



NEW SOUTH WALES DEPARTMENT OF

FRESHWATER

FISHING GUIDE 2008



Australian Bass
Australian Bass





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This freshwater recreational fishing guide is produced by NSW Department of Primary Industries, PO Box 21 Cronulla NSW 2230. It is funded from the freshwater fishing trust as part of our commitment to providing recreational anglers with comprehensive, user-friendly information.

A saltwater recreational fishing guide is also available.

Website

Detailed information is also available on many aspects of fishing activities through the website <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au>

General disclaimer

This publication may provide assistance or information but NSW Department of Primary Industries and its employees do not guarantee the publication is without flaw or is wholly appropriate for any particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequences which may arise from relying on any information in this publication.

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

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Message from the Minister



Welcome to the 2008 edition of the NSW Recreational Freshwater Fishing Guide.

It is very pleasing to note that during the past 12 months the NSW Government and the recreational fishing community have continued

working in close association towards the fundamental goals of creating and maintaining sustainable fisheries.

In particular, continued freshwater fisher support for the recreational fishing fee has once again provided the source of funds to underwrite on-going programs in a variety of research, safety, habitat, stocking, tagging, education and communication activities. In addition the recreational fishing trusts, supervised by angler committees have also provided significant funds to initiate a number of worthwhile new projects.

Notable among recent developments has been the introduction of a range of new freshwater fishing rules along with new bag and size limits for a number of species. The changes came into effect in early September 2007 following a comprehensive review of recreational fishing regulations and an extensive community consultation process.

In essence, the changes reflect feedback from the recreational fishing community which indicated general support for more conservative bag limits. Complete details of the new rules and bag limits are contained in this guide which has once again been produced and distributed free of charge to fishers using fishing trust funds.

I extend thanks to the many participants in fishers education activities such as the Fishcare Volunteer program for their time, skill and enthusiasm which has been applied across a range of organised activities such as fishing workshops, community fishing events and surveys. Their important face to face efforts in educating fishers about the rules and values of safe, responsible fishing practices and helping to care for the environment is greatly appreciated.

Once again fishing workshops have continued to provide an enjoyable education experience and in the process successfully promoted responsible fishing practices to children and their families. The workshops have

also provided fishing opportunities for disabled individuals and people from a variety of cultures and non-English speaking communities.

Other significant projects which continue to be funded by fishing fee revenue include the highly successful fish production and stocking programs for both native finfish as well as trout and salmonid species. The state-wide stocking programs along with the popular, community-based dollar-for-dollar native fish stocking program have once again helped to ensure bumper seasons continue.

Other on-going programs include the maintenance of five inland fisheries officers to help ensure compliance with fishing laws and a tournament management program designed to develop a code of practice promoting responsible fishing practices for competition fishing.

Two new projects scheduled to commence during 2008 are worthy of mention. The first, Get Hooked its fun to fish, aims to equip children in years three to six with the basic skills necessary for safe and responsible recreational fishing. Students will learn about marine fishing through an exciting interactive program.

Recreational fishers with a particular interest in conservation type activities will be pleased to learn that the second new project is a two year research program which aims to restore the viability of catfish populations in the Murray-Darling basin. This research project is quite timely as the species is now one of the rarest native fish in many waterways such as the Murray, Murrumbidgee and Lachlan catchments.

In the year ahead the NSW Government will continue to work with the recreational fishing community towards achieving a beautiful, healthy marine environment which can be managed and enjoyed by everyone for all time.

Best wishes for satisfying and safe fishing.

The Hon. Ian Macdonald, MLC
Minister for Natural Resources
Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Mineral Resources
Minister for State Development



NSW recreational fishing fee

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 also applies when spear fishing, hand lining, hand gathering, trapping, bait collecting and prawn netting or when in possession of fishing gear in, on or adjacent to waters. There are some exemptions, which include:

- ➔ Persons under the age of 18.
- ➔ An adult assisting persons under the age of 18 to take a fish using a single rod or to take prawns using a single dip or scoop net.
- ➔ A person fishing in a private dam with a surface area of two hectares or less.
- ➔ An aboriginal person fishing in freshwater; or, when fishing in saltwater, an aboriginal person who is a party to a registered native title claim, or is taking part in a traditional cultural activity as a member of your local land council, or in the company of a member of the local land council.
- ➔ The holder of:
 - A current commonwealth pensioner concession card issued by Centrelink.
 - A current commonwealth pensioner concession card issued by the Department of Veteran's Affairs.
 - A commonwealth Department of Veterans Affairs gold treatment card endorsed "Totally and Permanently Incapacitated".
 - A commonwealth Department of Veterans Affairs gold treatment card endorsed "Extreme Disablement Adjustment". or,
 - A letter from the Commonwealth Department of Veterans Affairs stating that you receive a disability pension of 70 per cent or higher, or an intermediate pension.

- Recreational fishers must have these cards in their possession to be exempt.

Please note that senior's 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, call **1300 550 474** or check website at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

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 and have the receipt in their possession unless exempt.

How much is the fee?

You can pay the fee to suit your needs. Fees are \$6 for 3 days, \$12 for 1 month, \$30 for 1 year and \$75 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 with your charter boat operator or guide to find out 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 the NSW recreational fishing fee at many outlets throughout NSW, such as over the counter at most fishing tackle shops. You can also pay the fee at caravan parks, local shops, service stations, many

NSW FISHING FEE RECEIPT

 **Recreational Fishing Trusts**

ALL FEES ARE USED TO IMPROVE RECREATIONAL FISHING
This receipt must be carried while fishing.

\$6	\$12	\$30	\$75
3 DAYS	1 MONTH	1 YEAR	3 YEARS

ISSUE DATE & TIME: _____ STARTING DATE: _____
/ / : : am/pm / /

AGENT'S SIGNATURE: _____
Not valid unless signed

The fee must be paid before fishing and is valid for the period shown.
Receipts for 3 days cover the starting date and the following two days.
You can renew your fee by calling 1300 369 365 or visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

GOLD RECEIPT: GA

REG INFO
Bag limits, size limits and gear restrictions apply - you should familiarise yourself with these rules before fishing. Information is available in many bait and tackle stores, your local Fisheries office, at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au or by calling 1300 550 474.

FISHER'S DETAILS SURNAME: _____

FIRST NAME: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: / /

HOME ADDRESS: _____

PCODE: _____ PH: () _____

FISHER'S SIGNATURE: _____
Not valid unless signed

NSW FISHING FEE RECEIPT

 **Recreational Fishing Trusts**

PLEASE TEAR OFF AND KEEP THIS STUB AS A RECORD OF YOUR PAYMENT OF THE FISHING FEE.
If you lose your main receipt you will need to quote the number to obtain a replacement receipt.

GOLD RECEIPT: GA

You need to supply the above details to obtain a recreational fishing fee receipt. The information is held by NSW Department of Primary Industries, 202 Nicholson Parade, Cronulla, NSW 2230, for the purposes of administration, compliance, research, and the distribution of fishing-related information.

KEEP IN A SAFE PLACE

Kmart stores, on the web site www.dpi.nsw.gov.au or by calling **1300 369 365**. Gold agents are the preferred outlets for the NSW recreational fishing fee. Gold agents do not take a commission from the fee, meaning that 100% of the fees go towards improving recreational fishing in NSW via the recreational fishing trusts. Standard agents retain 5% commission on the fees paid. The remainder of the money goes to the

recreational fishing trusts.

For details of your nearest agent, phone the information line on **1300 550 474**.

Where do my fishing fees go?

Recreational fishing trusts



Funds raised from the NSW recreational fishing fee are placed into saltwater and freshwater recreational fishing trusts

and can only be spent on projects that improve recreational fishing.

Expenditure from the trusts is overseen by expenditure committees on behalf of the recreational fishing community. There are two committees - one for saltwater and one for freshwater. Each is made up of regional representatives with extensive recreational fishing experience.

It is important that the trusts are accountable to the angling community for how funds from the fee are spent. Regular announcements are made about expenditure from the trusts. Details are provided in the department's annual reports and trust funded projects are described in detail on the department's website. Trust accounts are subject to annual audit by the NSW Auditor-General. There's a lot more information on the website at: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au Anyone can apply for funding from the trusts. Download an application form from the above website or phone the information line on **1300 550 474** for an application package.



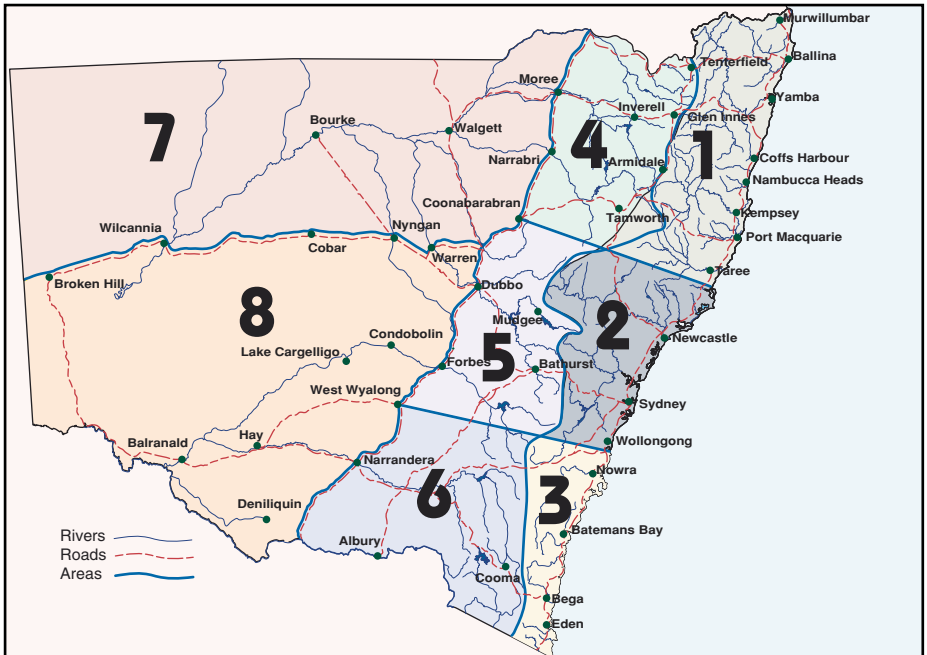
Recreational fishing freshwater trust expenditure committee

The Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee was established to advise the Minister on expenditure of funds from the freshwater recreational fishing trust. It is made up of fishers from different regions of NSW to ensure that freshwater fishers have a say in how funds from the fishing fee should be allocated. For example, angler education, environmental programs, stocking, research, law enforcement and regional

priorities for expenditure, and fish species to be stocked.

NSW has been divided into eight regions, three coastal (north, central and south), three inner west (north, central and south) and two far-west (north and south).

The committee is made up of one representative from each of the regions as well as the chair from the Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing.





Fish stocking

Your fishing trusts are creating better fishing opportunities for fishers through comprehensive restocking programs for native fish and trout. Trust funds are being used to enhance the capacity of government hatcheries to produce high priority recreational species including trout, salmon, Australian bass, Murray cod, golden perch and silver perch. Since the introduction of the fishing fee, extra funding for enhanced fish production has resulted in well over 45 million fish being stocked in the past six years.

The Dollar-for-Dollar native fish stocking program has been a great success with many stocking organisations involved. Fishing clubs, council and community groups are matched dollar for dollar by the freshwater trust in raising money to buy native fish from private hatcheries to stock public waterways.

More fisheries officers on patrol

Freshwater trust funds make it possible to have five extra inland fisheries officer positions out and about on the water. The officers are located at Inverell, Bathurst, Jindabyne, Albury and Dareton. Targeted operations are conducted in all inland areas. The officers work closely with other departmental officers to target high risk offenders and known "black spots." The increased presence of fisheries officers at those times is widely appreciated by fishers, as it is an effective deterrent against illegal activity, and provides good opportunities to distribute advisory material and answer fisher enquiries.

Essential recreational research and monitoring

The trust is investing in important research with a direct benefit to recreational fishing, including:

- ➔ Monitoring the survival contribution of stocked fish to wild populations in rivers and impoundments. This will lead



to improved stocking practices in NSW.

- ➔ A new study has commenced to investigate the population structure of catfish in the Murray-Darling catchment and identify potential reintroduction sites within the catchment.
- ➔ Studies are underway to estimate the survival of popular freshwater species and to establish the factors that increase survival when released.
- ➔ A new study is investigating captive breeding techniques of Macquarie perch.

Watch out for Fishcare Volunteers

The successful Fishcare Volunteer program is the flagship education initiative of the recreational fishing trusts. The program started in 1999 and now involves over 300 volunteers across the state. Fishcare Volunteers are community members involved in face to face education of the recreational fishing community. Volunteers donate their time and effort promoting awareness and advising fishers about the rules and values of sustainable recreational fishing. Volunteers work on education only. They assist in a range of activities such as fishing workshops, catch surveys, community fishing events and volunteer training. The volunteers are easily identified by their bright blue uniforms.

More facilities for fishers

The small grants program provides seed funding for fishing clubs, local councils, community groups and individuals to improve recreational fishing and fisher



Where do my fishing fees go?

facilities, such as:

- ➔ Fish cleaning tables
- ➔ Fish measuring stations
- ➔ Fishing platforms
- ➔ Fishing pontoon repairs

Fishing clubs, councils and community members can apply for grants of up to \$10,000 for small, local or regional recreational fishing based projects. Proposals can be submitted to the expenditure committee at any time.

Fisher education: Fishing workshops

Money from the fishing fee funds fishing workshops and every year, the department participates in many inland fishing workshops, teaching responsible fishing practices to children and their families. This support also helps bring fishing to disabled individuals and to communities from other cultures.

Quality fishing guides

The production of this fishing guide is funded by the fee. Each year the guides are given a fresh look and updated to

ensure the most current information is being provided to recreational fishers. Last year 100,000 copies of the freshwater guide were distributed free of charge by fisheries officers, fishcare volunteers, at community events and outlets where the fee can be paid.

Tell us where you would like the money from the fees spent

The recreational fisher based trust fund expenditure committees regularly seek advice from recreational fishers on potential projects to be funded by the fishing fee. All proposals are assessed by the committees and funded on the basis of what the project can achieve. The highest priority is given to projects where many fishers are likely to benefit. To tell us where you want your recreational fees spent or to apply for funding contact: The Recreational Trust Executive Officer, Recreational Fisheries, Department of Primary Industries, PO Box 21, Cronulla, NSW, 2230. Ph. **(02) 9527 8411** or check the website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au





Freshwater legal lengths, bag and possession limits

Explanation of terms

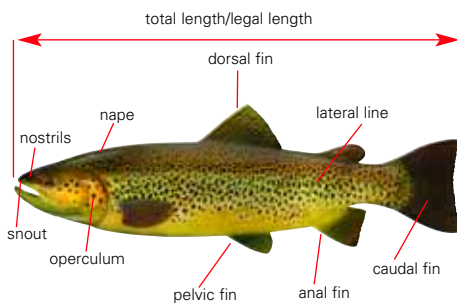
Legal length: The minimum length of a fish unless otherwise stated. A fish which does not reach this minimum length must be returned to the water immediately (see catch and release section for more information). Some species have maximum length restrictions to protect larger breeding females.

Fish in excess of bag limits, protected fish, female crayfish with eggs and fish taken out of season must also be returned immediately to the water.

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

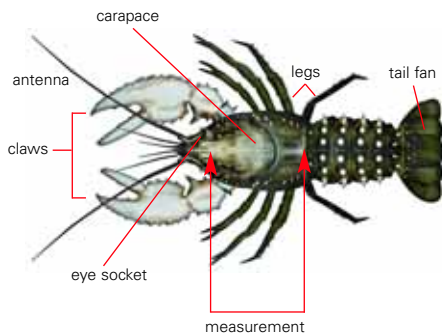
Possession limit: The maximum number of fish per person if you have been fishing for more than one day. This is equal to twice the daily bag limit unless otherwise stated. The possession limit also applies to the transport and storage of fish but does not apply to the purchase of fish from a registered fish receiver (e.g. a fish shop).

Measuring a fish



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

Measuring a Murray cray



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

Why have bag & size limits?

Regulations apply to help ensure healthy and sustainable fisheries for future generations. Size limits 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 fish and try to reflect a size when the fish can spawn at least once before being caught.

Fish measuring rulers and Murray crayfish measuring gauges are available free from fisheries offices or by phoning the information line on **1300 550 474**.

Filleting fish: Please note that although you may clean fish by gilling and gutting you must not alter the length of fish with a size limit by filleting or removing the head or tail until you are well away from the water unless immediately prior to either consumption or use as bait. This rule does not apply at areas normally used for cleaning of fish (boat ramp cleaning tables) or for fish that do not have a legal length.



Native fish bag and size limits (for trout and salmon see page 38)

SPECIES	FISHING CLOSURE	LEGAL LENGTH (CM)	BAG LIMIT (PER DAY)
Australian bass & Estuary perch (combined)	Closed season in rivers June - August inc.	–	2 (single species or combination) (only 1 fish over 35 cm in rivers)
Blackfish - river	Fishing prohibited in all waters	0	0
Catfish, freshwater or eel-tailed	Closed to fishing in all western flowing waters incl. unlisted western dams.	30 (in listed western dams)	5 (in listed western dams)
	All other waters.	30	2
Crayfish - Murray	Closed season September – April inclusive. Fishing prohibited in notified trout waters and in Blowering Dam	9	5 (only 1 over 12cm)
Crayfish – Spiny, eastern freshwater	N/A	9 cm	5 (only 1 over 12 cm)
Eels – short finned	N/A	30 cm	10 in total
Eels – long finned	N/A	58 cm	10 in total
Golden perch	N/A	30 cm	5
Murray cod	Closed season September – November inclusive	50 cm before 30/11/07 55 cm from 1/12/07 to 30/11/08 60 cm after 30/11/08	2 (only 1 over 100cm in total)
Silver perch	Fishing prohibited in rivers	25 cm (in listed stocked dams)	5 (in listed stocked dams)
Yabbies - freshwater	N/A	–	200 in total
Unlisted native species	N/A	–	10 in total



General fishing

Fishing access

In many instances you may fish in any stream from a boat or while walking on the streambed adjacent to the land. However, you must get the owner's permission to cross private land or walk along the bank adjacent to a stream.

Recreational fishing guides

Fishers acquiring the services of a fishing guide should note that guides who operate within the boundaries of national parks in NSW must be authorized by the Department of Climate Change, Environment and Water before accessing rivers and lakes within the national park.

Murray River

The whole of the Murray River to the South Australian border is covered by NSW laws, except Lake Hume.

Fishing lines

Two attended lines are permitted in all non-tidal waters. Attended lines must be within 50 metres, in your sight and have no more than 2 hooks per line or 3 treble hooks per line attached to a lure.

The number of attended lines and hooks permitted is summarised in the table.

Waters	Attended lines	Hooks permitted
General inland waters (other than notified trout waters)	2 (hand lines or rods and lines)	2 with up to 3 hooks attached to a lure per line

Illegal fishing methods

Line fishing: Set lining, jugging or foul hooking fish.

Gear: Using a gaff, spearguns, spears, bows and arrows, chemicals or poisons, explosives or firearms to take or attempt to take fish or any trap and net to take or attempt to take fish other than prescribed by the regulation (refer to pages 18-20).

Bait: Using frogs, live finfish (including carp), live birds, live mammals, prohibited size fish or salmon roe or products containing them, as bait.

Filleting: Altering the length of any fish with a size limit by filleting or removing the head (other than gutting or removing gills or scales) until you are well away from the water. This does not apply at areas normally used for the cleaning of fish (boat ramp cleaning tables) or if the fish are for immediate consumption or for immediate use as bait. Fish with a size limit must be of legal size before they can be used as bait. Removing tails, heads or claws from crayfish in, on or adjacent to waters or to keep any crayfish with eggs or to remove those eggs is also prohibited.

Prohibited size fish: Keeping fish of a prohibited size (they should be returned to the water unharmed).

Sale: Selling recreational catch.

Traps and nets

A person may use up to 5 yabby traps, 1 shrimp trap and 5 hoop (lift) nets unless otherwise stated. Traps and nets must be tagged with the users name. No other traps and nets are permitted in inland waters. Traps and nets must be lifted within a 24 hour period (except commercial fishers). An exception is that



yabby traps, hand hauled yabby nets and landing nets are not permitted in the Murray River from Yarrawonga Weir downstream to the Newell Highway bridge at Tocumwal in the period between December to August inclusive each year.

Legal dimensions, mesh sizes and closed areas for traps and nets are available from your local fisheries office. Specific closures may prohibit the use, or limit the number of, traps and nets.

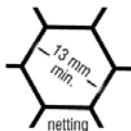
Mesh sizes: For soft netting such as used in hoop nets, mesh size is calculated across the diagonal.

Use common sense when placing your set fishing gear. Do not set gear 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 and preferably weighted below the surface. Fisheries officers may shorten ropes they believe to be a hazard.

Interference with set fishing gear is an offence. Penalties apply for anyone found tampering with fishing gear set by commercial or recreational fishers.

All set gear must be lifted within a 24 hour period.

Yabby trap



Mesh size: 13mm minimum, calculated on the narrowest point of any axis. Rigid mesh is prohibited.

Maximum dimensions:

1 x 0.6 x 0.3 metres

Mesh size: 13mm minimum, calculated on the narrowest point of any axis.

All entrance funnels: Must not exceed 90mm wide at the narrowest point and must be fitted with a rigid ring with a maximum internal diameter of 90mm.

Maximum number: Unless otherwise specified, five traps may be set, used or in your possession.

Identification: The position of any trap must be marked above water by a stake or buoy. Each trap must also be tagged with the users name.

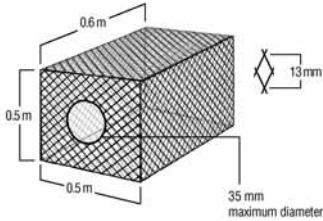
Yabby (or opera house) traps are known to catch and drown animals such as platypus and turtles which are protected under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

In association with the National Parks and Wildlife Service; wildlife experts; commercial yabby fishers and the Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing; NSW Department of Primary Industries has implemented a number of changes to rules regarding use of yabby traps to minimise capture of other animals.

- ➔ All yabby traps need to be fitted with a 90 mm rigid ring in any entrance funnel to reduce the incidence of capture of adult turtles.
- ➔ Traps are banned in waters where platypus are found. These are public waters including impoundments, rivers and streams east of the Newell Highway (excluding private farm dams) and three designated stretches of river west of the Newell Highway – the Edward River (upstream of Stevens weir), The Murray River (upstream of the Echuca/Moama road bridge) and the Murrumbidgee River (upstream of Darlington Point road bridge).
- ➔ Rigid mesh, such as metal wire or hard plastic is prohibited from use on traps.
- ➔ Yabby traps are prohibited in all notified trout waters.



Shrimp trap



Maximum dimensions:

0.6 x 0.5 x 0.5 metres

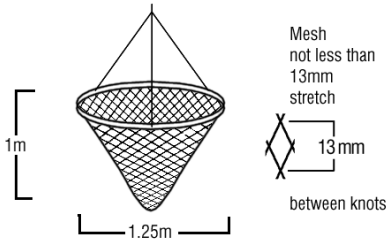
Mesh size: 13mm maximum, calculated across the diagonal.

Entrance funnels: Inner hole maximum width of 35mm in order to keep out larger animals.

Maximum number: Unless otherwise specified, one trap may be set, used or in your possession.

Identification: The position of any trap must be marked at, or above, water level by a tag with the users name.

Hoop net or lift net



Maximum dimensions: Net attached to no more than two hoops, rings or frames not more than 1.25 m at their greatest diameter or diagonal. Maximum drop of net to be 1 metres.

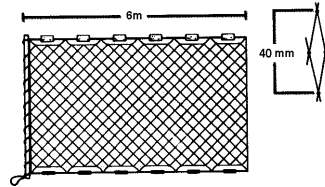
Mesh size: 13mm minimum, calculated across the diagonal.

Maximum number: Unless otherwise specified, five nets may be set, used or in your possession.

Identification: Each net must be tagged with the owners name plus residential address and/or boat registration number.

As the use of hoop nets does not threaten platypus or other air breathing animals, the rules governing use remain unchanged.

Hand-hauled yabby net



Maximum dimension: Up to 6 metres in length, measured along the headline.

Mesh size: 40mm maximum, calculated across the diagonal.

Note: Can only be used in ground tanks, bore drains or lagoons. Must be continuously and manually propelled not set or staked.

Dams and weirs

Fishing is prohibited in the following areas

River system	Dam or weir	Description
Dumaresq	Bonshaw Weir	Up to 100m downstream of the weir face
Edward	Stevens Weir	Between 80m upstream and 70m downstream of the weir face
Lachlan	Lake Cargellico	Between 50m upstream and 50m downstream of the weir face
Lachlan	Lake Brewster	Between 50m upstream and 50m downstream of the weir face
Lachlan	Willandra Weir	Between 185m downstream and 100m upstream of the weir face
Lachlan	Wyangala Dam	Up to 400m downstream of the weir face to the low level bridge
MacIntyre	Goondiwindi Weir	Between 150m upstream and 150m downstream of the weir face
Macquarie	Burrendong Dam	Between 185m upstream and 185m downstream of the weir face
Macquarie	Burrendong Dam	Spillway Channel
Murray	Hume Reservoir	Up to 130m downstream of the weir face
Murray	Horseshoe Lagoon	Murray Cod (<i>Maccullochella peelii</i>), Golden perch (<i>Macquaria ambigua</i>) and Silver perch (<i>Bidyanus bidyanus</i>) may not be taken in Horseshoe Lagoon Albury, except by the method of catch and release fishing
Murray	Yarrawonga Weir	Between 50m upstream and 201m downstream of the weir face
Murray	Weir 7 at Rufus River	Between 50m upstream and from downstream end of 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	Weir 8 at Wangumma	Between 50m upstream and from the downstream end 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	Weir 9 at Kulinine	Between 50m upstream and from downstream end of 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	Weir 10 at Wentworth	Between 50m upstream and from the downstream end of the lock chamber in a straight line across the river to a point on the Victorian bank 65m downstream of where the weir wall adjoins the Victorian bank.



Dams and weirs

River system	Dam or weir	Description
Murray	Weir 11 at Mildura	Between 50m upstream 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	Weir 15 at Robinvale	The Murray River at weir 15 (at Robinvale) within 50 metres upstream and from the downstream end of the lock chamber in a straight line across the river to a point on the NSW bank, 65 metres downstream of where the weir wall adjoins the NSW bank.
Frenchmans Creek	Lake Victoria Inlet Regulator at Frenchmans Creek	Between 100m upstream 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 regulator adjoins the southern bank of Frenchman's Creek.
Rufus River	Lake Victoria Outlet Regulator Rufus River	Between 100m upstream and 100m downstream from the centre of the regulator wall
Murray	Swampy Plains River	Up to 120m downstream from Khancoban Dam retaining wall.
Murrumbidgee	Gogeldrie Weir	Between 50m upstream and 50m downstream of the weir face
Murrumbidgee	Yanco Creek Weir	Between 50m upstream and 50m downstream of the weir face
Murrumbidgee	Berembed Weir	Between 50m upstream and 50m downstream of the weir face
Murrumbidgee	Weir No. 5 - Redbank Weir	Between 50m upstream and 50m downstream of the weir face
Murrumbidgee	Weir No. 7 - Maude Weir	Between 50m upstream and 50m downstream of the weir face
Murrumbidgee	Balranald Weir	Between 50m upstream and 50m downstream of the weir face
Murrumbidgee	Hay Weir	Between 50m upstream and 50m downstream of the weir face
Murrumbidgee	Burrinjuck Dam	Up to 640m downstream of the weir face in line with the western end of the No.1 power station.
Namoi	Manilla Weir	Between 50m upstream and 50m downstream of the weir face
Namoi	Keepit Dam	Up to 150m downstream of the weir face
Tumut	Blowering Dam	Up to 250m downstream of the Blowering Dam power station at Blowering Dam
Tumut	Jounama Dam	Up to 800m downstream of the Jounama Dam spillway gates at Jounama Dam

Additionally some areas around dams and weirs may be closed to public access by the authority responsible for maintaining that structure for environmental or safety reasons. If you are unsure about access arrangements around a dam or weir, check with the local authority before you go fishing.



Some useful knots and rigs

Uni knot for tying on hooks

Uni knots are useful for tying small hooks onto 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.



2.



3.



4.



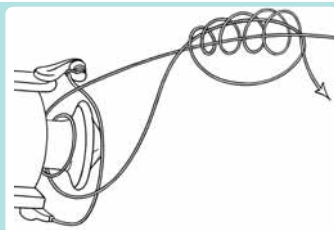
5.



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 onto the eye of the hook, ring or swivel.

Uni knot for tying line onto your reel

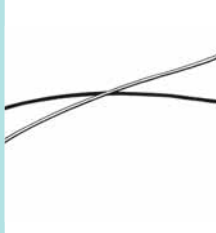
First wrap the line around the spool of your reel, at least once, then tie a standard uni knot with four wraps. Then slide the knot down onto the spool of your reel.



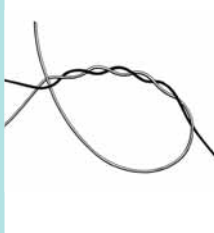
Double blood knot for joining lines

The double blood knot is a streamlined join useful for joining two similar size lines. It is particularly favoured by light tackle enthusiasts.

1.



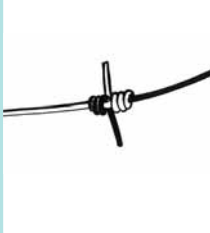
2.



3.



4.

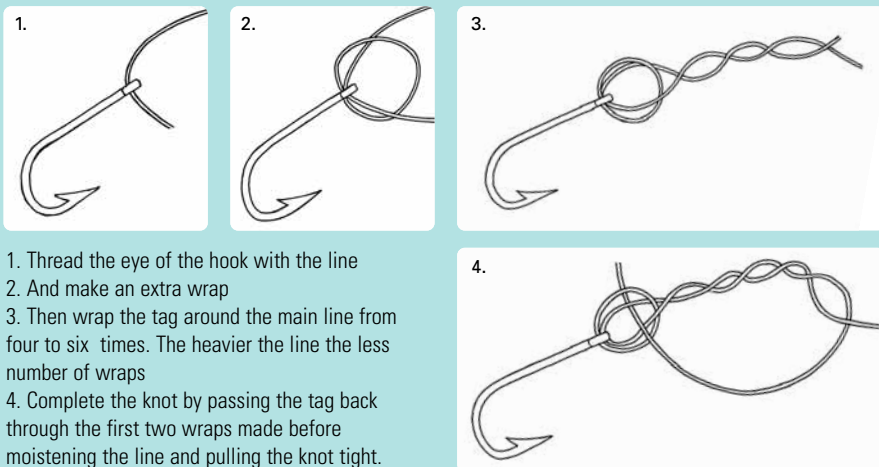


1. Overlap the lines to be joined. 2. Wrap one line around the other four times, pass the tag through the crossover, and commence wrapping with the other line. 3. Make four wraps with the other line and pass the tag through the same wrap as the other but from the opposite direction. 4. Moisten and tighten the knot with gentle pressure on each side.



Clinch knot

This knot forms a strong, reliable connection that resists slippage and premature failures.



1. Thread the eye of the hook with the line
2. And make an extra wrap
3. Then wrap the tag around the main line from four to six times. The heavier the line the less number of wraps
4. Complete the knot by passing the tag back through the first two wraps made before moistening the line and pulling the knot tight.

The best result is achieved when the loops through the eye of the hook retain the wrapping sequence and don't spring apart.

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 onto 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 onto 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.





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, Macquarie perch and a 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.



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 singly, or several at a time, and are great bait for most freshwater species.

→ Earthworms and scrubworms may be fished singly 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 which is sold from leading fishing tackle outlets as "Bait Mate."

→ Small yabbies are excellent bait for most native species. Murray cod will take larger yabbies.

mudeyes



grasshoppers



shrimp



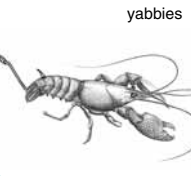
earthworms



bardi



yabbies





Weigh your fish with a ruler

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 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.

Measuring length

In the Australian bass table fork length measurement has been used while the Murray cod table shows total length. Total length is measured from the tip of the snout on the upper jaw to the tip of the tail and this is the correct calculation to determine legal length



Fork length for weight calculation



Total length for legal length calculation

Australian bass			
Fork length (cm)	Weight (kg)	Fork length (cm)	Weight (kg)
25	0.3	43	1.6
26	0.3	44	1.7
27	0.4	45	1.8
28	0.4	46	1.9
29	0.5	47	2.0
30	0.5	48	2.2
31	0.6	49	2.3
32	0.6	50	2.5
33	0.7	51	2.6
34	0.8	52	2.8
35	0.8	53	2.9
36	0.9	54	3.1
37	1.0	55	3.3
38	1.1	56	3.5
39	1.2	57	3.7
40	1.3	58	3.9
41	1.3	59	4.1
42	1.4	60	4.3

Murray cod			
Total length (cm)	Weight (kg)	Total length (cm)	Weight (kg)
40	1.1	72	7.6
42	1.3	74	8.3
44	1.5	76	9.0
46	1.8	78	9.8
48	2.0	80	10.7
50	2.3	82	11.6
52	2.6	84	12.5
54	3.0	86	13.5
56	3.3	88	14.6
58	3.7	90	15.7
60	4.2	92	16.8
62	4.6	94	18.0
64	5.2	96	19.3
66	5.7	98	20.7
68	6.3	100	22.1
70	6.9		



Freshwater Fishing Closures

Waters	Species	Banned	Period
Jenolan River: The whole of the waters of that part of Jenolan or Harry's River, together with all its creeks and tributaries, upwards to its source from a line drawn at right angles across the river at a distance of 850 metres downstream, measured along the midstream, from the swimming pool (also known as the spawning pool) adjacent to the Hydro-electric Power Station	Trout & Salmon	All fishing methods	All year
Serpentine River and Dutton Trout Hatchery: All artificial ponds and other waters within the Dutton Trout Hatchery boundaries at Ebor, including that part of the Serpentine River from the weir above the hatchery, downstream approximately 2.4 kilometres to the top of the Serpentine Falls (with the exception that persons employed by the NSW Department of Primary Industries may take fish in accordance with the management arrangements of the Dutton Trout Hatchery)	Trout & Salmon	All fishing methods	All year
Thredbo River and Gaden Trout Hatchery: All artificial ponds and other waters within the boundaries of the Gaden Trout Hatchery at Jindabyne and the whole of the waters of that part of the Thredbo River (or Crackenback River) from the upstream extremity of the public reserve known as 'Paddy's Corner', upstream for a distance of 2.4 kilometres (being those waters adjacent to the Gaden Trout Hatchery) and including the whole of Sawpit Creek from its confluence with the Thredbo River (with the exception that persons employed by the NSW Department of Primary Industries may take fish in accordance with the management arrangements of the Gaden Trout Hatchery).	Trout & Salmon	All fishing methods	All year
Blowering Dam: From the upstream of the face of the dam to the confluence of running waters	Murray crayfish	Taking or attempting to take Murray crayfish	All year
All waters	River blackfish	All fishing methods	All year
All western flowing waters except the dams / weir specified on page 36.	Catfish	Taking or attempting to take eel tailed catfish	All year
All waters except the dams / weir specified on page 36.	Silver perch	Taking or attempting to take silver perch	All year
Horseshoe Lagoon: The whole of the waters of Horseshoe Lagoon on the Murray River floodplain at West Albury	Murray cod, golden perch, silver perch	All fishing methods for these species except catch and release fishing	All year
Notified trout waters – see pages 40-45	Spiny crayfish, Murray or eastern freshwater	All fishing methods	All year
All waters	All species	Use of live birds and mammals as bait	All year



Fishing is restricted at certain times of the year

Closed season	Species	Waters	Banned
September to November inclusive in each year	Murray cod	All inland waters	Taking or attempting to take Murray cod
September to April inclusive in each year	Murray crayfish	All inland waters	Taking or attempting to take Murray crayfish
June to August inclusive in each year	Australian bass & estuary perch	All Rivers / estuaries	Taking or attempting to take Australian bass or Estuary perch
August to October inclusive in each year	Australian bass & estuary perch	Doon Doon Creek. Downstream from the Clarrie Hall dam wall to the junction with the Tweed River	All fishing methods. Taking or attempting to take all species
August to October inclusive in each year	Australian bass & estuary perch	Iron Pot Creek Extending 1km downstream from the Toonumar Dam access crossing	All fishing methods. Taking or attempting to take all species
August to October inclusive in each year	Australian bass & estuary perch	Richmond River 1 km downstream from the Norco Weir	All fishing methods. Taking or attempting to take all species
August to October inclusive in each year	Eastern cod	Mann River and its tributaries upstream of its junction with the Clarence River and including the Nymboida River and its tributaries from its junction with the Mann River upstream to Platypus Flat, excluding notified trout waters.	All fishing methods. Taking or attempting to take all species
September to November inclusive in each year	Trout cod	Murray River and its tributaries from the Yarrowonga Weir, downstream to the Newell highway bridge at Tocumwal	All fishing methods. Taking or attempting to take all species

Traps and Nets are prohibited in the following areas

Waters	Banned	Period
Blowering Dam: From the upstream of the face of the dam to the confluence of running waters	Hoop / lift net	All year

Traps and nets are restricted at certain times of the year

Waters	Banned	Period
Murray River: The whole of the waters of the Murray River (including its creeks, tributaries, billabongs, and lagoons) from the Yarrowonga Weir, downstream to the Newell highway bridge at Tocumwal	All traps and nets except hoop / lift net and shrimp trap	December to August inclusive in each year

National Safe Boating Initiatives

ABPS on new boats

Most new boats will soon need to have an Australian Builders Plate (ABP) to be registered in NSW. The plates will provide key safety information including the number of people and load allowed, engine rating, weight and buoyancy performance.

Importantly, the maximum load information will help skippers to avoid overloading and possible capsizing. Maximum load includes the weight of people; outboard engines; and carry on equipment such as safety gear, eskies, fishing tackle, spare parts and portable tanks etc.

A major safety characteristic of the plate is its requirement to have either level or basic flotation for boats less than 6 metres.

Basic flotation means a boat will float in some capacity if swamped or capsized and may allow people to cling on while waiting for help.

Level flotation means a boat will float in a level position if swamped and allow people to stay in the boat and possibly bail out water while waiting for help.

Staying with a boat after an accident will enhance the chances of safe rescue but relies on the boat staying afloat if swamped.

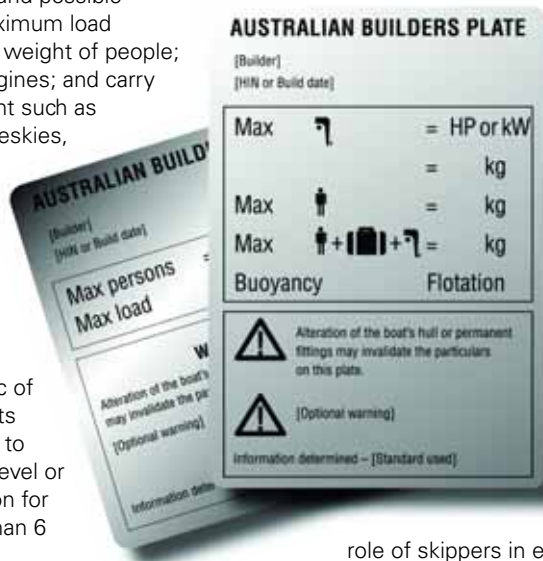
EPIRBs

The National Marine Safety Committee (NMSC) is encouraging boat owners and users to get in early and replace 121.5 MHz EPIRBs for a 406 MHz beacon on their next battery change over. To avoid high demand, owners and users are being asked to purchase a 406 MHz beacon by 1 July 2008 – when the law is scheduled to be changed to require the

carriage of a 406 MHz beacon only.

PFD/Lifejacket campaign

NMSC is again running a national summer safety equipment campaign featuring sporting icon Matthew Hayden. The campaign will encourage boaters and fishers to wear lifejackets. In particular, the



role of skippers in encouraging passengers to wear lifejackets will be emphasised.

According to figures from research conducted in Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia by Monash University, fishers and other people in small boats had a very low personal flotation device wear rate. However, evidence suggests that a skippers PFD wear behaviour strongly influences the wear behaviour of their passengers.

**For further information contact the
National Marine Safety Committee on telephone 02 9247 2124**



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 amongst the community, or for safety reasons. Areas can be closed permanently or temporarily or at a specific time of year. This is called a closed season.

Closed seasons help fish during breeding seasons to allow fish to spawn uninterrupted by fishers.

A good example of this is the Murray cod male, who can become much more aggressive. When he protects his eggs, making him easy to catch. Removal of the male also leaves the eggs unguarded and more likely to be eaten by other predators.

Closures below and above dams and weirs protect fish where they gather to spawn or migrate.

Lake Hume and Lake Mulwala

Under a new agreement between NSW and Victoria effective from September 1, 2004, all fishing in Lake Mulwala is subject to NSW fishing rules. Similarly, all fishing in Lake Hume is subject to Victorian fishing rules.

The agreement is the result of an extensive consultation process with recreational fishing stakeholders and clears up uncertainty among fishers as to where the border lies between states and which fisheries regulations apply where.

The confusion arose when the Murray River was dammed to create the lakes as the river forms the constitutional border between NSW and Victoria. Prior to the new agreement each lake had been under dual state management with different rules on either side of a dividing line.

Boundaries

For the purpose of managing recreational fishing the lakes are described as:

Lake Hume

The extent of the backed up waters of Lake Hume from the weir wall upstream

to the point where Seven Mile Creek enters the Murray River on the northern bank of the Murray River and in the Mitta Mitta arm of the lake, from the weir wall upstream to the Murray Valley Highway bridge situated east of Tallangatta.

Lake Mulwala

All the waters impounded by the Yarrowonga Weir upstream to the point where the Ovens River enters the Murray River marked by the Bundalong boat ramp.

Rules and regulations applying to recreational fishing in the managing state apply to each respective lake.

Catch and release fishing

Catch and release fishing is an increasingly popular practice among many freshwater fishers. It is quite common for fishers with a strong conservation commitment to release fish which they could legally keep.

Compliance with bag and size limits and various fishing closures also means many fishers, by law, return fish they have caught to the water.

To maximise a fish's survival when practicing catch and release, it is important to follow a few simple rules:

- Minimise the time spent to land the fish. Long fights on light tackle unduly stress fish and lead to lower chance of survival as a result.
- Use barbless hooks whenever possible to aid in hook removal and minimize hook damage to fish.
- Consider using non-offset circle hooks when fishing with bait. This generally results in more mouth (rather than gut) hooked fish.
- Avoid taking a fish from the water. If you can, release the fish while it is still in the water.
- If you do remove the fish from the water, handle it carefully. Use wet hands or a wet towel to minimise damage to its skin. Support its body weight. Minimise the length of time



the fish is out of the water.

- Use fish-friendly landing nets with soft knotless mesh to reduce harm to fish scales, skin, eyes and fins.
- Avoid dropping fish onto the bottom of boats or other hard surfaces as this can cause internal organ damage. Hold fish with a firm grip across the back of the head to remove your hook.
- A smooth, wet surface or vinyl covered foam is the most suitable surface to place fish on in order to remove hooks.
- Remember many surfaces, especially metal, can become very hot in the sun. Fish skin is very prone to injury or burns and skin injuries can decrease resistance to diseases.
- Try to retrieve hooks and release fish as quickly as possible. The use of needle-nosed pliers or hook retrieving devices can greatly reduce time spent unhooking fish.
- If a hook is located deep inside the fish, cut the line as close as possible to the fish's mouth. This is far better than trying to extract the hook, which could cause internal damage to the fish.
- Take care to revive fish upon release if required. This involves gently holding or

pushing the fish through the water so that it obtains a good supply of oxygen.

- Avoid releasing fish into warm, shallow margins of lakes and streams if deeper, cooler water is accessible.

A catch and release native fishery has recently been established in Horseshoe Lagoon near Albury. **Call (02) 6042 4206** for details.

Note: It is illegal to fish for Murray cod during the Murray cod closed season, to target threatened species such as silver perch in rivers, or to target trout cod, eastern freshwater cod and Macquarie perch as catch and release species.

Tagged fish

Tagging fish is a useful research tool but incidental tagging of any freshwater species can interfere with specific research programs and unnecessarily stress fish. Therefore tagging is not permitted unless undertaken as part of a formal program. If you catch a tagged fish please ensure the tag and details of the capture are sent to the address shown on the tag, or call 1300 550 474 with details.



Major native freshwater fishing species

The major native species targeted by recreational fishers include Australian bass, eel-tailed catfish, golden perch, silver perch (in dams only), Murray cod, Murray crayfish and yabbies.

Bag and size limits apply to all these major target species (see page 16) and a state-wide closure applies to the taking of silver perch in rivers and streams. All western flowing waters, including unlisted dams are closed to the taking of eel-tailed and freshwater catfish and a seasonal closure applies to the taking of Australian bass.

Australian bass



This is one of Australia's best freshwater sportfish. It is an aggressive predator and readily takes a lure. Australian bass live in freshwater coastal rivers but part of their breeding cycle involves annual migrations to saltwater areas.

Barriers to passage such as weirs, dams and flood mitigation works have reduced the extent of their habitat but fishways designed for Australian conditions are being installed in important weirs to encourage natural spawning populations to return to many areas.

NSW Department of Primary Industries stocks many impoundments on the eastern side of the Great Dividing Range with Australian bass. They provide excellent sportfishing, often growing to trophy size. Australian bass are also reared in hatcheries for supply to the public for stocking in dams and impoundments.

A spawning closure applies to Australian bass and estuary perch in rivers during the months of June to August each year inclusive. At other times, the combined bag limit for these species is 2 per day with only one fish larger than 35cm permitted. There is no maximum size restriction in impoundments, and fish may be taken all year round.

Eel-tailed or freshwater Catfish



Freshwater catfish were formerly very abundant across most of the Murray-Darling Basin in inland NSW. Prior to the 1980s, they provided recreational fishing opportunities and are still considered one of the premier table fish by many country people. However, catfish numbers declined substantially following the invasion of carp during the 1970s and 80s.

In addition to carp, thermal pollution and season flow reversal have had major impacts in affected reaches. Catfish have virtually disappeared from the Murray, Murrumbidgee and Lachlan catchments. Catfish are still relatively common in parts of the Macquarie, Namoi, Gwydir and Border River catchments and coastal catchments north of Newcastle.

Catfish do not migrate for spawning unlike other inland species such as trout, golden perch or Murray cod, and are one of the few species which spawn in dams. To protect this species, fishing for eel tailed catfish is prohibited in all western flowing waters in NSW apart from listed western impoundments (refer to page 36). The legal length for catfish is 30cm with a bag limit of 5 per person per day from listed western impoundments and 2 per person per day in all other waters.



Golden perch



Also known as yellowbelly, this is one of the most common and prized tablefish in the Murray-Darling system. A solitary species, they prefer deep pool habitats with large cover such as dead and fallen trees, or undercut banks.

Golden perch undertake extensive upstream spawning migrations when floods or significant river rises occur. The young thrive on the rich zooplankton of flood plains after heavy flooding while adults consume fishes, molluscs and crayfish.

Golden perch have been successfully stocked into many impoundments where they can often attain a size of 10 kg. They have been recorded to 24kg but are usually caught at around 1 to 5kg.

Golden perch can be distinguished from silver perch by the following features:

- ➔ The dorsal profile of the snout is strongly convex with a strongly arched nape. In silver perch the snout is almost straight.
- ➔ Eyes and mouth are large with the mouth extending to below the middle of the eye. In silver perch the eye and mouth are small with the mouth finishing well before the eye.
- ➔ The tail is rounded, whereas in silver perch it is weakly forked.
- ➔ The lower jaw protrudes slightly. In silver perch the jaws are equal.

Golden perch must be 30cm in length before it can be legally taken. A bag of 5 applies to this species.

Silver perch



Silver perch, also known as bidyan and black or silver bream, prefer river, lake and reservoir habitats and areas of rapid water flow. They were once widespread and abundant throughout most of the Murray-Darling Basin, except in cooler, high altitude streams.

Like golden perch, silver perch migrate upstream in response to pre-flood rains. The species depends on floods to distribute eggs and the flooded plains are important nursery areas.

Most wild populations of silver perch have now either declined to very low numbers or have disappeared altogether with the exception of the remaining secure, self-sustaining population in the central Murray River.

River regulation and water extraction are likely to have major impacts on the species. Silver perch are characterised by their relatively small heads and beak-like snouts. The fish is moderate to large in size with an elongate body. They can reach a maximum length of about 40cm and can attain a weight of approximately 8kg but are more commonly found at around 30cm in length and 1.5kg in weight.

They feed on insects, molluscs, worms and algae. Silver perch may be taken from listed stocked dams but must not be taken in rivers. The bag limit in listed stocked impoundments is 5 per person per day with a minimum size of 25cm. Listed stocked impoundments where silver perch may be taken are listed in the following table.



Impoundments where silver perch and catfish may be taken.

DAM / WEIR	SPECIES PERMITTED
Ben Chifley	Silver perch, catfish
Blowering	Silver perch
Burrendong	Silver perch, catfish
Burrinjuck	Silver perch
Chaffey	Silver perch, catfish
Copeton	Silver perch, catfish
Glenbawn	Silver perch, catfish
Glennies Creek	Silver perch, catfish
Googong	Silver perch
Jounama	Silver perch
Keepit	Silver perch, catfish
Lake Albert	Silver perch
Lake Wyangan	Silver perch
Pindari	Silver perch, catfish
Split Rock	Silver perch, catfish
Windamere	Silver perch, catfish
Wyangala	Silver perch, catfish
Yass	Silver perch

Murray Cod



The Murray cod can grow to over 100 kg. The species occurs naturally in the western drainage among habitat ranging from small clear rocky streams of the upper slopes to turbid, slow-flowing rivers and creeks on the plains.

They are generally found in, or near, deep holes and show a distinct preference for territory containing shelter or cover such as rocks, fallen timber, stumps, clay banks or overhanging vegetation. A closed season applies from September to November each year inclusive to provide an opportunity for Murray cod to spawn. From 1 December 2007 the minimum legal length of Murray cod will be increased to 55cm, followed by a further increase to 60cm on 1 December 2008. The bag limit for Murray cod is 2 per person per day with only 1 fish over 100cm allowed.



Crayfish

There are over 100 species of freshwater crayfish in Australia many of which are commonly called yabbies. In NSW, you must pay the NSW recreational fishing fee and have a receipt for payment of the fee in your possession when taking crayfish.

Any female carrying eggs (berried) including yabbies, must be returned to the water immediately. This ensures the life cycle continues and the species can remain viable as a recreational fishery.

It is an offence to remove eggs from females and heavy penalties apply. Trained fisheries officers can easily tell if a berried crayfish has been stripped of its eggs.

Spiny crayfish

There are 24 species of spiny crayfish in NSW. They typically occur in waters on both sides of the Great Dividing Range. Some are quite smooth bodied, with few obvious spines and are very similar in appearance to common yabbies.

As a result caution should be exercised when taking yabbies or crayfish since the bag limits differ - 200 for yabbies against 5 for spiny crayfish or eastern freshwater crayfish combined. A minimum size limit of 9cm applies to all spiny crayfish or eastern freshwater crayfish, measured from the rear of the eye socket to the centre rear of the carapace, with only one spiny crayfish or eastern freshwater crayfish larger than 12cm permitted.

Murray crayfish

Murray crayfish can be found in the Murray River upstream of Mildura, in the Murrumbidgee River and in some dams, and are the only species in the *Euastacus* genus that live in both cold and warm water habitats. They have been reported to grow to 3kg and are the second largest freshwater crayfish in the world behind the Tasmanian freshwater crayfish. They are slow-growing animals and may take up to



8 years until they reach their legal length of 9cm. A closed season applies between September and April each year inclusive. A bag limit of 5 per person applies to Murray crayfish. Murray crayfish may not be taken in notified trout waters or Blowering Dam. The minimum size limit for Murray crayfish is 9cm measured from rear of the eye socket to the centre rear of the carapace, with only one larger than 12cm permitted.

Yabbies



The common freshwater yabby is the best known and most abundant of the freshwater crayfish in Australia. In NSW the species occurs naturally west of the Great Dividing Range and has adapted to many different habitats ranging from mountain lakes to slow, warm, muddy rivers and creeks.

Yabbies are opportunistic scavengers and are easily caught using baited traps. Fishing for yabbies is a popular activity in the western part of the state where they are taken both to eat and to be used as bait, especially for native species such as Murray cod.

A bag and possession limit of 200 yabbies per person applies. However there is no size limit or closed season in NSW waters.



Trout and salmon fishing

NSW offers some of the premier trout fishing in Australia. Brown, rainbow and brook trout are found in the cooler highland reaches of many NSW rivers. In a number of rivers trout have established naturally reproducing populations. In other waters NSW Department of Primary Industries, in conjunction with acclimatization societies, maintains populations by annual restocking with fry and fingerlings.

Atlantic salmon are stocked into Lake Jindabyne and Khancoban Pondage annually. Until approximately 35 cm long, salmon are plankton feeders found in the water column. Above this size they pursue larger prey and offer lure anglers the opportunity to target them.

Trout and salmon are regarded by the NSW government as a desirable

recreational species. The trout and salmon fishery is valuable to the state (for example, worth more than \$70 million to the Snowy Mountain region alone).

Fishing Rules for Trout and Salmon

Fishing Lines

- ➔ Attended rods and lines must be within 50 metres, and in your sight.
- ➔ In general trout streams and dams, salmon or trout may taken with natural flies, insects or their larvae, worms, shrimps, yabbies, mussels, artificial lures or baits, or plant matter.

In artificial fly and lure waters including trout spawning streams only artificial flies or lures are permitted. Bait or manufactured bait products may not be used.

Fishing rules for Trout and Salmon (for native fish see page 16)

Notified Trout Waters	Fishing Season	Attended Rods and Lines	Number of hooks	Legal Length (cm)	Bag Limit per day (single or combined)
Trout Spawning Streams (Table 1 p46)	1 May to end June long weekend. (Note: Trout Spawning Streams become Artificial Fly and Lure Waters from Saturday October long weekend to 30 April each year inclusive)	1 Gear rigged for bait fishing, including manufactured bait product is prohibited.	2 (with up to 3 hooks per artificial fly or lure)	50	1 only. Catch and release fishing permitted once the daily bag and possession limit has been reached
Artificial Fly & Lure Waters (Table 2 p46)	Saturday morning October long weekend to Monday night June long weekend (except some dams which are open all year)	1 Gear rigged for bait fishing, including, manufactured bait product is prohibited.	2 in streams (with up to 3 hooks per artificial fly or lure) & 3 in dams, (where those hooks are artificial flies or lures).	25	2



Fishing rules for Trout and Salmon

Notified Trout Waters	Fishing Season	Attended Rods and Lines	Number of hooks	Legal Length (cm)	Bag Limit per day (single or combined)
General Trout Streams (Table 3 p44)	Saturday morning October long weekend to Monday night June long weekend.	1 only. Bait fishing allowed. Manufactured bait product is permitted except salmon roe or products containing them.	2 in streams (with up to 3 hooks per artificial fly or lure).	25	5
General Trout Dams (Table 4 p44)	All year	2 only. Bait fishing allowed. Manufactured bait product is permitted except salmon roe or products containing them	2 (with up to 3 hooks per artificial fly or lure) or 3 (where those hooks are artificial flies or lures).	25	5
All other waters	All year	2 only. Hand lines permitted. Bait fishing allowed. Manufactured bait product is permitted except salmon roe or products containing them	2 (with up to 3 hooks per artificial fly or lure).	25	10

See pages 40-45 for the list of notified trout waters.

Illegal fishing methods

Line fishing: Set lining, jugging or foul hooking fish or using hand held lines in notified trout waters. Rods and lines only are permitted in notified trout waters.

Gear: Using a gaff, spearguns, spears, bows and arrows, chemicals or poisons, explosives or firearms to take or attempt to take fish. Trout or salmon may not be taken with the aid of a light or hand. Traps and nets are not permitted in notified trout waters other than hoop nets in Lakes Eucumbene and Jindabyne as per the regulation or a landing net for retrieving legally hooked fish.

Bait: Using frogs, live finfish including carp, live birds, live mammals, prohibited size fish or salmon roe or products containing them, as bait.

Filleting: Altering the length of any fish with a size limit by filleting or removing the head other than by gutting or removing gills or scales until you are well away from the water. This does not apply at areas normally used for the cleaning of fish such as boat ramp cleaning tables or if the fish are for immediate consumption or for immediate use as bait. Fish with a size limit must be of legal size before they can be used as bait.

Murray crayfish: Murray crayfish may not be taken in notified trout waters or in Blowering Dam.

Prohibited size fish: Keeping fish of a prohibited size. They should be returned to the water unharmed, and

Sale: Selling recreational catch.



Notified trout waters

To protect breeding populations and promote fair sharing of the catch amongst fishers, certain streams and dams have been classified as 'notified' trout waters. These waters have special regulations on gear and season and there are several types.

The different rules and regulations are shown in the following schedule and tables. If a stream is not listed, check the major stream it runs into. In unlisted waters the general freshwater fishing rules apply (pages 17-20).

Other local areas may be closed to certain types of fishing or to the use of specific gear. For up to date information, please check with your local fisheries office. Contact details are available on page 67.

The tables referred to in the schedule below are provided on page 46.

Apsley River

General trout stream
Upstream of Tia River* junction

see table 3

Barnard River

General trout stream
Upstream of Gulf Creek* junction

see table 3

Barrington River

General trout stream
Upstream of Moppy River* junction

see table 3

Beardy Waters Dam

General trout dam

see table 4

Beardy Waters

General trout stream
Upstream of Furracabad Creek junction

see table 3

Bell River (A)

Artificial fly and lure water
Upstream of Belgravia Road crossing

see table 2

Bell River (B)

General trout stream
Upstream of Molong River* junction

see table 3

Belubula River

General trout stream
Upstream of Cherry Tree Falls bridge,
near Canowindra

see table 3

Bemboka River

General trout stream
Upstream of Tantawangelo Creek junction

see table 3

Ben Chifley Dam

General trout dam

see table 4

Black Lake **

Artificial fly and lure water

see table 2

Blicks River

General trout stream
Upstream of road bridge at Dundurrabin

see table 3

Bobundra Creek

Artificial fly and lure water
Upstream of Snowy River junction

see table 2

Boree Creek

General trout stream
Upstream of Mandagery Creek junction

see table 3



Captains Flat Dam

General trout dam

see table 4

Carcoar Dam

General trout dam

see table 4

Carters Brook

General trout stream

Upstream from Stewarts Brook* junction

see table 3

Chandler River

General trout stream

Upstream of Wollomombi River* junction

see table 3

Cobark River

General trout stream

Upstream of Dilgry River* junction

see table 3

Columbooka Weir

General trout dam

see table 4

Coolacurripa River

General trout stream

Upstream of Mummel River* junction

see table 3

Coxs River

General trout stream

Upstream of Little River junction

see table 3

Cudgegong River

General trout stream

Upstream of Lawson Park Weir at

Mudgee to Windamere Dam wall

see table 3

Deepwater River

General trout stream

Upstream of New England Hwy bridge
near Deepwater

see table 3

Diggers Creek Dam

General trout dam

See table 4

Dumaresq Dam

General trout dam

see table 4

Dungowan Creek

General trout stream

Upstream of road crossing near
Ogunbil Station

see table 3

Eucumbene Dam

General trout dam

see table 4

Eucumbene River

Trout spawning stream

see table 1

Artificial fly and lure water

Upstream of dam wall including
Providence Portal

see table 2

Fitzroy Falls Dam

General trout dam

see table 4

Flea Creek

Artificial fly and lure water

Upstream of junction with Goodradigbee
River and including Tumbledown Creek
upstream of Goodradigbee River junction

see table 2

LEGEND: # note there is a 3 km exclusion zone around Warragamba Dam, ## up to 5 hoop nets to take yabbies permitted

Artificial fly and lure waters from Saturday October long weekend to 30 April each year inclusive, * also included,

artificial fly & lure fishing permitted, * artificial fly & lure fishing from shore only from 1 hr before sunrise to 3 hrs after sunset



Geehi Dam

General trout dam

see table 4

Georges Creek

General trout stream
Upstream of Louisa Creek junction

see table 3

Gloucester River

General trout stream
Upstream of Sharpes Creek* junction

see table 3

Goodradigbee River

General trout stream
Upstream of junction with the backed up waters of Burrinjuck Dam

see table 3

Googong Dam

General trout dam

see table 4

Guinecor Creek

General trout stream
Upstream of Wollondilly River junction

see table 3

Gosling Creek Reservoir

General trout dam

See table 4

Guthega Lake

General trout dam

see table 4

Guy Fawkes River

General trout stream
Upstream of Aberfoyle River junction

see table 3

Gwydir River

General trout stream
Upstream of Torryborn Bridge and also downstream from Copeton Dam to junction with Dingo Creek (excludes Dingo Creek)

see table 3

Happy Jacks Pondage

General trout dam

see table 4

Harrys Creek (Jenolan River) Totally Closed

From headwaters to 850m downstream of the spawning pool at Jenolan Caves

Horton River

General trout stream
Upstream of Cut Road Creek* junction

see table 3

Hunter River

General trout stream
Upstream of Pages Creek junction

see table 3

Ingeegoodbe River

General trout stream
Upstream of Victorian border

see table 3

Island Bend Dam

General trout dam

see table 4

Jenolan River (Harrys Creek) Totally Closed

From headwaters to 850m downstream of the spawning pool at Jenolan Caves

Jounama Pondage

General trout dam

see table 4

Khancoban Creek

Artificial fly and lure water
Upstream from Khancoban Pondage and including Broken Back Creek from Murray 2 Pondage wall to junction with Khancoban Creek

see table 2

Khancoban Pondage

General trout dam

see table 4

Kowmung River #

General trout stream
Upstream of Molong Creek* junction

see table 3



Kybeyan River

Artificial fly and lure water
Upstream of Numerella River junction

see table 2

Lachlan River

General trout stream
Upstream of Cowra-Young Road bridge

see table 3

Lake Bathurst

General trout dam

See table 4

Lake Canobolas

General trout dam

see table 4

Lake Crackenback

General trout dam

See table 4

Lake Jindabyne

General trout dam

see table 4

Lake Lyell

General trout dam

see table 4

Lake Wallace (Wallerawang Dam)

General trout dam

see table 4

Lake Williams

General trout dam

See table 4

Laura Creek

General trout stream
Upstream of ford at Baldeslie Station

see table 3

McDonald River

General trout stream
Upstream of New England Hwy bridge at Bendemeer

see table 3

MacIntyre River

General trout stream
Upstream of road bridge at Elsmore

see table 3

MacLaughlin River

Artificial fly and lure water
Upstream of Snowy River junction

see table 2

Macphersons Swamp Creek

General trout stream
Upstream of backed up waters of
Burrinjuck Dam

see table 3

Macquarie River

General trout stream
Upstream of Lewis Ponds Creek*
junction

see table 3

Malpas Dam

General trout dam

see table 4

Manning River

General trout stream
Upstream of Gummi Trail crossing

see table 3

Marsden Weir

General trout dam

see table 4

Meadow (Molong) Creek

General trout stream
Upstream of Borenore Creek junction

see table 3

Molonglo River

General trout stream
Upstream of railway bridge at Burbong

see table 3

LEGEND: # note there is a 3 km exclusion zone around Warragamba Dam, ## up to 5 hoop nets to take yabbies permitted

Artificial fly and lure waters from Saturday October long weekend to 30 April each year inclusive, * also included,

artificial fly & lure fishing permitted, * artificial fly & lure fishing from shore only from 1 hr before sunrise to 3 hrs after sunset



Moonan Brook

General trout stream
Upstream of Hunter River junction

see table 3

Moredun Creek

General trout stream
Upstream of the ford immediately below
Limestone Creek junction

see table 3

Mowamba (Moonbah) River

Artificial fly and lure water
Upstream of Snowy River junction

see table 2

Mulla Mulla Creek

General trout stream
Upstream of Cockburn River junction

see table 3

Murray River

General trout stream
Upstream of Tintaldra Road bridge

see table 3

Murray 2 Pondage

General trout dam

see table 4

Murrumbidgee River

General trout stream
Upstream of Bredbo River junction

see table 3

Myall Creek

General trout stream
Upstream of Tuggolo Creek* junction

see table 3

Nowendoc River

General trout stream
Upstream of Nowendoc Falls

see table 3

Nymboida River

General trout stream
Upstream of Wild Cattle Creek* junction

see table 3

Oaky River

General trout stream
Upstream of Oaky River Dam backed up
waters

see table 3

Oban (Ann) River

General trout stream
Upstream of Sara River junction

see table 3

Oberon Dam

General trout dam

see table 4

Omadales Brook

General trout stream
Upstream of Polblue Creek* junction

see table 3

Paddys River Dam

General trout dam

See table 4

Pejar Dam

General trout dam

see table 4

Queanbeyan River

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

see table 3

Red Ground Dam (Crookwell water supply)

General trout dam

see table 4

Rossi Weir

General trout dam

see table 4

Sawpit Creek *Totally closed*

Serpentine River *Totally closed*

The reach of the Serpentine River from
the top of Serpentine Falls to the
Lookout Point Road crossing near Dutton
Trout Hatchery

Sheba Dams

General trout dam

see table 4

Shoalhaven River

General trout stream
Upstream of Mongarlowe River*
junction

see table 3



Snowy River

General trout stream
Upstream of Victorian border

see table 3

Styx River

General trout stream
Upstream of Armidale-Bellbrook Road

see Table 3

Swampy Plains River

Artificial fly and lure water
Upstream of Murray & Indi Rivers
junction to upstream boundary of
Khancoban Station

see Table 2

Swanbrook Creek

General trout stream
Upstream of Kings Plains Road near
Inverell

see table 3

Talbingo Dam

General trout dam

see table 4

Tantangara Dam

General trout dam

see table 4

Thompsons Creek Dam ***

Artificial fly and lure waters

see table 2

Thredbo River

Trout spawning stream and artificial fly
and lure water
All Thredbo River except for a signposted
2.4km reach at Gaden Trout Hatchery
which is totally closed

see tables 1 and 2

Three Mile Dam

General trout dam

see table 4

Tod Kill Park Dam

General trout dam

See table 4

Tooma Dam

General trout dam

see table 4

Tumut Ponds

General trout dam

see table 4

Tumut River

General trout stream
Upstream of Murrumbidgee River
junction

see table 3

Tumut 2 Pondage

General trout dam

see table 4

Tuross River

General trout stream
Upstream of Tuross Falls

see table 3

Wellingrove Creek

General trout stream
Upstream of Gwydir Hwy bridge

see table 3

Wentworth Falls Lake

General trout dam

see table 4

Wildes Meadow Creek

Artificial fly and lure water
Upstream of backed up waters of Fitzroy
Falls Reservoir

see table 2

Wollondilly River

General trout stream
Upstream of Tarlo River* junction

see table 3

LEGEND: # note there is a 3 km exclusion zone around Warragamba Dam, ## up to 5 hoop nets to take yabbies permitted

Artificial fly and lure waters from Saturday October long weekend to 30 April each year inclusive, * also included,

artificial fly & lure fishing permitted, * artificial fly & lure fishing from shore only from 1 hr before sunrise to 3 hrs after sunset



Notified trout water classifications

Table 1 – TROUT SPAWNING STREAMS

Fishing season	1 May to end June long weekend (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.

Table 2 – ARTIFICIAL FLY and LURE WATERS

Fishing season	Saturday morning October long weekend to Monday night June long weekend+.
Permitted gear	1 attended rod and line with up to 2 hooks with artificial flies or lures++.

+Except Thompsons Creek dam and Black lake which are open all year.

++Or up to 3 hooks with artificial flies or lures at Thompsons Creek dam and Black Lake

Table 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.

Table 4 – GENERAL TROUT DAMS

Fishing season	All year
Permitted gear	2 attended rods each with a line and no more than 3 hooks attached. Bait fishing allowed.

Some areas are closed to fishing. Refer to the tables on pages 28 and 29 for a list of closed waters.





Illegal fishing methods in notified trout waters

A number of new fishing rules have been introduced this season to ensure trout fishing remains a sport where wild and stocked populations of fish in rivers, lakes and dams across the state are not over exploited. In the new rules the number of trout water categories have been simplified.

Artificial lure and fly waters incorporate the former blue ribbon streams, catch and release streams, trophy trout dams and trout spawning streams.

General trout waters incorporate the former general trout streams and dams, where bait fishing is allowed.

Fishers need to be aware of both new and existing fishing laws. It is illegal to:

- Take, or attempt to take, Murray crayfish in notified trout waters.
- Use a setline, hand-held lines, traps, nets, a light, a hand or gaff to take trout or salmon in notified trout waters unless otherwise stated.

- Use salmon roe or products containing them.

In addition to specific trout water prohibitions and permitted gear restrictions, illegal fishing methods which apply to general freshwater fishing also apply in notified trout waters. Unless otherwise stated it is also illegal to:

- Use spearguns, spears, bows and arrows, poison or explosives or firearms to take fish.
- Jag or foul hook fish.
- Use frogs, live finfish (including carp), live birds or live animals as bait.
- Use any traps, or nets not permitted for recreational use, or to sell your catch
- Keep prohibited size fish – they should be returned to the water immediately with as little harm as possible
- Fillet or cut up a fish that has a bag or size limit if you are in, on or adjacent to the water although you can gill, gut and scale them.



Trout and salmon fishing species

Brown trout



Imported from England, the brown trout is possibly the most important sport fish introduced to Australia. It is commonly found in cool waters with moderate to swift flow and also in cool, clear lakes. One of the great sporting fish, stocks are maintained solely for fishing by release of hatchery-reared stock. It is prized as cunning and difficult to catch. It can weigh up to 14kg but most are caught below 3kg.

Colour can vary depending on factors such as age and habitat. It is generally silver through brown to olive overall but darker along the back. Dark spots are present along the back and sides but these can sometimes be indistinct. Most spots are surrounded by a pale halo and are often red below the mid-line.

Brook trout



Brook trout were introduced from North America in the early 1900s. Populations are maintained by stocking of hatchery-reared fish. The brook trout is much smaller than other trout species, usually weighing in at approximately 2kg but it has been known to approach 6.5kg in Australia.

Brook trout are easily recognised by a large mouth which extends beyond the level of the eye. It has an olive-green background body colour with pale vermiculations and spots. The pelvic, pectoral and anal fins are dark grey with a prominent white anterior margin.

Rainbow trout



A native of North America, the rainbow trout was released into NSW waters several years after the brown trout. The rainbow trout is a spectacular fighting fish but easier to catch than the brown trout. Although known to reach more than 18kg, fish larger than 4kg are exceptional.

Colour varies from silver to pale olive-brown overall and is darker along the back. The fish has spots on head, body, dorsal and caudal fins which can sometimes be inconspicuous along the sides but typically has a red or orange patch on the gill cover which extends as a stripe along the mid-line.

Atlantic salmon



Salmon are a native of European and North American rivers draining into the northern Atlantic Ocean, it has adapted to some large impoundments in Australia but no wild populations occur since most of the natural life cycle is spent at sea. In Australian waters the Atlantic salmon seldom exceeds 6kg but is considered a great sport fish.

The fish is silvery overall, bluish to olive-brown dorsally with a white belly and a few dark spots usually confined to the upper sides. The fins are a dusky grey.



Fish hatcheries and fish stocking

Native fish stocking

Funds from the recreational fishing fee have been allocated to the NSW DPI fish hatcheries at Narrandera and Port Stephens to produce more native fish for public stocking. Breeding of Australian native species for government stockings was first conducted at the Narrandera Fisheries Centre during 1961/62, following construction of the facility in 1960. The first species to be successfully reared was golden perch, now the most stocked native species in NSW.

Other species produced for stocking are the highly prized Murray cod and silver perch. Trout cod are also produced as an important part of the recovery program for this endangered species. Approximately two million golden perch, Murray cod and silver perch are stocked into inland rivers and dams each year.

Brood fish at Narrandera are released

into earthen ponds which recreate as much as possible their natural brood environment. The ponds are aerated with paddle wheels and the brood fish feed on native vegetation, zooplankton and small crustaceans which grow in the ponds, as well as live food such as gudgeons, yabbies, shrimps, rainbow fish and herring. A good diet, based on natural food sources, is vital to the health of the native fish and to the production of large amounts of high quality ova during spawning.

The hatchery at Port Stephens supplies Australian bass for stock enhancement of public dams and lakes across the east coast of NSW. Cultivation of bass fingerlings involves stocking larvae into small tanks and manually feeding the larvae with specially grown live feeds such as rotifers and brine shrimp. Larvae are also reared in earthen ponds.



Hatcheries and stocking

The ponds are filled with brackish water, fertilised to promote a plankton bloom and newly hatched larvae are added directly to the pond where they feed on plankton. After 30-60 days the ponds are drained and fingerlings are harvested for stocking.

Funds from the recreational fishing fee also support the community based dollar-for-dollar native fish stocking scheme. This program matches the monies raised by community groups to stock their local waterways with native fish. Dollar-for-dollar funding is available for Murray cod and golden perch in western drainage stockings and Australian bass for eastern drainage stockings.

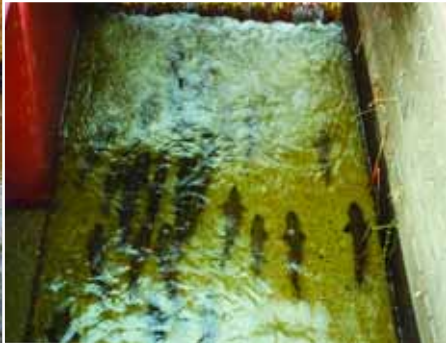
Stocking figures for the dollar-for-dollar native fish stocking program

2002/03:	684,000
2003/04:	990,820
2004/05:	882,344
2005/06:	923,682
2006/07:	907,515

Government stocking figures for native fish for the past five years

2002/03:	2,316,917
2003/04:	2,994,100
2004/05:	2,823,200
2005/06:	2,775,411
2006/07:	1,466,961





Trout and salmon

The department operates two trout hatcheries located at Jindabyne (Gaden Trout Hatchery) and Ebor (Dutton Trout Hatchery) near Armidale. The hatcheries are responsible for the production of trout fry and fingerlings for stocking into rivers, streams and dams across NSW for the benefit of the angling public.

Gaden Trout Hatchery was named after Jim Gaden, a pioneer of trout acclimatisation in the Monaro region. Chosen for its proximity to the Thredbo River in 1953, the facility was built on the banks of one of the country's most reliable and pristine water supplies. The hatchery was the first in Australia to breed Atlantic salmon and stock from the hatchery formed the basis for the multi-million dollar Tasmanian Atlantic salmon aquaculture industry developed in the 1980s.

Today the Thredbo River still provides a constant supply of good quality, cold

water. Trout ova is obtained from wild stocks of rainbow and brown trout trapped in the river. Brook trout and Atlantic salmon are produced from captive brood stock held in ponds at the hatchery. Approximately two million trout and salmon fry and fingerlings are produced each year for stocking into the Snowy Mountains, southern highlands and central tablelands areas. A percentage of the fingerlings are clipped on a different fin each year to enable identification and assessment of the success of the stocking program. Fin clipped fish from previous years regularly appear in the fish trap during spawning.

Dutton Trout Hatchery is located in the New England tablelands on the Serpentine River. The hatchery is named after Leslie Dutton, the first person to build a trout hatchery in the New England region near Guyra in 1925, which produced more than 200,000 trout fry in its first year of



operation. The hatchery was opened in 1952 and operated by the New England Trout Acclimatisation Society until 1959 when the NSW Government assumed control.

Today the hatchery produces approximately two million brown trout and rainbow trout fry for restocking. Rainbow trout are produced from captive brood fish held in ponds at the facility. Approximately half a million brown trout ova stripped from wild-caught stock at Gaden Hatchery are supplied to Dutton each year for rearing to fry stage and release.

Fish releases are carried out in conjunction with five acclimatisation societies: New England Trout Acclimatisation Society; the Central Acclimatisation Society; Orange Trout Acclimatisation Society; the Monaro Acclimatisation Society and the Council of Southern Districts Angling Clubs and their affiliated organisations, into waters approved for stocking under the fisheries management and snowy lakes strategies. The societies, which are voluntary stocking groups, are formally recognised under legislation and have an operating history dating back over eighty years.

Total trout and salmon stocking figures for the last five years:

2002/03:	4,907,625
2003/04:	4,581,397
2004/05:	4,245,654
2005/06:	3,921,400
2006/07:	3,347,550

Fish stocking policy

A stocking permit must be obtained from NSW Department of Primary Industries prior to the release of any fish into public waters. Permits are issued free of charge but certain conditions must be met.

To apply for a fish stocking permit, please call **02 6765 4591**.

You cannot stock fish known to be harmful to both native fish and the



environment. These include goldfish, common carp, European carp, redbfin perch, gambusia, tilapia and weatherloach. Heavy penalties apply to the stocking of these species.

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 please call:

- ➔ Gaden Hatchery (Snowy Mountains) **02 6451 3400**
- ➔ LP Dutton Hatchery (New England tablelands) **02 6775 9139**
- ➔ John Lake Centre (Narrandera) **02 6959 9021**



Threatened species

Fisheries legislation in NSW provides comprehensive protection of all threatened fish and marine vegetation native to the state's waters. A threatened species is one which is rare and numbers are declining to a point where it is likely to become extinct. Other species which are naturally rare, but with stable numbers, are protected. It is illegal to harm or possess threatened and protected species and severe penalties can apply. It is also an offence to damage the habitat of a threatened species. If protected or threatened fish are caught, they must be returned to the water with as little harm as possible.

As threatened species schedules can be subject to amendment you can check current listings on website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au or by contacting **1300 550 474**. Help increase knowledge of these species by reporting sightings on **02 4916 3877**; e-mail tsadmin@dpi.nsw.gov.au or online at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

Eastern (freshwater) cod



The eastern cod was once common in north-eastern NSW but wild-spawned fish are now considered rare. A comprehensive recovery plan to restore populations is being implemented.

Eastern cod are similar to Murray cod and Mary River cod. They can vary from pale green to golden with heavy black or green reticulated mottling. The pelvic fin is clear and relatively long. The lower jaw protrudes. It is not permitted to target

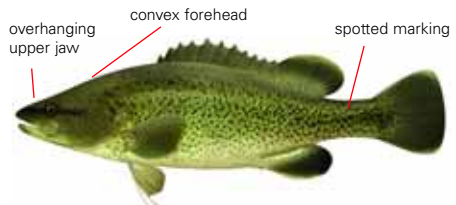
eastern cod as a catch and release species at any time.

To protect breeding Eastern cod, all fishing is prohibited between August and October inclusive in the Mann River and its tributaries upstream of its junction with the Clarence River and including the Nymboida River and its tributaries from its junction with the Mann River upstream to Platypus Flat, excluding notified trout waters.

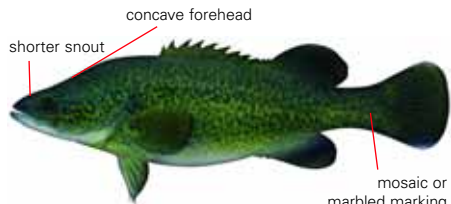
Trout cod

Once widespread throughout the lower Murray-Darling system but only two natural breeding populations remain. A comprehensive recovery plan to restore populations is being implemented. Anglers reports indicate the re-establishment efforts showing encouraging results with good populations in once extinct areas.

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



Trout cod



Murray cod



- Grey colour with well defined dark spots and dashed markings, whereas Murray cod are generally greenish 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 in trout cod, whereas Murray cod have a slightly concave forehead profile.
- The snout and forehead of trout cod are usually clear of any markings.



Macquarie perch

Macquarie perch are found in the upper Murray-Murrumbidgee, coastal Shoalhaven and Nepean river systems. One of the few native species which can live and breed in cold, fast flowing, mountain streams. It is believed populations have declined due to habitat change and diseases carried by introduced species such as redfin perch.

Colour can vary significantly between populations and may range from almost black through silver-grey to off-white. The species can be best distinguished from golden perch by the following features:

- A large eye surrounded by white colouring.
- The jaws are of equal length, whereas golden perch have a slightly protruding lower jaw.
- Less pronounced arching of the back of the head behind the eyes, whereas golden perch have a strongly arched back of the head.

Silver perch



Also see page 35. Silver perch are native to the Murray-Darling Basin and were once common throughout most of the region. However, they have suffered a dramatic decline in abundance and distribution. Only a few self-sustaining populations remain. The most abundant of these occurs in the Murray River downstream of Yarrawonga Weir.

The department stocks a number of dams with silver perch each year. Fishing is allowed for these stocked fish in the dams listed on page 36.

River blackfish

Can occur in many western flowing streams in NSW but its range is considerably reduced, particularly at the extremities of its former distribution. They are particularly susceptible to siltation in their preferred small upland stream habitats. With no parental care, eggs which become covered with silt are likely to die. Increased sediment levels can also kill juveniles.

Colour can vary from pale olive green or yellow/brown to almost black on back and sides with numerous, irregular, darker blotches.

Fishing for river blackfish is prohibited in all waters in NSW.





Other freshwater species

A number of smaller fish species are listed as threatened in NSW. However, freshwater fishers are unlikely to encounter them when carrying out normal fishing activities. Some of the species are:

- ➔ Oxylean pygmy perch.
- ➔ Murray hardyhead.
- ➔ Southern pygmy perch.
- ➔ Olive perchlet (western population).
- ➔ Purple spotted gudgeon (western population).



Oxylean pygmy perch

Protected species

Australian grayling

The Australian grayling is found in the southern coastal rivers of NSW as well as

the waters of Victoria and Tasmania. Before population numbers declined they were a popular fishing species. Numbers of Australian grayling have declined to the point where they are considered near to a threatened classification. They are currently a protected species with a total ban on harvesting or harming them.



Reasons for population decline include impacts from barriers to migration, river flow regulation, habitat degradation and possibly predation by introduced species.

Grayling migrate between fresh and saltwater. At the larvae stage they are swept to sea and return later as whitebait. You may accidentally catch this fish on bait and fly but it will not readily take larger lures used for Australian bass.





No habitat – No fish

Healthy and diverse habitats mean healthy and diverse fish populations: a must if fishers want to catch fish.

Habitats are places where fish live, migrate to and from, feed and breed. Examples include rivers, creeks, billabongs, impoundments and wetlands. Habitat features such as deep pools, snags, aquatic plants, gravel beds, bank overhangs and vegetation are particularly important for shelter, food and breeding sites.

Just like people, fish also need to be able to access habitat. However fish can often be stopped by poorly designed road crossings, block banks, dams and weirs.

Fish habitats in some areas of NSW are under pressure and have been lost or degraded to the point where they no longer can support healthy and diverse native fish populations.

NSW DPI is working with many individuals, angling clubs, land holders, catchment management authorities, councils and other groups to protect and rehabilitate fish habitat and to assist the recovery of native fish stocks.

Look after fish habitats: They make more fish...naturally.



Department initiatives

NSW DPI aims to conserve the aquatic environment in a way which allows fish to complete their lifecycles and maintain healthy populations while at the same time enhancing over-all river health and supporting recreational fishing activities.

This is carried out in a number of ways:

- ➔ Commenting on all proposed developments that might affect aquatic habitats and ensuring they are conducted in accordance with aquatic habitat protection legislation and policy.
- ➔ Initiating projects with partners, such as fishing clubs, local councils and



community groups, catchment management authorities and others to rehabilitate degraded habitats.

- Facilitating the construction of appropriately designed fishways and removal of redundant weirs.
- Assisting in the development of appropriate water sharing plans and environmental flow rules that benefit fish.
- Influencing other natural resource management planning processes that affect fish and aquatic habitats to ensure they are considered and protected.

What can Fishers do?

- Use designated access sites for your fishing. This avoids damage to banks and vegetation.
- When over aquatic vegetation either drift fish or place anchors within an open area or sand/gravel patch.
- Travel at low speeds near river banks to prevent undermining by boat wakes.
- Snags are for fish, not for firewood.
- Do not litter, take all rubbish home.
- Take care not to transport fish, water or weeds from one waterway to another.
- Never release aquarium fish into a waterway or drain.

THREAT TO FISH HABITAT	SOLUTIONS SUPPORTED BY NSW DPI
Water pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Better management of catchments. → Limiting stock access to waterways and wetlands. → Better treatment and disposal of stormwater and wastewater. → River regulation and water extraction control. → Protecting and releasing environmental flows in order to restore natural flow variation.
Blocking fish passage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Ensuring new developments do not impact on fish passage. → Removal or modification of barriers such as weirs, floodgates, road crossings.
Cold water pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Using multi-level outlets and other technologies on dams to allow water release from warmer surface layers. → Using devices to de-stratify water in dams.
Removal of shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Re-introducing snags. → Protection and rehabilitation of riparian (streambank) vegetation.
Destruction of breeding or nursery areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Ensuring new developments do not impact on fish habitats. → Protecting gravel beds and aquatic vegetation from sedimentation or removal. → Restoring wetlands and flooding regimes. → Re-introducing snags.
Reduction in habitat diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Ensuring new developments do not impact on fish habitats. → Strategic habitat rehabilitation programs.

Information on these issues is available from local fisheries offices and at website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au



- ➔ Get your friends or local fishing club involved in restoring fish habitat. Contact NSW DPI to find out how to help and also access funding.

Fishing clubs, councils, Landcare groups and others have been funded through the Recreational Fishing Trusts to undertake habitat restoration programs along their local waterway. The community can apply for Recreational Fishing Trust funds at any time to rehabilitate fish habitats, remove barriers to fish movement, plant native trees and remove exotic vegetation along waterways. For more information, call **1300 550 474** or check out our website at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au.

So far Trust funds have been used to rehabilitate hundreds of hectares of floodplain and freshwater wetlands,

remove obstacles to fish movement and rehabilitate riverbanks by removing weeds and replanting native vegetation along hundreds of kilometres of river and to reintroduce large woody debris in some river areas to create habitat for native fish. A small number of Trust funded research projects have investigated fish passage design and methods for improving water flows to wetlands. These projects have resulted in improvements to the aquatic environment that will ultimately benefit recreational fishing.

NSW DPI produces *Newstreams*, a free, bi-monthly, electronic newsletter to keep people up to date with aquatic habitat activities. To subscribe, e-mail Rebecca.lines-kelly@dpi.nsw.gov.au and register.





Reporting suspected illegal activities

Telephone **1300 550 474** to report any suspected illegal activities such as:

- ➔ Machinery working in waterways.
- ➔ Drains being dug through wetlands.
- ➔ Snags being relocated or removed.
- ➔ New weirs, dams or causeways across waterways.
- ➔ New bed or bank stabilisation works within a waterway.
- ➔ New waterfront structures such as jetties and boat ramps being constructed.
- ➔ Discharge of pollutants into waterways.
- ➔ Clearing of riverbank or aquatic vegetation.

Pest species

Pest species threaten biodiversity by competing for food, occupying same habitats and/or preying on native species.

Be on the lookout and report any sightings of pest species on NSW DPI 24-hour aquatic pests line **02 4916 3877** or e-mail aquatic.pests@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Redfin (English perch)

Redfin is a medium sized fish native to northern Europe which has been introduced to Australian waters and is believed responsible in part, for population decline in a number of native species. They are voracious predators of other fish and



can destroy recreational fisheries by both building up numbers in stunted individuals and elimination of other species. Redfin can also devastate native fish populations by carrying the serious disease EHN virus.

A moderate size, relatively elongated fish, redfin can be distinguished by the following features:

- The tail is slightly forked.
- Two distinctly separate dorsal fins, the first with a distinct rear black blotch.
- Six or more broad black vertical bands across the back tapering on the sides.
- The pelvic and anal fins plus the lower margin of the tail are bright reddish orange.
- Olive green to grey on back, greenish to silvery on sides with white belly.



Regardless of their fighting ability and good eating qualities redfin are considered a serious pest in NSW.

- Don't transfer redfin between waterways or introduce them into farm dams.
- Don't use redfin as live bait. It is illegal and risks infecting new areas with the species.
- Don't return redfin to the water. Keep all redfin you catch.
- Prevent unwanted hitchhikers. Keep boats and trailers free of weed to prevent spread of eggs or juveniles.
- Assist in restoring rivers. This helps native species out-compete redfin and other pest fish.
- report any sightings of redfin outside their known distribution by telephoning **02 4916 3877** (24 hour recorded line) or email: aquaticpests@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Carp (European carp)



In high densities carp can contribute to increased water turbidity, nutrient loads and algal concentrations. They also play a part in erosion of stream banks as well as reductions in the numbers and diversity of aquatic plants, native fish and macro-invertebrates.

Along with habitat degradation, poor water quality, reduced environmental flows and barriers to migration, carp have been identified as a major threat to Australia's freshwater fisheries. They should not be returned to the water alive and strict penalties apply for translocation of carp. Live carp may not be used as bait.

Carp vary from olive green or yellow green to golden overall and have silver to yellow markings on the underside. Mirrored specimens with enlarged silver scales along the sides and back can also be present in wild populations.

Translocation by fishers

Pests and diseases can be spread by careless fishing practices. For instance, carp and goldfish have been illegally spread for use as target species or as bait and diseases carried by introduced species have also spread to native fish. Exotic pests and viruses can also be introduced through imported seafood products used as bait. Such practices can have a devastating effect. To limit the spread of pests and disease it is illegal to use live fish as bait in freshwaters and strict penalties apply to the translocation of pest species.



Fishcare volunteer program

Fishcare volunteers are community members involved in face to face education of the recreational fishing community. Volunteers donate their time and effort promoting awareness and advising fishers about the rules and values of sustainable recreational fishing. Volunteers work to educate only: they have no enforcement powers.

Volunteers assist in a range of activities such as fishing workshops, catch surveys, community fishing events and volunteer training. The volunteers are easily identified by their bright blue uniforms.

If you wish to become part of this successful and expanding community program, contact the State Coordinator on **(02) 9527 8411**, or visit our website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Take a kid fishing!

The department runs numerous children's fishing workshops across the state with help from fisheries officers, fishcare volunteers, community groups and fishing club members. The workshops are an excellent way for kids to learn hands-on fishing techniques such as casting, basic knot tying and rigging. Fishing clinics teach young people about good fishing practices and about the importance of protecting fishing resources for future generations. Children also learn about threatened species and aquatic habitats. For more information contact your local fisheries office or call the information number on **1300 550 474**.





Fisheries officers

Fisheries officers play an important part in helping our fisheries resources remain sustainable into the future. They advise recreational and commercial fishers and the general community of fishing rules and restrictions, and patrol NSW waters to ensure everyone is abiding by the State's fisheries laws.

Fisheries officers patrol our inland rivers, streams and dams as well as our coastal estuaries, lakes and offshore waters seven days a week. You'll see fisheries officers at boat ramps, on beaches, in vessels and just about everywhere there are fishers. They deal with recreational fishers, commercial fishers and fish farmers. They also assist with conservation issues and educational programs. Most fisheries officers are keen fishers and are happy to provide you with local knowledge and tips for a given area.

Your fishing fee is being used in part to improve freshwater compliance operations.

Funds have also been dedicated for the lease of new patrol vehicles as well as to purchase vessels and communications equipment. In essence this means there is increased compliance service with officers

in the field more often, with better equipment to detect and deter illegal activity.

Reporting illegal activities

Report illegal or suspect fishing activities to the nearest fisheries office or Fishers Watch Phonenumber on free call

1800 043 536.

When lodging a report please 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

All information provided will be treated, and remain, absolutely confidential.

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



Consuming your catch

Many people enjoy eating their catch. If you intend to do so, you should ensure it is handled correctly to avoid the possibility of illness. This means immediately chilling your catch with ice and always keeping it covered and cold.

Mercury can occur naturally in large predatory fish. For health reasons Food Standards Australia New Zealand advises pregnant women and young children up to 6 years to consume not more than one serving of fish such as shark and billfish per fortnight with no other fish to be consumed during that period.

For more information visit Food Standards Australia New Zealand website at www.foodstandards.gov.au

Recreational harvesting of shellfish

Fast facts

- Shellfish are filter feeders and they sometimes accumulate harmful

substances from the water they filter during feeding.

- Shellfish collected by recreational fishers should never be eaten raw.
- If you do collect shellfish for eating, never collect them after rainfall, from water affected by algae blooms or if the area is closed to harvesting shellfish.
- Boiling will not kill biotoxins already in shellfish

What are Shellfish?

Creatures such as freshwater and saltwater mussels, oysters, pipis and cockles are sometimes referred to as bivalve molluscs or shellfish. They feed by filtering and eating nutrients found in water.

Why can they cause poisoning?

Because shellfish are filter feeders, they occasionally accumulate harmful substances such as biotoxins and microorganisms from the water they filter





during feeding. Biotoxins are harmful natural substances produced by some types of algae which could be present in waterways.

Biotoxins can cause symptoms ranging from diarrhoea to severe respiratory and neurological problems. Harmful microorganisms such as viruses and bacteria might be present in waterways due to run-off from the land, especially after heavy rainfall.

What about commercially harvested shellfish?

In NSW, commercially harvested shellfish must comply with a comprehensive food safety program.

The program is controlled through the NSW Shellfish Program administered by the NSW Food Authority and is a requirement of the Food Production (Seafood Safety Scheme) Regulation 2001. In essence it assists commercial harvesters in controlling the risks associated with harmful substances in order to safeguard public health.

What's the problem if I collect shellfish?

Shellfish collected by recreational fishers should never be eaten raw. This is because recreationally harvested shellfish are not subject to the same strict food safety controls as commercially harvested product. Consequently, the NSW Food Authority recommends eating only shellfish harvested commercially under a recognised Program.

How can I reduce the risk of food poisoning from shellfish I harvest?

If you do collect shellfish for eating, you should never collect shellfish:

After rainfall. Periods after rainfall are especially high risk for shellfish collection. Waiting several days after water has cleared (the muddy look has gone) following rainfall will reduce the risk of bacterial and viral contamination.

From water affected by algae blooms. Algae can appear as red water discolourations, including green, yellow, brownish and an oily or milky appearance. Other blooms can show no discolouration but be highly toxic at low levels. Always check signs and local media for information on algal alerts.

If the area is closed to shellfish harvesting by NSW DPI.

For further information on NSW DPI closures contact 1300 550 474 or visit the website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au.

Boiling Shellfish will not kill biotoxins!

It is important to remember that boiling will not destroy or remove biotoxins which might be present in shellfish. Eating shellfish contaminated with biotoxins may result in serious illness or death.

This information is provided by the NSW Food Authority.

For more information phone 1300 552 406, email: contact@foodauthority.nsw.gov.au or visit www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au



Inland offices

Area	Address	Phone
Central Tablelands	Research Station Drive, Bathurst, 2795	02 6331 1428
Far West	425 Blende Street, Broken Hill, 2880	08 8087 6483
Hume	3/556 Macauley Street, Albury, 2640	02 6042 4228
Lower Murray	Agricultural Research and Advisory Station, Silver City Highway, Dareton, 2717	03 5019 8400
Macquarie	30 Warne Street, Wellington, 2820	02 6845 4438
Monaro	Kosciusko Road, Jindabyne, 2627	02 6451 3404
Narrandera	Buckingbong Road, Narrandera, 2700	02 6959 9066
New England	127 Otho Street, Inverell, 2360	02 6722 1129
Peel	72 Gunnedah Road, Tamworth, 2340	02 6765 4591
Riverina	449 Charlotte Street, Deniliquin, 2710	03 5881 6036
Tumut	64 Fitzroy Street, Tumut, 2720	02 6947 9028
Yass	25 Warroo Road, Yass, 2582	02 6226 3867

As officers spend a lot of time in the field, office hours vary. It is best to call before visiting any office.

For general fishing information, call the information line on 1300 550 474 or visit the website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

Please report illegal fishing activities to your local fisheries office or call the Fishers' Watch Phoneline on 1800 043 536.