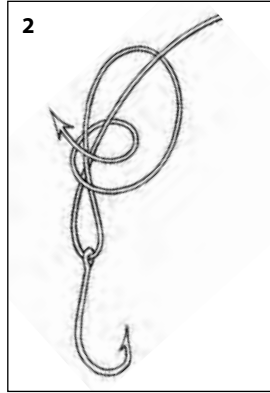
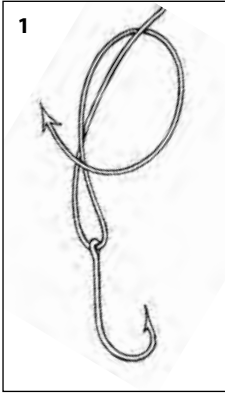
Also Available

- Recreational Spearfishing
- Trout Fishing (Northern)
- Trout Fishing (Central)
- Trout Fishing (Southern)

Knots and rigs

Uni knot for tying on hooks

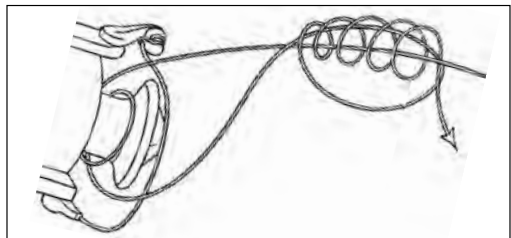
Uni knots are useful for tying small hooks, rings or swivels on to light lines, a frequent requirement in freshwater fishing, because the knot may be formed some distance from the hook and slid into place when formed.



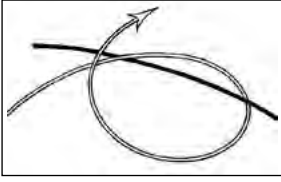
1. Thread the line through the eye of the hook, ring or swivel, and encircle the main line with the tag to form the configuration shown. **2.** Wrap the tag around both the returning tag and main line, but inside the encircling loop made by the tag. **3.** Make four to six wraps in this manner. **4.** Moisten and tighten the knot using gentle pressure on the tag. **5.** Slide the knot gently down on to the eye of the hook, ring or swivel.

Uni knot for tying line on to your reel

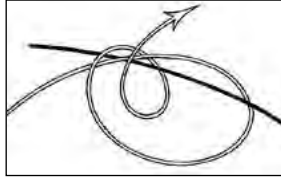
First wrap the line around the spool of your reel, at least once, then tie a standard uni knot with four wraps. Then slide the knot down on to the spool of your reel.



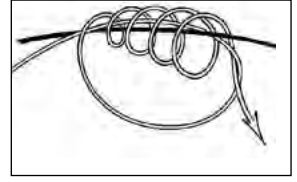
Double uni knot for joining lines



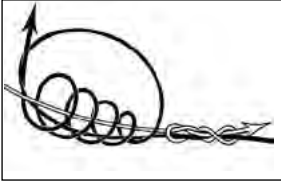
1. Overlap the lines to be joined then encircle one line with the tag of the other.



2. Wrap the double strand inside the formed loop.



3. Make four wraps in all.



4. Do the same with the other line so the knot in each line is tied around the other.



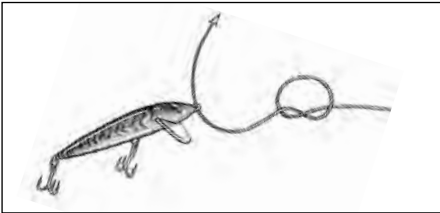
5. Moisten the line and tighten each knot in turn.



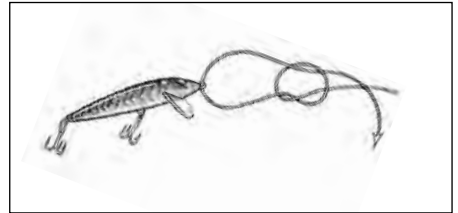
6. Draw the knots together, tighten once more, then trim the tags.

Perfection loop

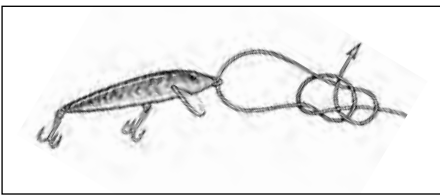
Of many loops used to attach flies and lures, the perfection loop is favoured because it lays relatively straight and does not point out to the side. It is tricky to tie so follow the instructions carefully.



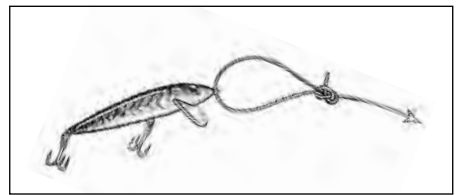
1. Make a simple overhand knot in the leader and thread the tag through the eye of the lure or fly.



2. Pass the tag back through the overhand knot alongside the other strand.



3. Now bend the tag back so it goes back up through the knot as shown. The sequence is over, over, under, over, under.

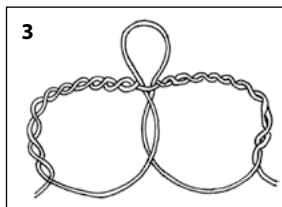
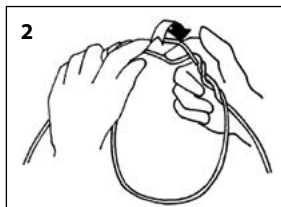
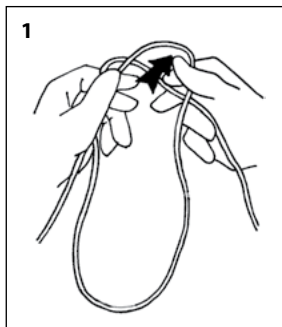


4. Moisten the knot before pulling tight. Trim the tag.

Dropper loop

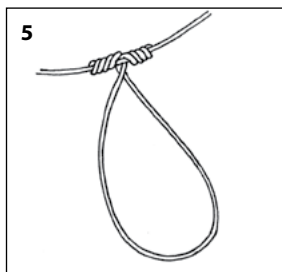
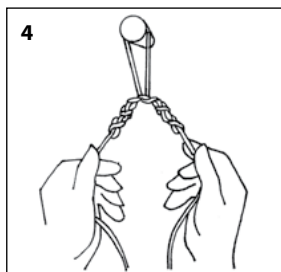
This is a loop which can be used to attach a hook or leader anywhere along a length of line.

1. Make a loop where the dropper is to be. Then cross the main line to form a second smaller loop.



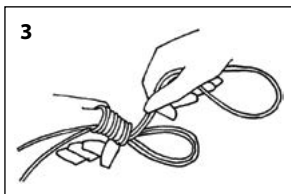
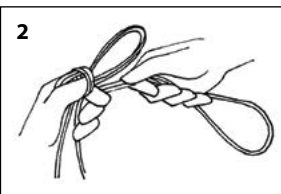
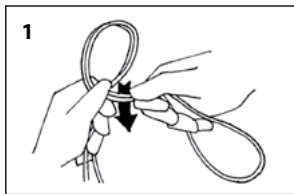
2. Twist the smaller loop from both ends but alternate the twisting and holding between hands. **3.** Make six complete twists (braid line) or four complete twists (monofilament). Then thread the larger loop through the middle of the smaller loop you have twisted.

4 and 5. Slip the knot around something solid. Moisten the knot before pulling tight. Take care not to shear off either side. The finished knot will be strong enough for most fishing needs.

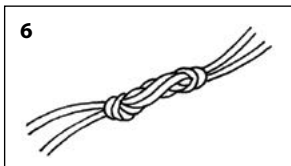
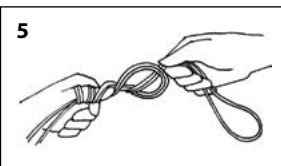
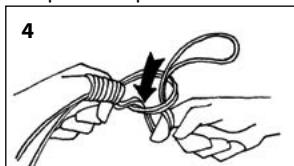


Spider hitch.

This knot retains around 80 percent of monofilament line strength but only 40-60 percent in braid lines. While not as strong as a bimini or plait, it is quick, easy to tie and provides a double strand to attach terminals and leaders.



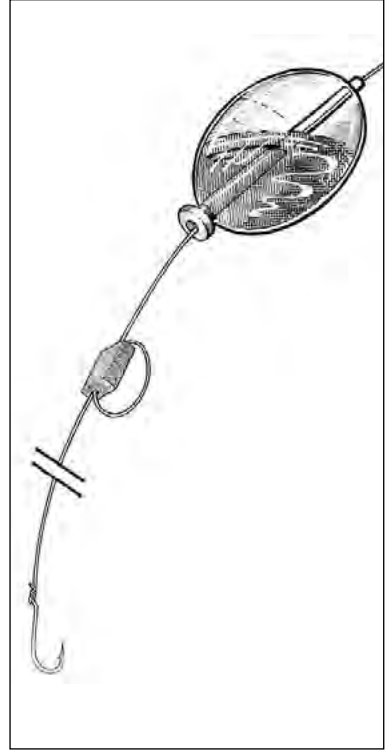
1. Determine your double or end loop size, twist a second loop just above the tag end and hold between left thumb and forefinger. **2.** Wind the double around your thumb **3.** Make four or five complete wraps.



4. Pass the loop in the double through the second loop. **5.** Pull gently on the double until all loops slide from your thumb (pinch thumb and finger firmly to disengage loops one at a time). **6.** Moisten the loops and tension all four strands equally as the knot is pulled tight.

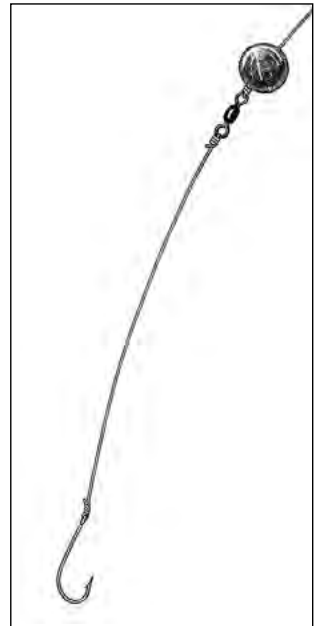
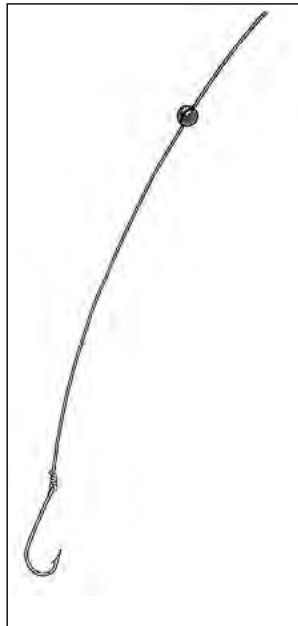
Bubble floats

- Bubble floats are designed as running floats, which is to say the line can pass through the float without resistance. The most successful and popular bubble floats feature a central tube through which the line is threaded.
- Before threading the bubble float on to the line, the central tube is displaced, enabling the angler to partially fill the float with water. This makes it heavier and easy to cast out.
- The bubble float is rigged in tandem with a much smaller float – usually a small piece of foam fixed securely on to the line – and from which the baited hook is suspended. This smaller float also acts as a stopper to prevent the bubble float sliding down to the hook as the angler casts out.
- When the bubble float rig has been cast out, both floats – the bubble float and the smaller float from which the bait is suspended – lay side by side on the surface.
- When a fish takes the bait and pulls the smaller float down, the line runs freely through the heavier bubble float, which offers no resistance as the fish takes line.
- The most effective bait with a bubble float seems to be Dragon Fly larvae (Mudeyes) which are usually suspended about a metre below the smaller float.



Useful rigs

1. The addition of a large split shot a short distance above the hook allows baits like worms and small Yabbies to be suspended alongside sunken timber and steep banks for native fish like Golden Perch and several others.
2. Standard running sinker rigs are used for suspending baits amongst timber and for bottom fishing from the banks of lakes and streams.

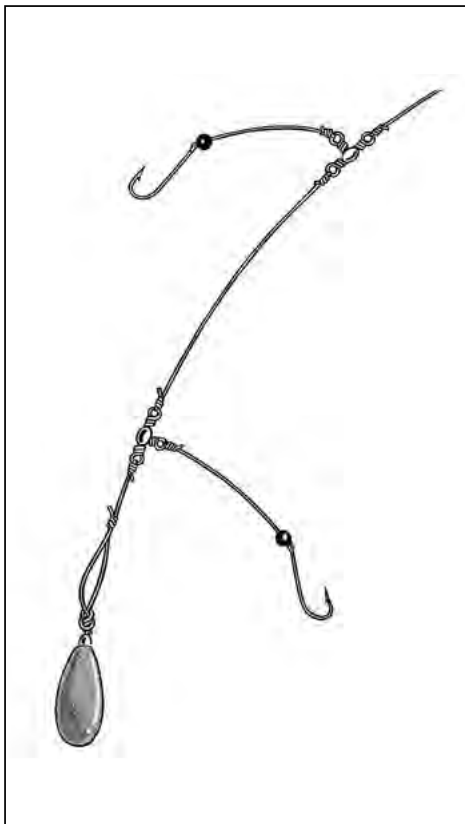
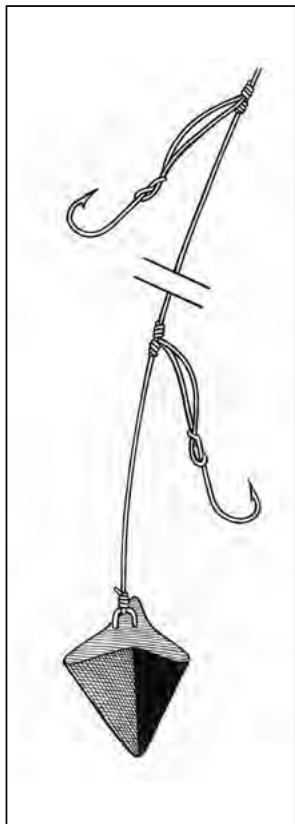


Fixed sinker rigs

A simple bottom fishing rig is the basic fixed Paternoster rig. It consists of a sinker tied or looped on to the very end of the line with one or more hooks attached above the sinker at various intervals using twisted dropper loops so they stand away from the main line and don't tangle.

The use of a dropper loop to attach hooks is an easy rig to prepare and strong enough for most fishing situations.

Using a swivel or ring as a tie off point results in the strongest possible rig of this type and is preferred by many fishers.



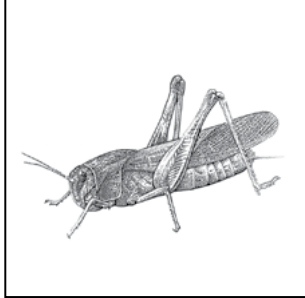
Common baits

- Dragon Fly larvae (Mudeyes) are excellent bait for Trout and other freshwater species and are best fished under a small float, or in conjunction with a bubble float rig.
- Grasshoppers are usually fished unweighted with a greased line and make excellent bait for Trout.
- Shrimp may be fished solo or several at a time and are great bait for most freshwater species.
- Earthworms and Scrubworms may be fished solo or several at a time and are excellent bait for most freshwater species.
- Large grubs like Bardi Grubs, Wattle Grubs, and Wood Grubs make excellent bait for native species, Murray Cod in particular. They present best if not punctured and may be bound to the hook with hosiery elastic.
- Small Yabbies are excellent bait for most native species. Murray Cod will take larger Yabbies.

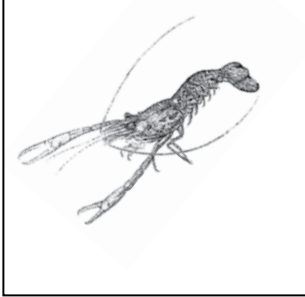
Mudeyes



Grasshoppers



Shrimp



Earthworms



Bardi



Yabbies



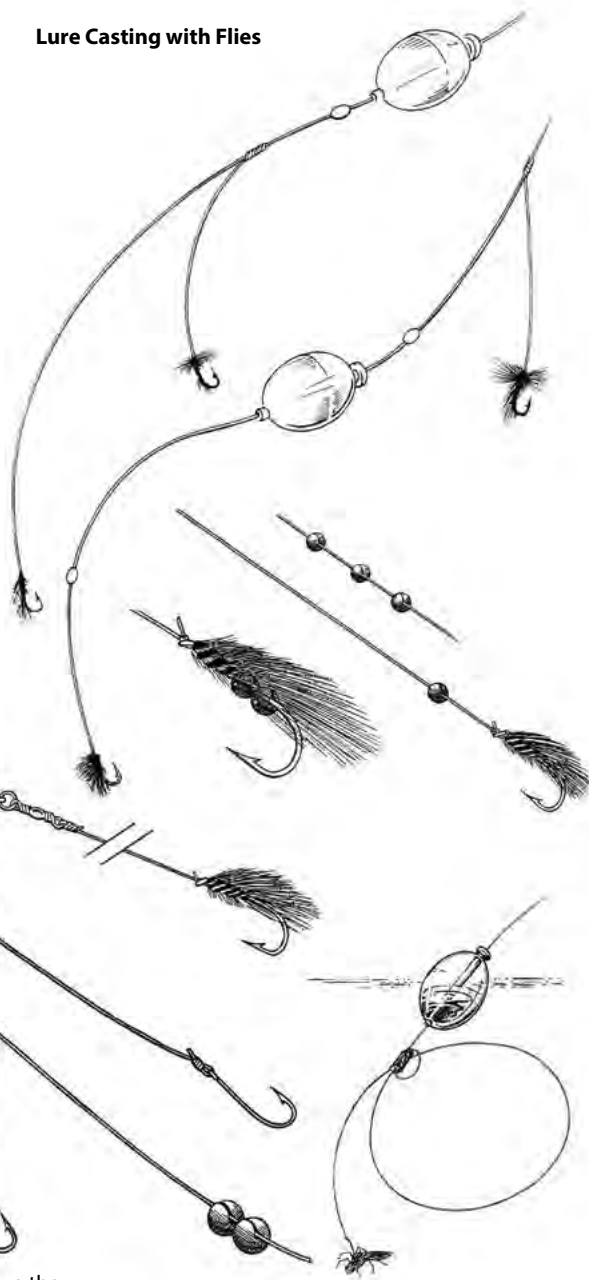
Drift fishing rigs

Drift fishing rigs in rivers and streams present a bait which will drift with the current. Light lure tackle is best along with waders, lure casting vest, hat and polarised sunglasses since the best results are likely to come if you fish from within the water. Start from a position downstream and to the side, then cast upstream across the current and allow the bait to drift down and across likely spots including boulders, logs and other cover.

It is important to select the right weight of line. Too light and the current will float the bait. Too heavy may see a hang up on the bottom.

Baits such as worms or Mudeyes, tiny jigs or wet flies are all suitable for drift fishing.

Lure Casting with Flies



Rigging with split shot

Split shot can be either clamped above the hook or onto the end of a line. The advantage of the latter is that if the shot become snagged it will pull straight off with minimal loss of tackle.

Bubble float

Bubble float rigged with stopper and Mudeye bait.

Fish identification and measurement

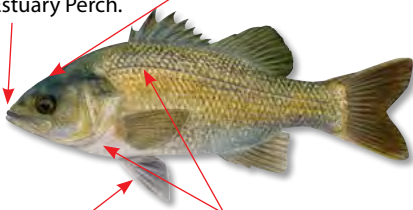
Most families of fish have a number of different species which can make identification difficult. It is important to know exactly what fish you catch as different regulations may apply to different species. Various reference books are available which clearly outline a fish's defining characteristics.

Some NSW species look quite similar. The following tips have been prepared to help identify popular species from similar looking fish.

Australian Bass

Snout length shorter than Estuary Perch.

Snout profile – slightly concave to straight.



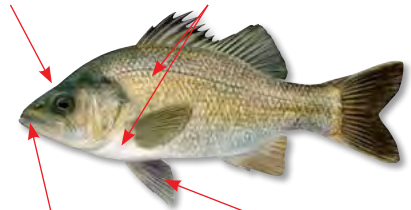
Pelvic fin white at leading margin.

Dark olive/grey/green on back fading to off-white or yellowish white below.

Estuary Perch

Snout profile – concave.

Dark grey and silvery on back, paler below.



Snout tapered and elongated (longer than Bass).

All fins dark.

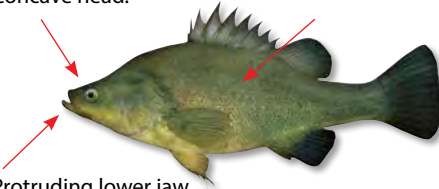
Golden Perch and Silver Perch

Small Golden Perch are often confused with small Silver Perch. Distinguishing features of Golden Perch are their olive green colouration, their yellow belly, their distinctly concave forehead above the eyes and their lower protruding jaw. In contrast, Silver Perch have a more silvery darker complexion on the back, are paler on the sides, have a white belly, have a smaller beak-like head, have a small mouth and small scales and their jaws are of equal length.

Golden Perch

Concave head.

Olive green colouration.

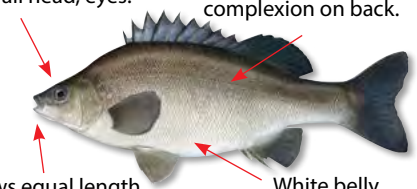


Protruding lower jaw.

Silver Perch

Small head, eyes.

Darker silvery complexion on back.



Jaws equal length.

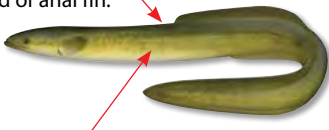
White belly.

Southern Shortfin and Longfin Eels

The Longfin Eel is closely related and very similar to the Southern Shortfin Eel. However, the dorsal fin on the Longfin Eel extends well forward of the anal fin. Often incorrectly referred to as Conger Eel in Victoria and NSW they may also resemble Lampreys, especially when small.

Longfin Eel

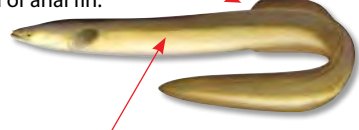
Dorsal fin extends markedly forward of anal fin.



Uniform olive/green to brown colour, distinctly blotched or mottled.

Southern Shortfin Eel

Dorsal fin extends a little forward of anal fin.



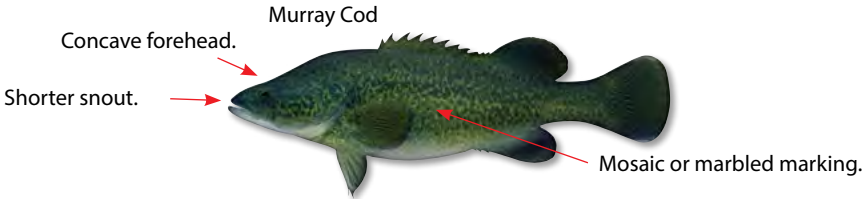
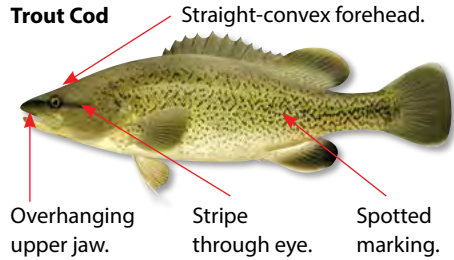
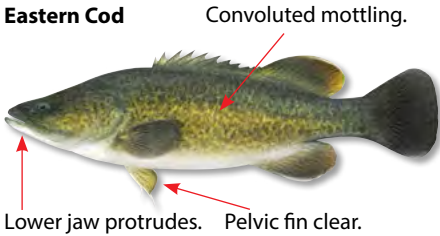
Uniform olive/green to brown colour, no distinctive markings.

Eastern (Freshwater) Cod, Trout Cod and Murray Cod

The Eastern Cod was once common in north-eastern NSW but wild spawned fish are now considered rare. Eastern Cod are similar to Murray Cod and Mary River Cod. They can vary from pale green to golden with heavy black or green convoluted mottling. The pelvic fin is clear and relatively long. The lower jaw protrudes.

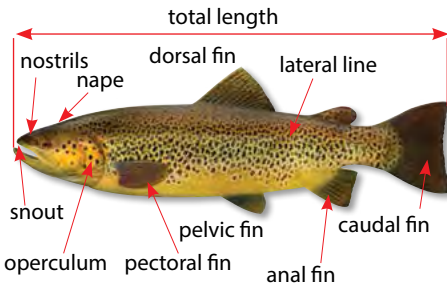
Trout Cod have the following features which distinguish the species from Murray Cod:

- Blue-grey colour with well defined dark spots and dashed markings, whereas Murray Cod are generally greenish in colour with dark marbled markings.
- The snout and upper jaw is usually longer than the lower jaw. In Murray Cod the jaws are level or the lower jaw longer.
- The forehead profile is straight or slightly convex whereas in Murray Cod the forehead profile is slightly concave.
- The snout and forehead of Trout Cod are usually clear of any markings.



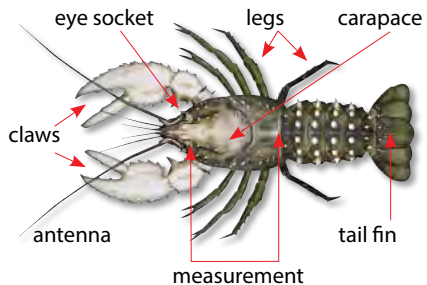
How to measure the legal length of fish and invertebrates

Finfish



To determine the legal length of a fish, the fish is measured from the point of the snout to the tip of the tail. This is known as the total length.

Crayfish



Crayfish are measured from the rear of the eye socket to the centre rear of the carapace.

Fish bag limits, size limits and closures

Why have bag and size limits?

Regulations apply to help ensure healthy and sustainable fisheries for future generations. Size limits can allow fish to reach maturity and complete their breeding cycle, while bag limits help to make sure everyone gets a fair share of the resource and that a species is not overfished. Abiding by the regulations will help conserve and maintain our freshwater recreational fisheries. Legal lengths apply to most freshwater fish. Lengths are specific to each species and reflect a size at which fish can spawn at least once before being caught.

Explanation of terms

Legal length: The minimum length of a fish unless otherwise stated. A fish which does not reach this minimum length must be immediately returned to the water with minimal possible harm (see Responsible Fishing section on page 12 for more information). Some species have maximum length restrictions to protect larger breeding males or females.

Bag limit: The maximum number of fish taken per person per day.

Possession limit: The maximum number of fish per person if you have been fishing for more than one day. One day is equal to the 24 hour period from midnight to midnight. For freshwater fishing it is equal to twice the daily bag limit unless otherwise stated. The possession limit also applies to the transport and storage of fish but does not apply to the purchase of fish from a registered fish receiver such as a fish shop.

Closures: Closures apply to certain species or waters at various times to protect fish during their breeding period.

Australian Bass and Estuary Perch

Legal length: None.

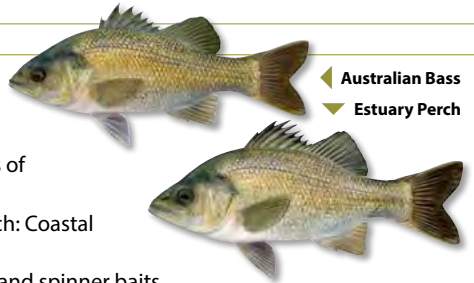
Bag limit: 2 in total (one or more species of Bass or Perch, only 1 over 35cm in rivers).

Possession limit: 4 in total (one or more species of Bass or Perch, only one over 35cm in rivers).

Habitat: Bass: Coastal rivers from Qld to Vic. Perch: Coastal rivers from northern NSW to Tasmania.

Good baits: Crickets, earthworms, surface lures and spinner baits.

Closure: No taking of Australian Bass and Estuary Perch in rivers and estuaries (except rivers above impoundments) from May to August inclusive other than by catch and release fishing. Any Bass or Estuary Perch caught from these waters during this period must be immediately returned to the water unharmed. Dams are not affected by the closure.



Eels: Southern Shortfin and Longfin

Southern Shortfin

Legal length: 30cm.

Bag limit: 10.

Possession limit: 10.

Longfin

Legal length: 58cm.

Bag limit: 10.

Possession limit: 10.

Habitat: Freshwater rivers, dams and lakes east of the Great Dividing Range.

Good baits: Fish pieces and earthworms.



Freshwater Catfish (Eel-Tailed)

Legal length: 30cm in eastern dams, listed western dams and eastern rivers.

Bag limit: 5 in eastern dams and listed western dams, 2 in eastern rivers.

Possession limit: 10 in eastern dams and listed western dams, 4 in eastern rivers.

Habitat: Rare except in north west catchments and coastal waters north of Newcastle.

Good baits: Range from Yabbies, snails and earthworms to foods like ham or cheese.

Closure: Freshwater Catfish (Eel-Tailed) may not be taken in western rivers and unlisted western dams (see page 44 for dams where Freshwater Catfish may be taken). Listed as an endangered population in the Murray-Darling Basin.



Golden Perch

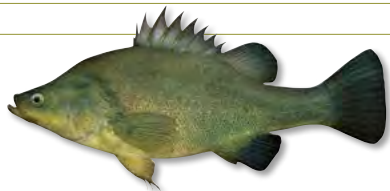
Legal length: 30cm.

Bag limit: 5.

Possession limit: 10.

Habitat: Throughout the Murray-Darling system.

Good baits: Shrimp, Yabbies, worms, spinner baits, minnows or bibless lures.



Murray Cod

Legal length: Min. 55cm, Max. 75cm.

Bag limit: 2

Possession limit: 4

Habitat: Throughout the Murray-Darling system.

Good baits: Bardi Grubs, Yabbies, lures and large flies.

Closure: No taking of Murray Cod in all inland waters (rivers and dams, except Copeton Dam) from September to November inclusive.



Silver Perch

Legal length: 25cm in listed stocked dams.

Bag limit: 5 in listed stocked dams.

Possession limit: 10 in listed stocked dams.

Habitat: Uncommon in rivers. Common in stocked dams.

Good baits: Shrimps, small live Yabbies, worms, aquatic insects, smaller baits and lures.

Closure: Silver Perch must not be taken from all rivers and their tributaries and unlisted dams (see page 44 for lists of dams where Silver Perch may be taken).



Other native finfish (except threatened and protected species)

Bag and possession limit: A maximum daily bag limit and possession limit of 10 in total applies.



Murray Crayfish

Legal length: Min. 10cm, Max.12cm.

Bag limit: 2.

Possession limit: 4.

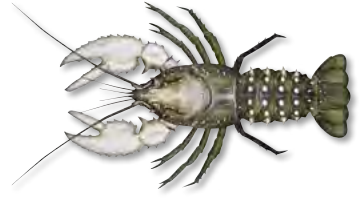
Habitat: Parts of the Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers and some dams in south west NSW.

Good baits: Fish heads, chicken gut.

Closure: Cannot be taken in any waters at any time other than between June and August (inclusive) in the following specified waters:

- Murrumbidgee River between the Hume Highway road bridge, Gundagai and 100m upstream of the weir face at Berembled Weir near Ganmain
- Murray River from 130 below Hume Weir near Albury to the Newell Highway road bridge at Tocumwal

Note: The specified waters include all tributaries, lakes, lagoons, dams, reservoirs, ponds, canals, channels or waterways of the main channels of the above rivers, except Old Man Creek, which is a tributary of the Murrumbidgee River. If you incidentally catch Murray Crayfish, either during the closed season or during the open season in unspecified waters, you must immediately return any Murray Crayfish caught to the water unharmed.



Other Spiny Crayfish (eastern freshwater)

Legal length: 9cm.

Bag limit: 5 (only 1 over 12cm, one or more species).

Possession limit: 10 (only 1 over 12cm, one or more species).

Habitat: Rivers, some lakes east and west of the Divide.

Good baits: Fish heads, chicken gut.

Closure: No taking from trout waters.

Crayfish with eggs: It is illegal to keep Crayfish with eggs ("berried" females), or to remove those eggs. Crayfish with eggs must be returned carefully to the water.

Note: The Fitzroy Falls Spiny Crayfish is a totally protected species and cannot be taken. Yabby traps cannot be used in any waters east of the Newell Highway and hence their use where these Crayfish species occur is illegal. Fishers taking Yabbies and Spiny Crayfish in upland regions should familiarise themselves with identification of each species as bag and size limits differ significantly.



Yabbies: freshwater

Legal length: None.

Bag limit: 200 in total.

Possession limit: 200 in total.

Habitat: Central and western NSW waters.

Good baits: Fish heads, chicken gut.

Yabbies with eggs: It is illegal to keep Yabbies with eggs ("berried" females), or to remove those eggs. Yabbies with eggs must be returned carefully to the water.



Trout and Salmon

See page 46 for full details of listed trout waters.

Legal length: 25cm in all waters except Trout spawning streams, where the legal length is 50cm.

Bag limit: (1 or more species of Trout or Salmon) 2 in artificial fly and lure streams and dams, 1 in Trout spawning streams, 5 in all other waters.

Possession limit: (1 or more species of Trout or Salmon) 4 in artificial fly and lure streams and dams, 2 in Trout spawning streams and 10 in all other waters.

Habitat: Cool freshwater mountain streams and lakes.

Good baits: Yabbies, worms, crickets, artificial flies, lures, synthetic baits.

Closure: Fishing prohibited in general trout streams, artificial fly and lure streams and Trout spawning streams from the end of the June long weekend to the start of the October long weekend.



Rainbow Trout



Brown Trout



Brook Trout



Atlantic Salmon

Summary of permitted lines and hooks

Non-tidal waters	Maximum attended lines	Maximum hooks permitted per line
General inland waters (other than trout waters)	2 (hand lines or rods and lines)	2
General trout dams	2 (rods and lines only)	2 (bait) or 3 (artificial flies, lures only)
General trout streams	1 (rod and line only)	2
Artificial fly and lure dams (no bait fishing)	1 (rod and line only)	3 (artificial flies, lures only)
Artificial fly and lure streams (no bait fishing)	1 (rod and line only)	2 (artificial flies, lures only)
Trout spawning streams (no bait fishing)	1 (rod and line only)	2 (artificial flies, lures only)

Note: Up to three (3) treble hooks attached to any artificial fly or lure is permitted. An artificial fly or lure is considered to be a single hook. If you use, carry or possess rigged lines in excess of the maximum number of attended lines permitted, or use more than the maximum number of hooks permitted per attended line, you are committing an offence and heavy penalties may apply. Attended lines must be within 50m and in your line of sight.

Permitted fishing gear and methods

Line fishing

General inland waters

Up to 2 attended lines (hand lines or rods and lines) are permitted in general inland waters.



Spare lines should not be capable of taking fish e.g. should not be rigged with hooks or lures attached, and should be properly stowed. Attended lines must be within 50m and in line of sight.

Up to 2 single hooks per attended line are permitted. Bait, artificial fly and lure fishing is permitted.



An artificial fly or lure is considered a single hook. Up to 3 treble hooks attached to any artificial fly or lure is permitted.

Trout waters

Handlines are not permitted in trout waters.

Spare lines should not be capable of taking fish e.g. should not be rigged with hooks or lures attached, and should be properly stowed.



Attended lines must be within 50m and in line of sight.

An artificial fly or lure is considered a single hook. Up to 3 treble hooks attached to any artificial fly or lure is permitted.



General trout dams

Fishing with bait*, artificial flies and lures permitted (*see Permitted baits section on page 35).



2 rods and lines permitted.

Up to 2 single hooks per line permitted when using an artificial fly, lure or bait.



Up to 3 single hooks per line permitted when using an artificial fly and lure only, i.e. 3 single hooks per line not permitted if bait fishing.

General trout streams

Fishing with bait, artificial flies and lures permitted.



Only one rod and line permitted. Up to 2 single hooks per line permitted.

Permitted baits

The following baits are permitted in general trout streams and dams: natural flies or insects or their larvae, worms, Shrimps, Yabbies, Mussels, artificial baits (except products containing Trout and Salmon roe) and plant matter.



Artificial fly and lure waters (streams and dams)

Fishing with bait prohibited. Artificial fly and lure fishing only.



Only 1 rod and line permitted.



Streams: Up to 2 single hooks per line permitted.

Dams: Up to 3 single hooks per line permitted.

Trout spawning streams

Fishing with bait prohibited. Artificial fly and lure fishing only.



Only 1 rod and line permitted.



Up to 2 single hooks per line permitted.

Map of NSW showing Murray Crayfish fishing areas



NO TAKING of Murray Crayfish from any waters at any time.

AREAS ALLOWED Fishing for Murray Crayfish during the open season 1 June-31 August inclusive.

BW	Berembed Weir
GRB	Gundagai Road Bridge
TRB	Tocumwal Road Bridge
BHW	Below Hume Weir

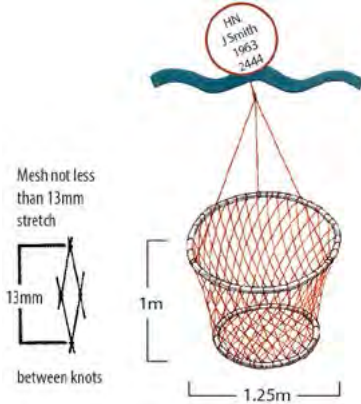
Nets and traps

Use common sense when placing your set fishing gear. Do not set in areas of high boat traffic or navigation channels. To minimise the risk of entanglement by people or boats, any buoy rope used to mark set fishing gear must be as short as practical.

Interference with set fishing gear is an offence. All set gear must be lifted within a 24 hour period, however anglers are encouraged to check their gear regularly to ensure any unwanted catch is returned safely to the water.

Specific closures may prohibit the use of, or limit the number of nets and traps (see page 60 for a list of closed areas).

Hoop net (Lift or Kulkynne)



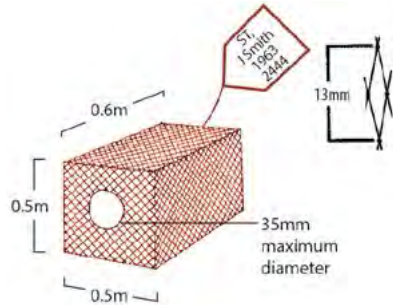
- Maximum dimensions: Net attached with not more than 2 hoops, rings or frames attached to the net, but not attached to each other by any rigid frame. Drop of net (inclusive of hoops, rings or frames) not more than 1m. Greatest diameter or diagonal of the hoops, rings or frames not exceeding 1.25m.
- Mesh size: Mesh not less than 13mm.
- Maximum number: Unless otherwise specified, five nets may be set, used or in your possession.
- Identification: The buoy must be positioned above the water with the letters HN, initial and surname, year of birth and postcode, 15mm in height, clearly visible and in a contrasting colour to the buoy. Any rope attached to the buoy must not be floating

on the surface of the water.

- Maximum set time: Cannot be left set for more than 24 hours.
- Waters: May be used in inland waters to take Crayfish (see map on page 35) and Yabbies except closed waters and trout waters (other than using up to 5 hoop or lift nets to take Yabbies in Googong Dam and in Lakes Lyell, Wallace, Eucumbene or Jindabyne).

Note: The net is used only as a hand implement and only by the method of lowering into the water and then drawing the net vertically to the surface.

Shrimp trap

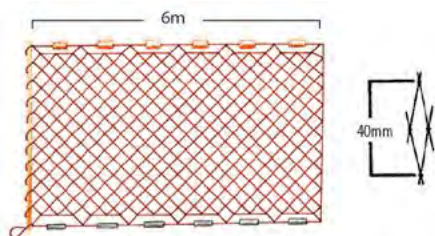


- Maximum dimensions: 0.6m x 0.5m x 0.5m.
- Mesh size: 13mm maximum measured across the diagonal.
- Entrance funnels: Inner hole maximum width of 35mm.
- Maximum number: One (1) trap may be set, used and in your possession.
- Identification: Must have a tag with dimensions of at least 80mm by 45mm attached to the trap at or above the water level which clearly displays the letters ST, initial and surname, year of birth and postcode, 15mm in height, clearly visible and in a contrasting colour.
- Maximum set time: Cannot be left set for more than 24 hours.
- Waters: May be used in inland waters to take freshwater Shrimp and Yabbies, except closed areas and trout waters.

Landing net

May only be used as an ancillary aid for retrieval of fish caught by hand line or rod.



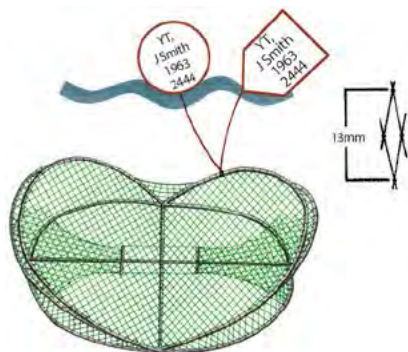


Hand-hauled yabby net

- Maximum dimension: Up to 6m in length measured along the headline.
- Mesh size: 40mm maximum measured across the diagonal.
- Maximum number of users: Propelled by one (1) person. One (1) other person may assist in the operation of the net. May be used with or without hauling lines or poles.
- Maximum set time: Zero. Must be continuously and manually propelled. Not to be set, staked or joined with any other net.
- Waters: May only be used to take Yabbies in inland waters, being ground tanks, bore drains or lagoons. Not permitted in any river or public dam, or in closed areas or trout waters.
- Must be used as a hand implement only.

Yabby traps (including opera house and Kulkyne)

- Maximum dimensions: 1m length x 0.6m width x 0.3m depth.
- Netting or mesh size: 13mm minimum measured across the stretched diagonal from knot to knot. Rigid mesh such as metal or hard plastic is prohibited.



- Entrance funnels: A bycatch reduction device must be fitted to all entrance funnels. The device must consist of a rigid ring with a maximum internal diameter of 90mm permanently affixed to entry funnels at some point along their length, so as to restrict the entry funnels to a maximum opening of 90mm measured in any direction. This is to protect platypus, turtles and birds from entering the trap in search of food and getting caught in the trap.
- Maximum number: Unless otherwise specified, up to five traps may be set, used or in your possession.
- Maximum set time: Cannot be left set for more than 24 hours.
- Identification: Position of the trap located by a buoy or tag. If the trap is identified by a buoy, the buoy must be positioned above the trap and measure not less than 100mm in all dimensions and must be 50mm above the water. Any rope attached to the buoy must not be floating on the surface of the water. If the trap is identified by a tag, the tag must be attached to the trap at or above the water level and have dimensions of at least 80mm x 45mm. Identification tags and buoys must clearly display the letters YT, initial and surname, year of birth and postcode of the person using the trap, 15mm in height, clearly visible and in a contrasting colour.
- Waters: May be used in inland waters to take Yabbies and freshwater Shrimp, except trout waters and closed waters, plus the following areas where platypus are found:
 - (i) Waters east of the Newell Highway (except private farm dams).
 - (ii) The Murray River from the Newell Highway at Tocumwal downstream to the Echuca Road Bridge.
 - (iii) The Edward River from the Murray River at Picnic Point downstream to Stevens Weir.
 - (iv) The Murrumbidgee River from Narrandera downstream to the Darlington Point Road Bridge (refer to map of NSW on the following page).



Use of yabby traps

In areas where yabby traps are permitted, all traps are required to have a bycatch reduction device fitted to all entrance funnels. Traps must be checked at least every 24 hours although fishers are encouraged to check their traps regularly to ensure any unwanted catch is returned safely to the water. The intent of the general yabby trap closure and the bycatch reduction device is to prevent the death of platypus and minimise capture of other air-breathing animals such as turtles and water rats.

To minimise any unwanted damage to our unique wildlife, users of yabby traps in waters where they are permitted must ensure their traps have 90mm entrance funnel rings in place.

Modify your yabby traps

If your traps don't have rigid metal or plastic rings on the entrance funnels with a diameter of 90mm or less, fit rings as described below. These rings will restrict wildlife such as turtles and cormorants from getting into the traps. You will not lose your bait from the traps as often and your Yabby catches will not be reduced.

Steps

1. Cut a 30cm length of coathanger wire and bend the ends.



2. Form a ring.

3. Thread the wire into the mesh of the yabby trap entrance funnel.



Hook the two ends of the wire together and crimp down the ends with pliers.

You have now modified one entry funnel. Do the same thing with all other funnels and your trap is now legal.

Any unmodified yabby trap is a hazard to wildlife. It is important to remember that even modified traps may not keep platypus out.

Yabby traps banned where platypus occur



Do not use traps in platypus waters.

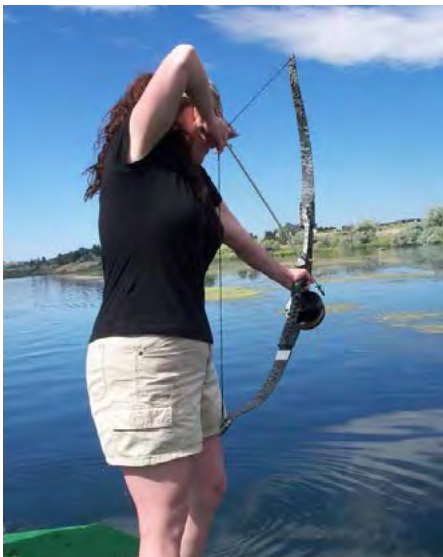
If you want to catch yabbies in public waters where opera house and Kulkynne yabby traps are prohibited, use lift or hoop nets as an alternative in areas where they are permitted.

Bowfishing in NSW

Game and feral animals such as Carp, foxes and rabbits, wild deer, feral goats and pigs can have impacts on agricultural production, the environment and communities. Hunting is recognised as one of a number of tools used in the management of game and feral animals and as a legitimate recreational pursuit. A pilot program permitting bowfishing for Carp in some specific inland waters will be implemented in late 2015. The trial is strictly controlled at a limited range of sites in inland NSW and is jointly managed by DPI's Game Licensing Unit and Fisheries divisions.

When bowfishing for Carp in NSW waters you are required by law to carry a receipt showing the payment of the NSW Recreational Fishing Fee. You also need to hold a NSW Restricted Game Hunting Licence (R-Licence) card endorsed for bowhunting or complete the general knowledge and bowhunting modules of the R-Licence Accreditation Course and carry your Accreditation Certificate with you.

Once you are licensed, you can apply for a permit to bowfish on DPI's website. You must follow all the bowfishing conditions such as pre-reporting and submitting permit returns. To find out more visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting/game-and-pests/bowfishing-for-carp.



Hunting in NSW

The Game Licensing Unit (GLU) and Fisheries NSW are both divisions of NSW DPI. The unit manages hunting on public and private land in NSW, issues game hunting licences for different types of hunting activity and helps landholders manage the impacts of native game birds.

When do I need a hunting licence?

The type of licence you are required to hold depends on:

- which animals you are planning to hunt,
- whether or not you plan to hunt on public or private land; and
- the reason you have chosen to hunt the animals.

What are the benefits of a hunting licence?

NSW Game Hunting Licences give you the opportunity to:

- hunt on 2 million hectares of declared public land.
- access important education and safety training programs.
- help landholders sustainably manage the impacts of native game birds.
- hunt knowing you are covered with \$20 million public liability insurance.

To find out more about hunting in NSW and view the NSW Hunting Guide 2016, visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting or contact the Game Licensing Unit on **02 6391 3750** or game.licensing@dpi.nsw.gov.au.



Prohibited fishing methods and activities

Line fishing

You are not permitted to:

- Set line, drop line, or jag (foul hooking).
- Use handlines in trout waters (rods and lines only permitted).
- Use, carry or possess rigged lines in excess of the maximum number of attended lines permitted. It is an offence and heavy penalties may apply. Spare lines should not be rigged e.g. should not have hooks or lures attached, and should be properly stowed.
- Leave hand held lines unattended unless within 50m and in line of sight.

Gear and methods

You are not permitted to:

- Use gaffs in inland waters.
- Use spears, spear guns or bows and arrows* in inland waters (*see Bowfishing reference, page 39).
- Use explosives, firearms or electrical devices.
- Use fish traps, gill nets, drum nets, crab nets, cast nets or any other equipment to take fish or invertebrates other than gear specified within the “permitted fishing gear and methods” section of the guide (from page 34), within the waters prescribed.
- Use a hand (e.g. ‘tickle’) to take Trout or Salmon.
- Use a light to take Trout or Salmon.
- Use a hand-hauled yabby net in rivers or dams to take Yabbies.
- Use traps and nets in trout waters except hoop (lift or kulkayne) nets in Googong Dam and in Lakes Lyell, Wallace, Eucumbene or Jindabyne to take Yabbies or Shrimp.

Fish filleting

You must not alter the length of a fish which is subject to a minimum or maximum size limit whilst you are in, on or adjacent to any waters in any manner other than by gutting, gilling and scaling. You cannot remove the head or tail. This rule does not apply if the fish are being prepared for immediate consumption, are being prepared for immediate use as bait, if the fish are being cleaned at a fish cleaning facility or a fish cleaning table at a boat ramp, or for fish that do not have a legal length.

Baits

You are not permitted to:

- Use frogs.
- Use live finfish in inland waters including live Carp or other pest species.
- Use non-native fish or parts thereof whether alive or dead, other than dead Carp.
- Use live birds or live mammals.
- Use prohibited size fish as bait.
- Use Trout and Salmon roe (eggs) or products containing them.
- Use “Power bait”™ or any other similarly artificially manufactured bait product in artificial fly and lure waters and trout spawning streams (see page 35 for a list of permitted baits in general trout waters and page 46 for a list of trout waters in NSW).

Crayfish

You are not permitted to:

- Take Murray Crayfish in any waters at any time other than between June and August (inclusive) in the following specified waters:
 - (a) Murrumbidgee River between the Hume Highway road bridge, Gundagai and 100m upstream of the weir face at Berembed Weir near Ganmain.
 - (b) Murray River from 130m below Hume Weir near Albury to the Newell Highway road bridge at Tocumwal.

- Remove the heads, tails and claws or possess tails and or claws when you are in, on or adjacent to waters. This means that you cannot remove or possess the heads, tails and claws unless you are well away from the water. This rule does not apply if the Crayfish are being prepared for immediate consumption, are being prepared for immediate use as bait, if the Crayfish are being cleaned at a fish cleaning facility or a fish cleaning table at a boat ramp.
- Keep Crayfish, including Yabbies, Murray Crayfish or other Spiny Crayfish with eggs, or to remove those eggs. Crayfish with eggs must be returned to the water.

General

You are not permitted to:

- Take or attempt to take any species in waters closed to fishing.
- Possess excess or prohibited fishing gear in, on or adjacent to waters.
- Take threatened or protected species.
- Keep prohibited size fish – prohibited size fish should be immediately returned unharmed to the water.
- Be in excess of your possession limit of fish when transporting or storing such fish. An exception is if the fish have been purchased from a registered fish receiver e.g. a fish shop.
- Use any methods (e.g. line fishing, traps, nets, bait collection etc.) in closed areas (see page 60).
- Sell recreational catch.



Summary table of bag limits, size limits and fishing seasons

Fish species	Legal length	Daily limit
Australian Bass and Estuary Perch	–	2 (one or more species, only 1 of which can be longer than 35cm in rivers)
Crayfish, Murray	10cm to 12cm	2
Crayfish, other Spiny	9cm	5 (one or more species, only 1 of which can be longer than 12cm)
Eel, Southern Shortfin	30cm	10
Eel, Longfin	58cm	10
Freshwater Catfish, (Eel-tailed)	30cm in listed dams, eastern dams and eastern rivers	5 in listed dams and eastern dams 2 in eastern rivers
Golden Perch	30cm	5
Murray Cod	55cm to 75cm	2
Silver Perch	25cm in listed dams	5 in listed dams
Trout and Salmon	25cm in artificial fly and lure streams and dams	2 (one or more species) in artificial fly and lure streams and dams
	50cm in Trout spawning streams	1 (of any species) in Trout spawning streams
	25cm in all other waters	5 (one or more species) in all other waters
Yabbies, Freshwater	–	200
Other native finfish species	–	10 (one or more species other than invertebrates)
Non-native finfish species (excluding Trout and Salmon)	–	–























Note: The possession limit is the maximum number of fish per person if you have been fishing for more than one day. One day is equal to the 24 hour period from midnight to midnight. Fishing is prohibited in general trout streams, artificial fly and lure streams and trout spawning streams from the end of the June long weekend to the start of the October long weekend (see page 46 for the location of Trout waters). Seasonal fishing closures may apply in other waters (see page 60 for the location of these waters).

In the table, the terms “eastern dams” and “eastern rivers” refer to waters located within the eastern drainages of NSW. Listed dams are shown on page 44.

Possession limit	Open fishing season
4 (one or more species, only 1 of which can be longer than 35cm in rivers)	September to April in rivers below freshwater impoundments (catch and release fishing permitted from May to August)
4	From 1 June to 31 August in the following specified waters only (including all tributaries, lakes, lagoons, dams, reservoirs, ponds, canals, channels or waterways of the main channels of the waters listed below, except Old Man Creek, a tributary of the Murrumbidgee River): (a) Murrumbidgee River between the Hume Highway road bridge, Gundagai and 100m upstream of the weir face at Berembed Weir near Ganmain (b) Murray River from 130 below Hume Weir near Albury to the Newell Highway road bridge at Tocumwal (see map on page 35). All waters are closed to Murray Crayfish fishing at all other times
10 (one or more species, only 1 of which can be longer than 12cm)	All year. Cannot be taken in trout waters Note: The Fitzroy Falls Spiny Crayfish is totally protected and cannot be taken from any waters
10	All year
10	All year
10 in listed dams and eastern dams, 4 in eastern rivers.	All year in eastern rivers, eastern dams and listed dams
10	All year
4	December to August each year. All year in Copeton Dam
10 in listed dams	All year in listed dams. Cannot be taken in rivers or unlisted dams
4 (one or more species) in artificial fly and lure streams and dams	From the start of October long weekend to end of June long weekend in artificial fly and lure streams. Artificial fly and lure dams are open to fishing all year.
2 (one or more species) in Trout spawning streams	From 1 May to end of June long weekend. Rules for artificial fly and lure streams apply from start of October long weekend to 30 April.
10 (one or more species) in all other waters	From the start of October long weekend to end of June long weekend in general trout streams. General trout dams and all other waters are open to fishing all year.
200	All year
10 (one or more species other than invertebrates)	All year
–	All year

Listed dams

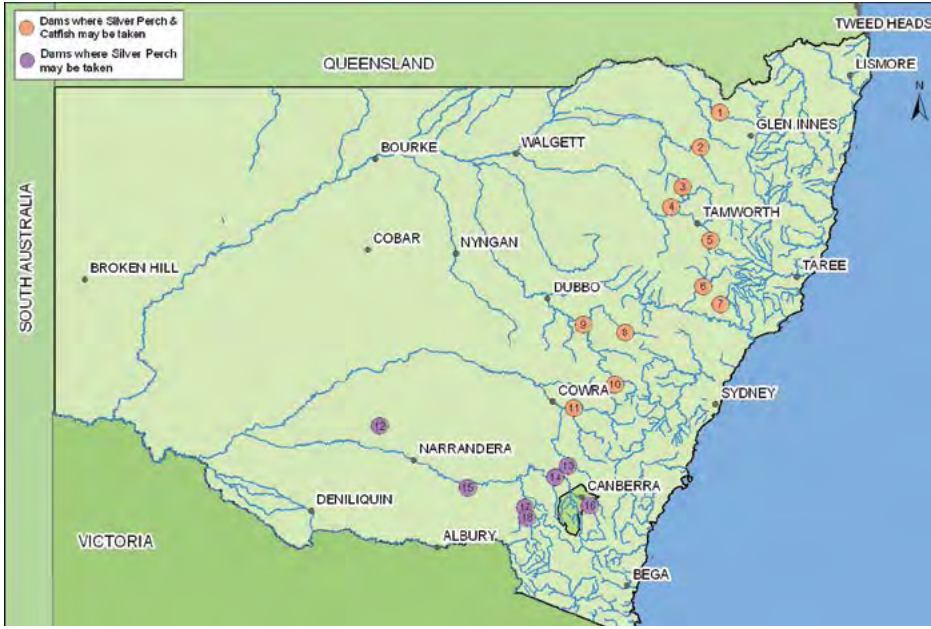
Dams where Silver Perch and Freshwater Catfish may be taken

No.	Dam/weir		Nearest town	Species permitted
1	Pindari		Ashford	Silver Perch, Freshwater Catfish 
2	Copeton		Inverell	Silver Perch, Freshwater Catfish 
3	Split Rock		Manilla	Silver Perch, Freshwater Catfish 
4	Keepit		Gunnedah	Silver Perch, Freshwater Catfish 
5	Chaffey		Nundle	Silver Perch, Freshwater Catfish 
6	Glenbawn		Scone	Silver Perch, Freshwater Catfish 
7	Glennies Creek		Singleton	Silver Perch, Freshwater Catfish 
8	Windamere		Mudgee	Silver Perch, Freshwater Catfish 
9	Burrendong		Wellington	Silver Perch, Freshwater Catfish 
10	Ben Chifley		Bathurst	Silver Perch, Freshwater Catfish 
11	Wyangala		Cowra	Silver Perch, Freshwater Catfish 

No.	Dam/weir	Nearest town	Species permitted
12	Wyangan 	Griffith	Silver Perch 
13	Yass 	Yass	Silver Perch 
14	Burrinjuck 	Yass	Silver Perch 
15	Lake Albert 	Wagga Wagga	Silver Perch 
16	Googong 	Queanbeyan	Silver Perch 
17	Blowering 	Tumut	Silver Perch 
18	Jounama 	Talbingo	Silver Perch 

Note: Freshwater Catfish may also be taken from all other eastern dams and eastern flowing streams.

Dams where Silver Perch and Freshwater Catfish may be taken



Key to trout waters

Trout waters

There are four types of trout waters. Each has different rules. This helps protect breeding populations and shares catches fairly. You will find details in the following colour coded tables. If a stream is not listed look for the major stream it runs into. Rules apply to all streams and tributaries upstream of points indicated. In unlisted waters general fishing rules apply.

1 Trout spawning streams

Fishing season: 1 May to end June long weekend (revert to artificial fly and lure waters from Saturday October long weekend to 30 April each year inclusive).

Permitted gear: 1 attended rod and line with up to 2 hooks with artificial flies or lures. Gear rigged for bait fishing is prohibited.

2 Artificial fly and lure waters

Fishing season: Saturday morning October long weekend to Monday night June long weekend except Thompsons Creek Dam and Black Lake which are open all year.

Permitted gear: 1 attended rod and line with up to 2 hooks with artificial flies or lures or up to 3 hooks with artificial flies or lures at Thompsons Creek Dam and Black Lake. Gear rigged for bait fishing is prohibited.

3 General trout streams

Fishing season: Saturday morning October long weekend to Monday night June long weekend.

Permitted gear: 1 attended rod and line with no more than 2 hooks attached. Bait fishing allowed.

4 General trout dams

Fishing season: All year.

Permitted gear: 2 attended rods each with a line and no more than 2 hooks attached or no more than 3 hooks attached where those hooks are artificial flies or lures. Bait fishing allowed.

Legend

- # up to 5 hoop nets to take Yabbies permitted
 - * also included
 - ** artificial fly and lure fishing from shore only from 1hr before sunrise to 4hrs after sunset
-

3 Apsley River

Upstream of Tia River* junction

3 Barnard River

Upstream of Gulf Creek* junction

3 Barrington River

Upstream of Moppy River* junction

4 Beardy Waters Dam

3 Beardy Waters

Upstream of Furracabad Creek* junction

2 Bell River (A)

Upstream of Belgravia Road crossing

3 Bell River (B)

Upstream of Molong Creek* junction

3 Belubula River

Upstream of Cherry Tree Falls Bridge, Canowindra

3 Bemboka River

Upstream of Tantawangelo Creek junction

4 Ben Chifley Dam

2 Black Lake

3 Blinks River

Upstream of road bridge at Dundurrabin

2 Bobundra Creek

Upstream of Snowy River junction

3 Boree Creek

Upstream of Mandagery Creek junction

4 Captains Flat Dam**4 Carcoar Dam****3 Carters Brook**

Upstream from Stewarts Brook* junction

3 Chandler River

Upstream of Wollomombi River* junction

3 Cobark River

Upstream of Dilgry River* junction

4 Coolumbooka Weir**3 Cooplacurripa River**

Upstream of Mummel River* junction

3 Coxs River

Upstream of Little River junction

Note: **Jenolan River** totally closed upstream of the spawning pool at Jenolan Caves

3 Cudgegong River

Upstream of Lawson Park Weir, Mudgee to Windamere Dam wall

3 Deepwater River

Upstream of New England Highway Bridge, Deepwater

4 Diggers Creek Dam

Perisher Valley

4 Dumaresq Dam**3 Dungowan Creek**

Upstream of road crossing near Ogunbil Station

4 2 Eucumbene Dam #**1 Eucumbene River**

Upstream of backed up waters of Eucumbene Dam including Providence Portal

4 Fitzroy Falls Reservoir**2 Flea Creek**

Upstream of junction with Goodradigbee River

4 Geehi Dam

3 Georges Creek

Upstream of Louisa Creek junction

3 Gloucester River

Upstream of Sharpes Creek* junction

3 Goodradigbee River

Upstream of backed up waters of Burrinjuck Dam

4 Googong Dam #**4 Gosling Creek Reservoir****3 Guineacor Creek**

Upstream of Wollondilly River junction

4 Guthega Lake**3 Guy Fawkes River**

Upstream of Aberfoyle River junction

3 Gwydir River

Upstream of Torryburn Bridge and downstream from Copeton Dam to junction with Dingo Creek (excludes Dingo Creek)

4 Happy Jacks Pondage**3 Horton River**

Upstream of Cut Road Creek* junction

3 Hunter River

Upstream of Pages Creek junction

3 Ingeegoodbee River

Upstream of Victorian border

4 Island Bend Dam**4 Jounama Pondage****2 Khancoban Creek**

Upstream of backed up waters of Khancoban Pondage

4 Khancoban Pondage**3 Kowmung River**

Upstream of Morong Creek* junction

2 Kybean River

Upstream of Numeralla River junction

3 Lachlan River

Upstream of Cowra-Young Road Bridge

4 Lake Bathurst**4 Lake Canobolas****4 Lake Crackenback****4 Lake Jindabyne #****4 Lake Lyell #****4 Lake Wallace (Wallerawang Dam) #****4 Lake Williams****3 Laura Creek**

Upstream of ford at Baldersleigh Station

3 MacDonalD River

Upstream of New England Highway Bridge at Bendemeer

3 MacIntyre River

Upstream of road bridge at Elsmore

2 MacLaughlin River

Upstream of Snowy River junction

3 Macphersons Swamp Creek

Upstream of backed up waters of Burrinjuck Dam

3 Macquarie River

Upstream of Lewis Ponds Creek* junction

4 Malpas Dam**3 Manning River**

Upstream of Gummi Trail crossing

4 Marsden Weir**2 Molong Creek**

Upstream of Borenore Creek junction

3 Molonglo River

Upstream of railway bridge at Burbong

3 Moonan Brook

Upstream of Hunter River junction

3 Moredun Creek

Upstream of ford immediately below Limestone Creek junction

2 Mowamba River

Upstream of Snowy River junction

3 Mulla Mulla Creek

Upstream of Cockburn River junction

3 Murray River

Upstream of Tintaldra Road Bridge

4 Murray 2 Pondage**3 Murrumbidgee River**

Upstream of Bredbo River* junction

3 Myall Creek

Upstream of Tuggolo Creek* junction

3 Nowendoc River

Upstream of Nowendoc Falls

3 Nymboida River

Upstream of Wild Cattle Creek* junction

3 Oaky River

Upstream of Oaky River Dam backed up waters

3 Oban River

Upstream of Sara River junction

4 Oberon Dam**3 Omadale Brook**

Upstream of Polblue Creek* junction

4 Paddys River Dam**4 Pejar Dam**

3 Queanbeyan River

Upstream of fence boundary of Googong Dam Reserve (about 1km downstream of the dam wall)

4 Redground Dam (Crookwell water supply)**4 Rossi Weir****4 Sheba Dams****3 Shoalhaven River**

Upstream of Mongarlowe River* junction

3 Snowy River

Upstream of Victorian border

3 Styx River

Upstream of Armidale-Bellbrook Road

Note: Serpentine River totally closed from the top of Serpentine Falls to the weir at the Point Lookout Road crossing near Dutton Trout Hatchery

2 Swampy Plain River

Upstream of Murray River Junction (excluding Indi Backwater) to upstream boundary of Khancoban Station

3 Swan Brook

Upstream of Kings Plains Road Bridge

4 Talbingo Dam**4 Tantangara Dam****2 Thompsons Creek Dam ******1 2 Thredbo River**

Upstream of backed up waters of Lake Jindabyne.

Note: Thredbo River totally closed in signposted reach at Gaden Trout Hatchery from upstream end of Paddys Corner Reserve to 2.4km upstream.

Sawpit Creek totally closed

4 Three Mile Dam**4 Todkill Park Dam****4 Tooma Dam****4 Tumut Ponds****3 Tumut River**

Upstream of Murrumbidgee River junction

4 Tumut 2 Pondage**3 Tuross River**

Upstream of Tuross Falls

3 Wellingrove Creek

Upstream of Gwydir Highway Road Bridge

4 Wentworth Falls Lake**2 Wildes Meadow Creek**

Upstream of backed up waters of Fitzroy Falls Reservoir

3 Wollondilly River

Upstream of Tarlo River* junction



Threatened and protected species

A threatened species is rare with numbers declining to a point where it is at risk of becoming extinct in NSW. Other rare species with stable numbers are protected. It is illegal to take, harm or possess threatened or protected species. If caught they must be returned carefully to the water. It is also illegal to damage the habitat of a threatened species.

You can keep up to date with threatened or protected species listings on the website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries. Help increase knowledge of these species by reporting sightings on **02 4916 3877**; email fisheries.threatenedspecies@dpi.nsw.gov.au or online at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/species-protection/report-it

Threatened species

Australian Grayling *Prototroctes maraena*

Conservation status: Endangered species.

Found in the southern coastal rivers of NSW. Colour varies from silver with an olive-grey back and whitish belly to olive green or brownish on the back, with a darker mid-lateral streak and greyish fins. Grows to 300mm in length, but are more commonly around 170–180mm. It is an offence to take, harm or be in possession of Australian Grayling.



Freshwater Catfish (Eel-Tailed) *Tandanus tandanus*

Conservation status: Endangered population. (Murray-Darling Basin catchment).

Numbers declined following invasion of Carp during the 1970s and 80s. Fishing for Freshwater Catfish is prohibited in all western flowing waters and unlisted western dams in NSW. Freshwater Catfish may be taken from listed western dams and eastern dams and rivers (see page 44).



River Blackfish *Gadopsis marmoratus* and

Two-Spined Blackfish *Gadopsis bispinosus*

Conservation status: River Blackfish population in the Snowy River catchment is endangered.

Can occur in western flowing streams in NSW but its range is considerably reduced. Particularly susceptible to siltation. Eggs covered with silt are likely to die and increased sediment can kill juveniles. Prefers small upland stream habitat. Fishing for River Blackfish and Two-Spined Blackfish is prohibited all year in all inland waters in NSW. It is an offence to take, harm, or be in possession of River Blackfish from the Snowy River catchment.



Eastern (Freshwater) Cod *Maccullochella ikei*

Conservation status: Endangered species.

Now only in the Mann and Nymboida river systems. Stocked populations occur in parts of the Richmond River catchment. To protect breeding Eastern Cod, fishing is prohibited from 1 August to 31 October inclusive in the Mann River and its tributaries upstream of its junction with the Clarence River except: the Oban River and its tributaries upstream of its junction with, but not including, the Sara River; the Guy Fawkes River and its tributaries upstream of its junction with, but not including, the Aberfoyle River and the Nymboida River and its tributaries upstream of its junction with, and including, Wild Cattle Creek.

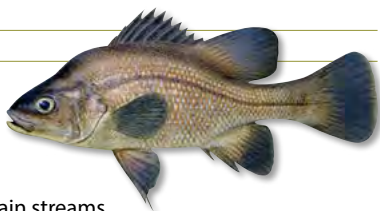


Macquarie Perch *Macquaria australasica*

Conservation status: Endangered species.

Found in the upper reaches of the Murrumbidgee, Lachlan, Murray and Hawkesbury/Nepean, and Shoalhaven/Kangaroo catchments. One of a few native species that can live and breed in cold, fast flowing, mountain streams.

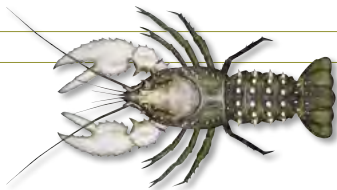
Distinguished from Golden Perch by a large eye surrounded by white colouring, jaws of equal length and less pronounced arch of the head behind the eyes. It is an offence to take, harm, or be in possession of Macquarie Perch.



Murray Crayfish *Euastacus armatus*

Conservation status: Vulnerable species.

The Murray Crayfish is endemic to the southern tributaries of the Murray-Darling Basin. Murray Crayfish can be found in a variety of habitats ranging from pasture lands to sclerophyll forest, in a range of stream sizes throughout a broad altitudinal range. The species grows to more than 150mm in carapace length and around 2.5kg. It can be distinguished from other species by its large size, white claws and white spines on each side of the tail. May only be taken from the Murrumbidgee River between the Gundagai road bridge and Berembed Weir (excluding Old Man Creek) and in the Murray River between Hume Weir and Tocumwal road bridge from 1 June to 31 August (see map on page 35). All waters are closed to Murray Crayfish fishing at all other times.



Trout Cod *Maccullochella macquariensis*

Conservation status: Endangered species.

Once widespread throughout the lower Murray-Darling system, only one natural breeding population now remains in NSW. Trout Cod are distinguished from Murray Cod by their blue/grey colour with well-defined spots and dashed markings; the snout and upper jaw are usually longer than the lower jaw; the forehead profile is straight or slightly convex and the snout and forehead are usually clear of any markings. Catch and release fishing is permitted in Talbingo Dam.



Silver Perch *Bidyanus bidyanus*

Conservation status: Vulnerable species.

Once widespread throughout most of the Murray-Darling Basin. Remnant populations remain in some areas such as the central Murray River and parts of the Edward River system. Prefers river, lake and reservoir habitats and areas of rapid flow.

May only be taken from listed stocked impoundments (see page 44).



Other freshwater species

A number of small bodied native fish species are listed as threatened in NSW. However, freshwater fishers are unlikely to encounter them when carrying out normal fishing activities. Some of these species are **Darling River Hardyhead (Hunter River population) *Craterocephalus amniculus***, **Oxleyan Pygmy Perch *Nannoperca oxleyana***, **Murray Hardyhead *Craterocephalus fluviatilis***, **Southern Pygmy Perch *Nannoperca australis***, **Olive Perchlet (western population) *Ambassis agassizii***, **Purple Spotted Gudgeon *Mogurnda adspersa***, and **Flathead Galaxias *Galaxias rostratus***. The **Fitzy Falls Spiny Crayfish *Euastacus dharawalus*** is also totally protected and cannot be taken.

Conserving our biodiversity

– aquatic habitats

More habitat = more fish

Healthy and diverse habitats mean healthy and diverse fish populations, a must if you want to catch fish. Habitats are those places where fish live, migrate to and from, feed and breed. Examples include rivers, billabongs, creeks and wetlands.

Fish need to be able to access habitat. Too often fish are stopped by barriers such as poorly designed road crossings, weirs and dams.

Fish habitat is also under pressure from expanding populations and some areas have been lost or degraded to the point where they no longer support native fish populations. NSW DPI is working with many people and organisations to protect and rehabilitate fish habitat to assist the recovery of fish stocks. Funding support from the recreational fishing trusts has been provided to assist with this venture.



Protecting biodiversity – tips to remember

- Travelling at low speed near riverbanks prevents your boat wake from undermining them.
- Snags are habitat for fish, not for use as firewood.
- Use established access points to launch and retrieve your boat or to access waterways by foot.
- Take all rubbish home or dispose appropriately, including fishing line and gear.
- Take care not to transport fish, water or weeds from one waterway to another. Wash down your boat, trailer and fishing gear to avoid spreading pests.

- Aquarium fish should stay in an aquarium. Never release them into a waterway or a drain.
- Get your friends or local fishing club involved in restoring fish habitat and check out the website www.fishhabitatnetwork.com.au

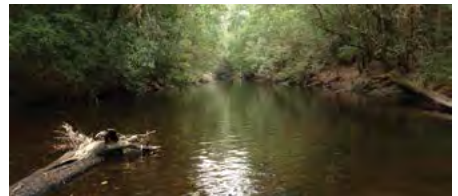
NSW DPI also regulates activities that impact on key fish habitat. If you see or suspect any illegal activities affecting fish habitat contact your local NSW DPI fisheries office or the NSW DPI Fishers Watch Phonenumber on **1800 043 536**.

Watch out for:

- Snags, native vegetation, sediment, gravel or cobble beds, rocks and rock bars being removed or damaged.
- Drains being dug or other works taking place in wetlands.
- Machinery working on the banks or within waterways.
- New bed or bank stabilisation works within a waterway.
- New waterfront structures such as jetties and boat ramps.
- Materials or fill being placed into a waterway e.g. tyres, concrete, sediment etc.
- Placing of permanent or temporary barriers to fish passage across a waterway e.g. new waterway crossings, nets, silt fences, fill.
- Discharge of pollutants into waterways.

See www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/habitat/rehabilitating/living-and-working-on-a-riverbank for more information on works in waterways that require approval under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*.

NSW DPI produces Newstreams, a free bi-monthly electronic newsletter to keep people up to date with aquatic habitat activities. To subscribe, email newstreams@dpi.nsw.gov.au and register your contact details.



Pests and diseases

Pest species are established by intentional and accidental introduction of fish that are not native to NSW waters. Pest species can invade marine or freshwater environments and can threaten native fish and their habitats. It is important that we keep an eye out for possible pests and diseases and their potential sources in order to prevent their spread into our aquatic environment.

A significant freshwater pest fish to be on the lookout for in NSW is Tilapia. Other freshwater fish considered pests in NSW include Carp, Redfin, Banded Grunter, Eastern Gambusia, Oriental Weatherloach and Goldfish.

What you can do:

You can help protect our waterways and native fish by helping to stop the introduction and spread of aquatic pests into new areas.

- Do not transfer fish between waterways and do not use live fish as bait in freshwater, or live or dead Tilapia or Redfin Perch as bait in freshwater – it is illegal.
- Obtain a permit to stock fish in public waters and buy fingerlings for stocking from a registered hatchery to minimise the risk of contamination with pests/diseases.
- Prevent unwanted hitchhikers – check, clean and dry boats and gear between waterways.
- Don't dump that fish! Give unwanted aquarium fish to friends or a pet shop rather than letting them go in the wild.

Note: It is illegal to release live fish into NSW waterways without a permit and heavy penalties apply.

- Prevent accidental fish escapes. Screen outdoor ponds to prevent overflow during heavy rains and dispose of fish waste appropriately well away from waterways.
- Learn how to identify pest species.
- **Report suspected pests and unexplained mortality events** in fish and shellfish. Contact your local fisheries office or contact NSW DPI on **02 4916 3877** (recorded 24 hour service); email aquatic.pests@dpi.nsw.gov.au or online at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity.
- If you are able to keep samples, keep them cool but do not freeze them.

Tilapia



Tilapia are listed in the top 100 of the world's worst introduced species. They are listed as Class 1 noxious in NSW and possession and sale of live Tilapia is prohibited. In December 2014 NSW DPI confirmed the presence of a population of Tilapia at Cabarita on the NSW far north coast. This is the first known incursion of this species in NSW. Other populations of Tilapia within southern Qld are as little as 3km from the Murray Darling Basin, however they are not currently known to occur in this system.

Tilapia would pose a significant threat to native species if they were to enter the Murray Darling or to otherwise spread and establish throughout NSW. If you find a suspected Tilapia, please report it to NSW DPI on **02 4916 3877** (recorded 24 hour service); email aquatic.pests@dpi.nsw.gov.au or online at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity

How to identify Tilapia:

- Vary in colour from dark olive to silver-grey.
- Generally deep-bodied fish, with thin profiles, long snouts and pronounced lips/ jaws.
- Dorsal (upper) fin is continuous and ends in an extended point (in most natives this fin is rounded with a gap in the middle).
- Long pelvic (belly) fins (almost to anal fin).

Carp (European Carp)



European Carp are a large freshwater fish native to central Asia. Introductions in many

countries have helped make European Carp the most widely distributed freshwater fish in the world. They are extensively farmed in Europe, Asia and the Middle East and are a popular angling fish in Europe. European Carp are very versatile and can live in a great variety of habitats including highly degraded waters.

Over the past 30 years Carp have spread across most of south-eastern Australia and are now the most abundant freshwater fish in some areas, including most of the Murray-Darling Basin and are thought to have contributed to the degradation of our natural aquatic ecosystems. Carp are a popular sport species in Europe, however as they are noxious in NSW recreational fishers are encouraged to retain and utilise landed Carp rather than return them live to the water. Fish retained should be dispatched humanely.

Redfin (English Perch)



Redfin is a medium sized freshwater fish native to northern Europe which was introduced to Australia in the 1860s for its angling qualities and is now widespread across much of NSW, Victoria, Tasmania, south-eastern South Australia and the south-western corner of Western Australia. They can be identified by their bright red lower fins and tail. Redfin are voracious predators of native fish and invertebrates and can adversely affect native species such as Macquarie Perch by carrying EHN virus. Redfin can also out-compete other species in enclosed water bodies.

Redfin are Class 1 noxious and it is illegal to be in possession of live Redfin in NSW. If anglers are retaining caught Redfin the fish must be stored dead (e.g. on ice in an esky). **It is also illegal to use live or dead Redfin as bait in NSW.**

Fish kills

A fish kill is defined as any sudden and unexpected mass mortality of wild or cultured

fish. Fish kills are often very visible events which cause considerable interest and concern to the public and the media because they are often perceived to be the result of pollution or contamination of waters. In fact, there are many and varied causes of fish kills and a large proportion are due to natural events. Fish kills in the wild should be reported to your local NSW DPI fisheries office, or the NSW DPI Fishers Watch Phonenumber **1800 043 536**. If the fish kill is due to a suspected pollution event contact the Environmental Protection Authority on **131 555**.

If possible it is useful to provide the following information when reporting fish kills:

- Name of waterway (e.g. lake, river, creek) and catchment.
- Precise location in waterway (name nearby roads or other landmarks).
- Area affected by the kill (e.g. estimated length of waterway in metres or area hectares).
- Numbers and species of fish affected (e.g. 10s, 100s, 1,000s).
- Condition and location of fish (e.g. dead, dying, gasping, on waters edge, floating in waterway, on bottom of waterway).
- Size of fish (estimate in centimetres) and if sizes vary or are all the same size.
- Type of habitat (e.g. marine, estuary, freshwater).
- Weather conditions prior to kill (e.g. temperature, wet or dry, windy).
- Date and time when kill first observed.
- Any other general observations (odours, look and colour of the water, any wildlife affected e.g. birds, frogs etc.).
- Suspected cause (if possible to identify).

Don't forget to leave your name and contact details so an investigating officer can contact you again if required.

Water weeds

Water weeds are invasive plants that threaten the environmental, economic and recreational value of waterways. They grow rapidly and spread by seed and fragments, quickly infesting rivers, lakes, wetlands and irrigation channels.

Water weeds can form large floating mats, dense underwater thickets or stands along the bank. They can deplete oxygen levels, reduce sunlight, block water pumps and restrict boat navigation. Four weeds of concern in NSW are Salvinia, Cabomba, Alligator Weed and Water Hyacinth.

Water weeds are commonly spread by people. Plant fragments attach to nets, traps and boat trailers. They can survive considerable time out of water.



You can help prevent further spread by:

- Cleaning boats, trailers and all equipment before leaving the site.
- Learning to recognise water weeds.
- Avoiding infested areas.
- Reporting suspicious infestations to your local council weed officer or NSW DPI on **1800 680 244** or email weeds@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Didymo

Didymo is a highly invasive freshwater algae, commonly known as 'rock snot'. Fortunately Didymo is not found in Australia but in 2004 it was discovered on the south island of New Zealand. It can be spread very easily and by just one drop of affected water. Didymo forms dense brown clumps and smothers stream beds by attaching to rocks and plants. It can attach to clothing of fishers, to fishing gear or boating equipment and can then

spread between waterways. Eradication is virtually impossible once it has become established. Fishers are at risk of accidentally introducing Didymo into NSW waters by using contaminated fishing gear and equipment.

What you can do:

- Check, clean and dry fishing gear and equipment if you have been fishing in an area known to contain Didymo before bringing your gear home. This can be done by soaking gear in a hot water solution of five per cent household bleach. Alternately soak gear in washing detergent for 45 minutes.
- Declare all used freshwater fishing equipment (including fishing rods, lines, lures, waders, wading boots and felt-soled shoes) and recreational water equipment (including for kayaking and canoeing) that have been used in freshwater areas of New Zealand and other countries known to have Didymo algae on arrival in Australia to the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS) for inspection and treatment for Didymo algae where necessary. Call AQIS on **1800 020 504** or refer to the AQIS website www.aqis.gov.au for more information.



Why do we close areas to fishing?







Areas can be closed to fishing for a variety of reasons but mainly to protect fish and fish habitat, to promote a fair share of the catch among the community or for safety reasons. Areas can be closed permanently or temporarily or at a specific time of year. Fishing restrictions may apply in other areas i.e. certain types of fishing gear may not be permitted for use or certain species may not be allowed to be taken. Closures below and above dams and weirs protect fish where they gather to spawn or migrate. Fishing closures apply to threatened and protected species. It is an offence to take, or attempt to take, harm or possess threatened or protected species (see page 54).







Freshwater fishing closures are summarised in the following tables.

The term 'any methods' means line fishing (rod or hand line), trapping, netting and bait and invertebrate collection (using methods such as hand gathering or digging) for all species is not permitted in the waters specified during the period specified, unless otherwise stated.

Summary of fishing closures for major freshwater fish species

The fish species listed in column 1 cannot be taken in waters listed in column 2 during the period specified in column 3.

1. Fish species	2. Closure	3. Period
Australian Bass Estuary Perch 	All rivers and estuaries except rivers above impoundments Catch and release fishing permitted	1 May to 31 August
Australian Grayling 	All waters	All year
Eastern Freshwater Cod 	All waters	All year
Freshwater Catfish 	All rivers and dams west of the Great Dividing Range except the backed up waters of the following impoundments: Ben Chifley Dam, Burrendong Dam, Chaffey Dam, Copeton Dam, Keepit Dam, Pindari Dam, Split Rock Dam, Windamere Dam, Wyangala Dam	All year
Macquarie Perch 	All waters	All year
Murray Cod 	All waters	1 September to 30 November. All waters, except Copeton Dam.

1. Fish species	2. Closure	3. Period
<p>Murray Crayfish</p> 	<p>All waters in NSW except the following waters between 1 June and 31 August each year inclusive: (a) Murrumbidgee River between the Hume Highway road bridge, Gundagai and Berembed Weir near Ganmain and (b) Murray River from 130 below Hume Weir near Albury to the Newell Highway road bridge at Tocumwal</p> <p>Note: The specified waters include all tributaries, lakes, lagoons, dams, reservoirs, ponds, canals, channels or waterways of the main channels of the above rivers, except Old Man Creek, which is a tributary of the Murrumbidgee River. If you incidentally catch Murray Crayfish, either during the closed season or during the open season in unspecified waters, you must immediately return any Murray Crayfish caught to the water unharmed</p>	All year
<p>River Blackfish and Two-Spined Blackfish</p> 	All waters	All year
<p>Silver Perch</p> 	Rivers and dams east and west of the Great Dividing Range except the backed up waters of the following impoundments: Ben Chifley Dam, Blowering Dam, Burrendong Dam, Burrinjuck Dam, Chaffey Dam, Copeton Dam, Glenbawn Dam, Glennies Creek Dam, Googong Dam, Jounama Pondage, Keepit Dam, Lake Albert, Lake Wyangan, Pindari Dam, Split Rock Dam, Windamere Dam, Wyangala Dam, Yass Weir	All year
<p>Spiny Crayfish (other than Murray Crayfish)</p> 	Trout waters	All year
<p>Trout Cod</p> 	All waters (catch and release fishing is permitted in Talbingo Dam)	All year
<p>Trout and Salmon</p> 	<p>General trout streams, artificial fly and lure streams (see page 46 for location of these waters)</p> <p>Trout spawning streams (see page 46 for location of these waters)</p>	<p>Tuesday after the June long weekend to the last Friday prior to the start of the October long weekend.</p> <p>Tuesday after the June long weekend until midnight 30 April the following year. Rules for artificial fly and lure streams apply from the start of the October long weekend until 30 April.</p>
<p>Note: Some waterways may be temporarily or permanently closed to fishing or to certain fishing methods (see page 62)</p>		

Waters and fish species closures

Note: The phrase “and its tributaries” means all rivers, creeks, streams, gullies, lakes, lagoons, inlets, affluents and connecting channels of the waters listed. Areas affected at dams and weirs are to be measured along the centreline of the river unless otherwise stated.

Australian Bass (*Macquaria novemaculeata*) and Estuary Perch (*Macquaria colonorum*)

Any method other than by catch and release fishing (so that any fish caught are immediately returned to the water unharmed) for Australian Bass and Estuary Perch is prohibited in all waters except the backed up waters of any freshwater impoundments and their tributaries, upstream from where they enter the backed up waters of any freshwater impoundments during the period from May to August (inclusive) each year.

Eastern Freshwater Cod – Mann River

All fishing methods for any species of fish prohibited in the Mann River and its tributaries, upstream from its junction with the Clarence River during the period from August to October (inclusive) except the following:

- the Oban River and its tributaries upstream of its junction with, but not including, the Sara River,
- the Guy Fawkes River and its tributaries upstream of its junction with, but not including, the Aberfoyle River,
- the Nymboida River and its tributaries upstream of its junction with, and including, Wild Cattle Creek.

Freshwater Catfish (*Tandanus tandanus*) – western flowing waters

All fishing methods for Freshwater Catfish prohibited in all western flowing waters all year including the backed waters of western impoundments, except the backed up waters of the following impoundments: Ben Chifley Dam, Burrendong Dam, Chaffey Dam, Copeton Dam, Keepit Dam, Pindari Dam, Split Rock Dam, Windamere Dam and Wyangala Dam.

Murray Cod (*Maccullochella peelii peelii*)

All fishing methods for Murray Cod prohibited in all inland waters (except Copeton Dam)

during the period from September to November (inclusive) in each year.

Murray Crayfish (*Euastacus armatus*)

All fishing methods for Murray Crayfish prohibited in any waters at any time other than between June and August (inclusive) in the following specified waters:

- Murrumbidgee River between the Hume Highway road bridge, Gundagai and 100m upstream of the weir face at Berembed Weir near Ganmain
- Murray River from 130m below Hume Weir near Albury to the Newell Highway road bridge at Tocumwal

Note: The specified waters include all tributaries, lakes, lagoons, dams, reservoirs, ponds, canals, channels or waterways of the main channels of the above rivers, except Old Man Creek, a tributary of the Murrumbidgee River. If you incidentally catch Murray Crayfish, either during the closed season or during the open season in unspecified waters, you must immediately return any Murray Crayfish caught to the water unharmed.

River Blackfish (*Gadopsis marmoratus*) and Two-Spined Blackfish (*Gadopsis bispinosus*)

All fishing methods for River Blackfish and Two-Spined Blackfish prohibited in all inland waters all year.

Silver Perch (*Bidyanus bidyanus*)

All fishing methods for Silver Perch prohibited in all inland waters all year, except the backed up waters of the following impoundments: Ben Chifley Dam, Blowering Dam, Burrendong Dam, Burrinjuck Dam, Chaffey Dam, Copeton Dam, Glenbawn Dam, Glennies Creek Dam, Googong Dam, Hume Weir, Jounama Pondage, Keepit Dam, Lake Albert, Lake Wyangan, Pindari Dam, Split Rock Dam, Windamere Dam, Wyangala Dam and Yass Weir.

Bega River (upper reaches) – nets

Any method involving the use of a net other than a landing net is prohibited in the whole of the non-tidal waters of the Bega River and its tributaries upstream from the junction with Bargo Lagoon Creek to its source, including Bargo Lagoon and Bargo Lagoon Creek, and the whole of the non tidal waters of Jellat Jellat Creek and its tributaries upstream from the

floodgate located approximately 450m above Russels Bridge crossing to its source.

Brogo River – Brogo Dam

All fishing methods prohibited in the Brogo River and its tributaries within 300m downstream of the Brogo Dam outlet regulator.

Clarence River (upper reaches) – nets

Any method involving the use of a net other than a landing net is prohibited in the Clarence River and its tributaries, upstream from the power line approximately 5km upstream from Copmanhurst to its source.

Cooks River (upper reaches) – nets and traps

Any method involving the use of a net or trap other than a landing net is prohibited in the whole of the non-tidal waters of the Cooks River and its tributaries, upstream from Punchbowl Road Bridge, Bellfield.

Deep Creek (upper reaches) – nets and traps

Any method involving the use of a net or trap other than a landing net is prohibited in the whole of the non-tidal waters of Deep Creek and its tributaries, from Sullivans Road Bridge, Valla upstream to its source.

Doon Doon Creek – Clarrie Hall Dam

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of Doon Doon Creek and its tributaries, downstream from the Clarrie Hall Dam wall to the junction with the Tweed River during the period from August to October (inclusive).

Dumaresq River – Bonshaw Weir

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Dumaresq River and its tributaries, from within 100m downstream from the weir face at Bonshaw Weir.

Edward River – Stevens Weir

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Edward River from within 80m upstream and 70m downstream from the weir face at Stevens Weir.

Frenchman's Creek – Lake Victoria

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of Frenchman's Creek at Lake Victoria Inlet Regulator within 100m upstream from the centre of the regulator wall and from a point on the northern bank 120m downstream of where the regulator adjoins the northern bank of the Frenchman's Creek to a point on the southern bank, 100m downstream of where the centre of the regulator wall adjoins the southern bank of Frenchman's Creek.

Georges River (upper reaches) – traps

Any method involving the use of a trap is prohibited in the whole of the non-tidal waters of the Georges River and its tributaries, upstream from Liverpool Weir to its source.

Hunter and Paterson Rivers (upper reaches) – nets and traps

Any method involving the use of a net or trap other than a landing net or shrimp trap is prohibited in the whole of the non-tidal waters of the Hunter and Paterson Rivers and their tributaries, on the Hunter River upstream from the railway bridge crossing at Oakhampton to its source and on the Paterson River upstream from Gostwyck Bridge near Martins Creek to its source.

Iron Pot Creek – Toonumbar Dam

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of Iron Pot Creek and its tributaries, 1.225km downstream from the downstream end of the Toonumbar Dam Spillway during the period from August to October (inclusive).

Jenolan River

All fishing methods prohibited in the whole of the waters of the Jenolan River and its tributaries, from the spawning pool adjacent to the hydro-electric power station near Jenolan Caves upstream to its source.

Lachlan River – Brewster Weir

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Lachlan River within 100m downstream of the weir face of Brewster Weir (main weir).

Lachlan River – Brewster Weir (outlet regulator)

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Lachlan River within 100m downstream of the outer wall of the Brewster Weir outlet regulator.

Lachlan River – Lake Brewster (Ballyrogan Channel)

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Ballyrogan Channel within 100m downstream of the outer wall of the Lake Brewster outlet regulator.

Lachlan River – Lake Cargelligo

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Lachlan River within 50m upstream and 50m downstream from the weir face at Lake Cargelligo.

Lachlan River – Willandra Weir

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Lachlan River within 100m downstream of the weir face at Willandra Weir.

Lachlan River – Wyangala Dam

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Lachlan River within 400m downstream from the weir face at Wyangala Dam to the low level bridge.

Lane Cove River (Lane Cove Weir, upper reaches) – boatshed to Fern Valley

Any fishing method, other than by catch and release fishing (so that any fish caught are immediately returned to the water unharmed) from an unpowered vessel using artificial flies or lures or a landing net, is prohibited in the whole of the waters of the Lane Cove River, from a line drawn from a post at the boatshed to a post on the opposite bank upstream to a line drawn across the river between two posts on opposite sides of the river at picnic area number 20 (Fern Valley).

Lane Cove River (upper reaches) – upstream from Fern Valley

Any fishing method, other than by catch and release fishing (so that any fish caught are immediately returned to the water unharmed) or a landing net, is prohibited in the whole of the waters of the Lane Cove River, upstream from Fern Valley from a line drawn across the river between two posts on opposite sides of the river to its source.

Longneck Lagoon – nets and traps

Any method involving the use of a net or trap other than a landing net is prohibited in the whole of the waters of Longneck Lagoon and its tributaries, east of Cattai Road.



MacIntyre River – Goondiwindi Weir

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the MacIntyre River and its tributaries, from within 150m upstream and 150m downstream from the weir face at Goondiwindi Weir.

Macleay River (upper reaches) – nets

Any method involving the use of a net other than a landing net is prohibited in the whole of the non-tidal waters of the Macleay River and its tributaries, from Belgrave Falls, Kempsey upstream to its source.

Macquarie River – Burrendong Dam

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Macquarie River within 185m upstream of the weir face at Burrendong Dam, 185m downstream of the wall of the Burrendong Dam outlet regulator and within the spillway channel at Burrendong Dam.

Macquarie River – South Dubbo Weir

All fishing methods prohibited in Macquarie River at South Dubbo Weir, 75m downstream of the weir face.

Manly Dam – nets and traps

Any method involving the use of a net or trap other than a landing net or shrimp trap is prohibited in the whole of the waters of Manly Dam and its tributaries.

Manning River (upper reaches) – nets

Any method involving the use of a net other than a landing net is prohibited in the whole of the non-tidal waters of the Manning River and its tributaries, from Abbots Falls near Wingham upstream to its source.

Mehi River – Moree Weir

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Mehi River and its tributaries from within 15m upstream and 85m downstream of the weir face at Moree Weir.

Moruya and Deua Rivers (upper reaches) – nets

Any method involving the use of a net other than a landing net is prohibited in the whole of

the non tidal waters of the Moruya and Deua Rivers and their tributaries, upstream from the junction with Wamban Creek to its source and including Wamban Creek to its source.

Murray River – Horseshoe Lagoon – Murray Cod (*Maccullochella peelii peelii*) and Golden Perch (*Macquaria ambigua*)

Any fishing method for Murray Cod or Golden Perch, other than by catch and release fishing (so that any fish caught are immediately returned to the water unharmed) or a landing net, is prohibited in the whole of the waters of Horseshoe Lagoon on the Murray River floodplain at West Albury.

Murray River – Hume Weir

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Murray River within 130m downstream from the weir face at Hume Weir.

Murray River (Kulnine) – Weir and Lock No. 9

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Murray River at Weir 9 (at Kulnine) within 50m upstream from the centre of the weir wall and from the downstream end of the inner wall of the lock chamber in a straight line across the river to a point on the NSW bank, 150m downstream of where the weir wall adjoins the NSW bank.

Murray River (Mildura) – Weir and Lock No. 11

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Murray River at Weir 11 (at Mildura) within 50m upstream from the centre of the weir wall and from a point on the NSW bank 142m downstream from where the weir wall adjoins the NSW bank in a straight line across the river to a point on the Victorian bank, 120m downstream of where the weir wall adjoins the Victorian bank.

Murray River (Robinvale) – Weir and Lock No. 15

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Murray River at Weir 15 (at Robinvale) within 50m upstream from the centre of the weir wall and from the downstream end of the

inner wall of the lock chamber in a straight line across the river to a point on the NSW bank, 65m downstream of where the weir wall adjoins the NSW bank.

Murray River (Rufus River)

– Weir and Lock No. 7

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Murray River at Weir 7 (at Rufus River) within 50m upstream from the centre of the weir wall and from the downstream end of the inner wall of the lock chamber in a straight line across the river to a point on the NSW bank, 125m downstream of where the weir wall adjoins the NSW bank.

Murray River (upstream from Hume Weir) – Seven Mile Creek to Tintaldra – nets

Any method involving the use of a net other than a landing net is prohibited in that part of the Murray River and its tributaries, from its junction with and including Seven Mile Creek and its tributaries to the Tintaldra Road Bridge.

Murray River – Torrumbarry Weir

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Murray River within 100m upstream and 100m downstream from the weir face at Torrumbarry Weir.

Murray River (Wangumma)

– Weir and Lock No. 8

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Murray River at Weir 8 (at Wangumma) within 50m upstream from the centre of the weir wall and from the downstream end of the inner wall of the lock chamber in a straight line across the river to a point on the Victorian bank, 150m downstream of where the weir wall adjoins the Victorian bank.

Murray River (Wentworth)

– Weir and Lock No. 10

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Murray River at Weir 10 (at Wentworth) within 50m upstream from the centre of the weir wall and from the downstream end of the lock training wall in a straight line across the river to a point on the Victorian bank, 65m downstream from where the weir wall adjoins the Victorian bank.

Murray River – Yarrowonga Weir

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Murray River, from within 50m upstream of the weir wall at Yarrowonga Weir and from a point on the NSW bank 150m downstream from where the weir wall adjoins the NSW bank, in a straight line across the river to a point on the Victorian bank, 130m downstream from where the weir wall adjoins the Victorian bank.

Murray River – Yarrowonga Weir to Tocumwal

All fishing methods for any species of fish prohibited from September to November (inclusive) in the whole of the waters of the Murray River and its tributaries from the Yarrowonga Weir downstream to the Newell Highway Bridge at Tocumwal.

Murray River – Yarrowonga Weir to Tocumwal – nets and traps

Any method involving the use of a net or trap, other than a hoop net, landing net or shrimp trap, is prohibited in the whole of the waters of the Murray River and its tributaries, from Yarrowonga Weir downstream to the Newell Highway Bridge at Tocumwal.

Murrumbidgee River – Balranald Weir

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Murrumbidgee River within 94m upstream and 63m downstream from the weir face at Balranald Weir.

Murrumbidgee River – Berembed Weir

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Murrumbidgee River within 100m upstream and 50m downstream of the weir face at Berembed Weir, excluding the waters of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area main channel off take.

Murrumbidgee River – Burrinjuck Dam

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Murrumbidgee River within 640m downstream from the weir face in line with the western end of the No. 1 power station at Burrinjuck Dam.

Murrumbidgee River – Gogeldrie Weir

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Murrumbidgee River within 125m upstream and 65m downstream of the weir face at Gogeldrie Weir.

Murrumbidgee River – Hay Weir

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Murrumbidgee River at Hay Weir from within 74m upstream from where the weir wall adjoins the northern bank and 140m upstream from where the weir wall adjoins the southern bank and from within 154m downstream of the weir face at Hay Weir.

Murrumbidgee River – Maude Weir

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Murrumbidgee River within 70m upstream and 50m downstream of the weir face at Maude Weir.

Murrumbidgee River – Redbank Weir

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Murrumbidgee River within 93m upstream and 92m downstream of the weir face at Redbank Weir.

Murrumbidgee River – Yanco Weir

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Murrumbidgee River within 63m upstream and 80m downstream of the weir face of Yanco Creek Weir.

Murrumbidgee River – Yanco Creek Weir

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Murrumbidgee River within 73m upstream of the Yanco Creek Weir face and downstream to the low level crossing located 53m downstream from where the weir wall adjoins the northern bank and 93m downstream from where the weir wall adjoins the southern bank.

Nambucca River and Warrell Creek (upper reaches) – weekend netting

Any method involving the use of a net other than a landing net is prohibited in the whole of the non-tidal waters of the Nambucca River and Warrell Creek and their tributaries, upstream from Lanes Bridge, Bowraville (Nambucca River arm), Boat Harbour Bridge (Taylors Arm) and the Pacific Highway Road Bridge at Cockburns Lane (Warrell Creek arm) to its source, during the period from 6pm Friday to 6pm Sunday in each week, or to 6pm Monday if Monday is a public holiday and 6am to 6pm on any weekday (other than a Monday) that is a public holiday.

Namoi River – Lake Keepit

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Namoi River and its tributaries, from within 150m downstream from the weir face at Lake Keepit.

Namoi River – Manilla Weir

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Namoi River and its tributaries, from within 50m upstream and 50m downstream from the weir face at the upper weir adjacent to Chaffey Park, Manilla.

Nepean River – nets

Any method involving the use of a net other than a landing net is prohibited in the whole of the non-tidal waters of the Nepean River and its tributaries, upstream from the Yarramundi Bridge crossing near Agnes Banks.

Nepean River – Penrith Weir

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Nepean River within 115m upstream and 26m downstream from the weir face at Penrith Weir.

Orara River (upper reaches) – nets

Any method involving the use of a net other than a landing net is prohibited in the whole of the non-tidal waters of the Orara River and its tributaries, upstream from Bawden Bridge to its source.

Richmond River – Jabour Weir

Any fishing method, other than by catch and release fishing (so that any fish caught are immediately returned to the water unharmed or as soon as possible within 50m upstream of the weir), is prohibited in that part of the Richmond River within 50m upstream and 200m downstream from the weir face at Jabour Weir.

Rous River (upper reaches) – nets and traps

Any method involving the use of a net or trap other than a landing net is prohibited in the whole of the non tidal waters of the Rous River and its tributaries, from Boat Harbour Bridge upstream to its source.

Rufus River – Lake Victoria

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Rufus River at the Lake Victoria outlet regulator within 100m upstream and 100m downstream from the centre of the regulator wall.

Serpentine River**– L.P. Dutton Trout Hatchery**

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Serpentine River and its tributaries, from the Serpentine Falls to the weir above the Point Lookout road crossing.

Shoalhaven River – Tallowa Dam

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Shoalhaven River from the Tallowa Dam wall downstream for 300m to a line drawn across the river between two posts on opposite banks of the river.

Swampy Plain River – Khancoban Pondage

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Swampy Plain River within 120m downstream from the weir face at Khancoban Pondage.

Thredbo River – Gaden Hatchery

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Thredbo River and its tributaries, from the upstream end of Paddy's Corner Reserve to 2.4km upstream.

Towamba River (upper) – nets

Any method involving the use of a net other than a landing net is prohibited in the whole of the non tidal waters of the Towamba River and its tributaries, upstream from the Jack Seiffert Bridge, Kiah.

Tumut River – Blowering Dam

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Tumut River within 250m downstream from the Blowering Dam power station at Blowering Dam.

Tumut River – Blowering Dam – nets

Any method involving the use of a net other than a landing net is prohibited in the whole of the waters of Blowering Dam, upstream from the face of the dam to the confluence of running waters.

Tumut River – Jounama Dam

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Tumut River within 800m downstream from the Jounama Dam spillway gates at Jounama Dam.

Tweed River (Bray Park Weir upper reaches) – nets and traps

Any method involving the use of a net or trap other than a landing net or shrimp trap is prohibited in the whole of the non-tidal waters of the Tweed River and its tributaries, upstream from the Bray Park Weir wall to its source.

Wallamba River (upper reaches) – nets

Any method involving the use of a net other than a landing net is prohibited in the whole of the non-tidal waters of the Wallamba River and its tributaries, from the causeway at Clarksons Crossing, Nabiac upstream to its source.

Warrell Creek (upper reaches) – nets and traps

Any method involving the use of a net or trap other than a landing net or shrimp trap is prohibited in the whole of the non-tidal waters of Warrell Creek and its tributaries, from the Pacific Highway Road Bridge at Cockburns Lane (Warrell Creek arm) upstream to its source.

Williams River (upper reaches) – nets

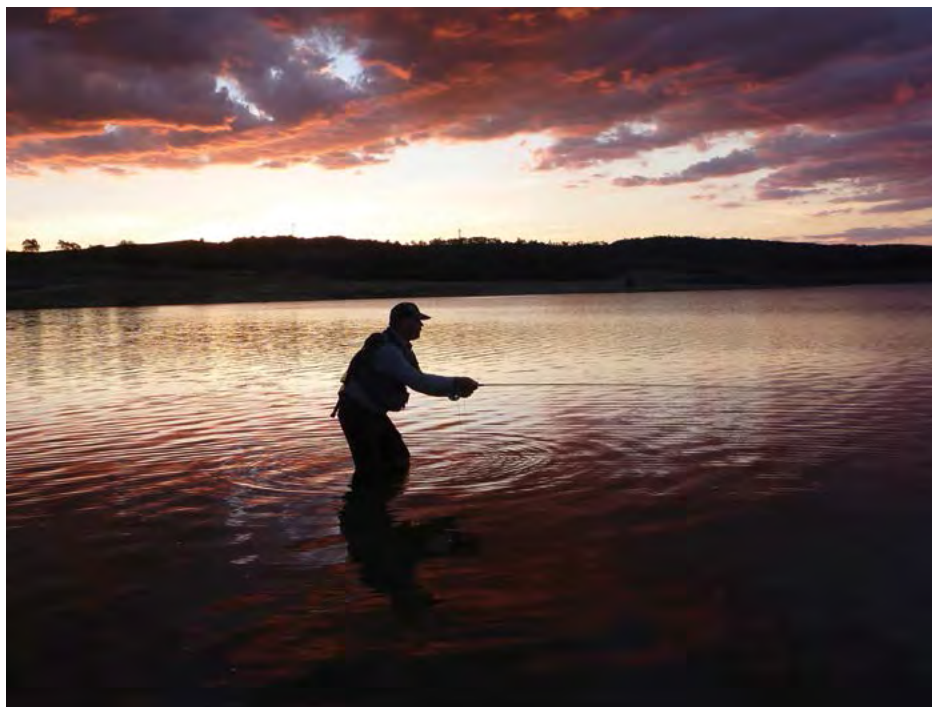
Any method involving the use of a net other than a landing net is prohibited in the whole of the non-tidal waters of the Williams River and its tributaries, from Seaham Weir upstream to its source.

Wonboyn River (upper) – nets

Any method involving the use of a net other than a landing net is prohibited in the whole of the non-tidal waters of the Wonboyn River and its tributaries, upstream from its junction with Watergums Creek and including Watergums Creek and the whole of the non tidal waters of Bull Creek (north and western arms) upstream from their junctions with Wonboyn River.

Woronora River (upper reaches) – nets

Any method involving the use of a net other than a landing net is prohibited in the whole of the non-tidal waters of the Woronora River and its tributaries, upstream from the causeway at Pass of Sabugal, Barden Ridge to its source.



Fisheries officers

Fisheries officers play a key role in ensuring our fisheries resources and the environment remain healthy and sustainable into the future. They advise a range of groups including recreational fishers, commercial fishers, oyster farmers plus the general community of fishing rules and restrictions. They also patrol NSW waters to optimise compliance with the state's fishing laws.

Fisheries officers patrol our coastal estuaries, lakes and offshore waters plus our inland rivers, streams and dams, seven days a week both during the day and night. You'll see Fisheries officers at boat ramps, on beaches and rivers, in vehicles, boats, aircraft and on foot, just about everywhere there are fish and fishers. They deal with recreational fishers, commercial fishers, oyster farmers and regularly visit fish shops and restaurants. They also deal with conservation and habitat protection issues and are regularly involved in educational and advisory programs like fishing clinics. Many Fisheries officers are keen fishers and are happy to provide you with local knowledge and tips on how and where to catch a fish.

Under the Fisheries Management Act 1994 Fisheries officers have powers which enable them to search your boat or vehicle, to examine your fishing gear, fish and bait and to require certain information including your

name and address. They can also require you to lift any set fishing gear such as fishing lines, hoop nets and crab traps from the water for their inspection. In serious matters they can also seize fish, fishing gear, boats and vehicles and can make an arrest.

If you are found breaking the fisheries rules, you may be issued with a written caution or a penalty notice ranging between \$75 to \$500. In serious matters you may have to face court and have the matter determined by a magistrate.

Your Recreational Fishing Fee is being used in part to improve salt and freshwater fisheries compliance and employs additional Fisheries officers throughout the state.

Funds are utilised to provide a range of equipment including patrol vehicles and vessels, communications and surveillance equipment as well as advisory signage. In essence this means there is an increased compliance service with more officers in the field more often, with better equipment to detect and deter illegal activity.

Fisheries officers are employed to ensure that the rules are being complied with to aid in the long term sustainability of fisheries resources for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.



Contact details

Report illegal or suspect fishing activities to the nearest NSW DPI fisheries office via the Fishers Watch Phonenumber on free call **1800 043 536** or online at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/compliance

After hours calls are received by an interactive voice response system which allows callers to record a message and identify specific areas of NSW which correspond with the regions listed below. Fisheries officers in the identified area will be immediately notified of new reports.

When lodging any report be prepared to provide the following information:

- Type of activity.
- Time, date and location of activity.
- Number of people involved, identity if known and descriptions.
- Registration numbers of any boats or cars involved and their descriptions.
- Your own name and contact details to further substantiate your report and provide you with follow up information.

Where information is given in good faith, all identifying details will be treated as confidential.

Where an immediate response is not possible due to conducting of other operations or safety considerations, information received will be used in targeting on-going surveillance and enforcement activities.

Inland offices

Region		Office	Mobile
Central Tablelands	Research Station Drive, Bathurst 2795	02 6331 1428	0488 220 443
Hume	3/556 Macauley Street, Albury 2640	02 6042 4200	0419 185 548
Far West	Agricultural Research and Advisory Station, Silver City Highway, Dareton 2717	03 5019 8408	0427 429 579
Macquarie	Cnr Hampden and Cobra Streets, Dubbo 2830	02 6881 1208	0438 410 585
Monaro	Kosciusko Road, Jindabyne 2627	02 6451 3402	0427 460 226
New England	127 Otho Street, Inverell 2360	02 6722 1388	0419 185 532
Peel	4 Marsden Park Road, Calala 2340	02 6763 1132	0417 480 933
Riverina	449 Charlotte Street, Deniliquin 2710	03 5881 9928	0427 897 145
South West Slopes	64 Fitzroy Street, Tumut 2720	02 6941 1404	0408 484 299

Coastal offices

Far North Coast		Office	Mobile
Tweed	10/12 Greenway Drive, Tweed Heads 2486	07 5523 6900	0419 185 537
Richmond	15 Regatta Avenue, Ballina 2478	02 6618 1800	0417 692 608
Clarence	18A River Street, Maclean 2463	02 6645 0500	0419 185 533
Coffs Harbour	32 Marina Drive, Coffs Harbour Jetty 2450	02 6652 3977	0419 185 536
North Coast			
Hastings	3/22-24 Acacia Avenue, Port Macquarie 2444	02 5524 0600	0407 957 631
Wallis Lake	2 Palm Street, Tuncurry 2428	02 6591 6300	0428 546 078
Central Coast			
Port Stephens	Taylor's Beach Road, Taylor's Beach 2316	02 4916 3934	0427 497 341
Hunter	55 Lambton Parade, Swansea 2281	02 4980 9202	0419 185 516
Central Coast	Northloop Road, Ourimbah 2258	02 4328 8618	0419 185 517
Sydney Metropolitan			
Sydney North	12 Shirley Road, Wollstonecraft 2065	02 8437 4903	0419 185 363
Sydney South	1 Water Street, Sans Souci 2219	02 9529 6021	0408 601 951
Illawarra/Shoalhaven			
Illawarra	43 Reddall Parade, Lake Illawarra South 2528	02 4220 8499	0439 162 981
Shoalhaven	4 Woollamia Road, Huskisson 2540	02 4428 3400	0419 185 557
South Coast			
Batemans Bay	Suite 8, Braysyth Building, Cnr Beach Road and Orient Street, Batemans Bay 2536	02 4478 9100	0427 855 008
Montague	Riverside Drive, Narooma 2546	02 4476 0100	0409 316 508
Far South Coast	13 Cocora Street, Eden 2551	02 6496 8200	0428 899 876

Marine park offices

Marine parks		Office
Cape Byron Marine Park	Tallow Beach Road, Byron Bay 2481	02 6620 9308
Solitary Islands Marine Park	32 Marina Drive, Coffs Harbour 2450	02 6691 0600
Lord Howe Island Marine Park	Anderson Road, Lord Howe Island 2898	02 6563 2359
Port Stephens-Great Lakes Marine Park	Taylors Beach Road, Taylors Beach 2316	02 4916 3970
Jervis Bay Marine Park	4 Woollamia Road, Huskisson 2540	02 4428 3000
Batemans Marine Park	Cnr Graham & Burrawang Street, Narooma 2546	02 4476 0802

Fish kills

Fish kills in the wild should be reported to your local NSW DPI fisheries office or the NSW DPI Fishers Watch Phonenumber on **1800 043 536**. If the fish kill is due to a suspected pollution event contact the Environment Protection Authority on **131 555**.

For general fishing information call **1300 550 474** or check the website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries

Please **report illegal or suspected fishing activities** to the Fishers Watch Phonenumber on **1800 043 536** (free call).

NSW DPI fisheries office locations



Date	Catch	Comments
Location		

Date	Catch	Comments
Location		

Date	Catch	Comments
Location		

Date	Catch	Comments
Location		

Date	Catch	Comments
Location		

Freshwater species bag and size limits

Species	Legal length	Bag limit	Possession limit
Australian Bass and Estuary Perch	None Closed season applies in rivers, excluding rivers above impoundments	2 in total (one or more species of Bass or Perch, only 1 over 35cm in rivers)	4 in total (one or more species of Bass or Perch, only 1 over 35cm in rivers)
Eels: Southern Shortfin or Longfin	30cm Southern Shortfin 58cm Longfin	10	10
Freshwater Catfish (Eel-tailed)	30cm in eastern dams, listed western dams and eastern rivers Cannot be taken in any other waters	5 in eastern dams and listed western dams, 2 in eastern rivers	10 in eastern dams and listed western dams, 4 in eastern rivers
Golden Perch	30cm	5	10
Murray Cod	Min. 55cm, Max. 75cm Closed season applies (except Copeton Dam)	2	4
Silver Perch	25cm in listed stocked dams. Cannot be taken in any other waters	5 in listed stocked dams	10 in listed stocked dams
Other native finfish	–	A maximum limit of 10 in total applies	A maximum limit of 10 in total applies
Murray Crayfish	Min. 10cm, Max. 12cm Cannot be taken other than between June and August in parts of the Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers	2	4
Other Spiny Crayfish	9cm Cannot be taken in Trout waters	(one or more species) 5 (only 1 over 12cm)	(one or more species) 10 (only 1 over 12cm)
Yabbies: freshwater	None	200 in total	200 in total
Trout and Atlantic Salmon	Trout spawning streams 50cm All other waters 25cm Closed season applies in artificial fly and lure and general trout streams	(one or more species of Trout or Salmon) 1 in Trout spawning streams; 2 in artificial fly and lure streams; 5 in all other waters	(one or more species of Trout or Salmon) 2 in Trout spawning streams; 4 in artificial fly and lure streams; 10 in all other waters

Explanation of terms

Legal length: The minimum length of a fish unless otherwise stated. A fish which does not reach this minimum length must be immediately returned to the water with minimal possible harm. Some species have maximum length restrictions to protect larger breeding males or females.

Bag limit: The maximum number of fish taken per person per day.

Possession limit: the maximum number of fish per person if you have been fishing for more than one day. One day is equal to the 24 hour period from midnight to midnight. For freshwater fishing it is equal to twice the daily bag limit unless otherwise stated. The possession limit also applies to the transport and storage of fish but does not apply to the purchase of fish from a registered fish receiver such as a fish shop.

Closures: Closures apply to certain species or waters at various times to protect fish during their breeding period.

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9 OUT OF 10 PEOPLE WHO DROWNED
WHILE BOATING DIDN'T



The reality is, accidents do happen while boating. With modern inflatable lifejacket styles, you'll be able to wear one all day without it getting in the way. Wearing a lifejacket could save your life.

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WEAR A LIFEJACKET IT NEVER RUINED A DAY ON THE WATER

