
Department of Primary Industries
and Regional Development

NSW Recreational Freshwater Fishing Guide



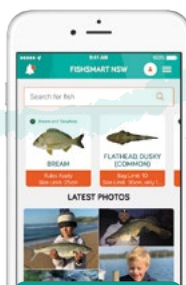
Check out the app: **FishSmart**

Download on the
App Store

ANDROID APP ON
Google play

Did you know DPI has a free app that provides recreational fishers with 24/7 access to essential information they need to know to fish in NSW, such as:

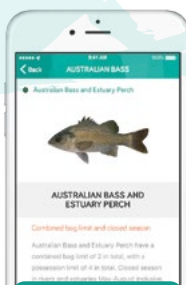
- a pictorial guide of common recreational species, bag & size limits, closed seasons and fishing gear rules
- record and keep your own catch log and opt to have your best fish pictures selected to feature in our in-app gallery
- real-time maps to locate nearest FADs (Fish Aggregation Devices), artificial reefs, Recreational Fishing Havens and Marine Park Zones
- local weather, tide, moon phase and barometric pressure to help choose best time to fish
- guides on spearfishing, fishing safely, trout fishing, regional fishing
- DPI contact for reporting illegal fishing, fish kills, pest species etc. and local Fisheries Offices
- DPI Facebook news.



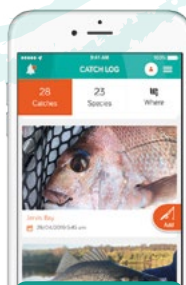
Welcome to FishSmart!
See featured fishing
photos



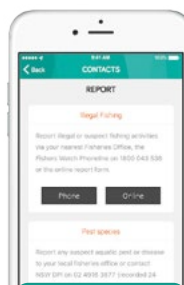
See your location in
relation to FADs,
Marine Park Zones,
RFHs & more



Check the bag and
size limits for popular
species



Store all your
catches in your
very own Catch Log



Contact Fisheries –
Report illegal
fishing & more

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A saltwater recreational fishing guide is also available.

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

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

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Sign up for Newscast—an information bulletin for NSW recreational fishers at <http://eepurl.com/pKIHT>

Cover image—DPIRD Fisheries Learn to Fish Event

A HEALTHY FISHING FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS

By fishing responsibly, you can safeguard fish stocks and protect the places we love to fish. When you hold a current recreational fishing licence, your fee contribution is used for improving local facilities like cleaning tables and enhancing waterways by stocking fish and restoring habitat.

**FISH
FOR LIFE
NSW**

BUILDING A HEALTHY
FISHING FUTURE



Live for Fishing. Fish for Life. Learn more at

WWW.DPI.NSW.GOV.AU/FISHFORLIFE



NSW Recreational Fishing Fee



When do I need to pay?

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

In freshwater it applies when fishing in inland (non-tidal) waters of NSW. This also applies when in possession of fishing gear in, on or adjacent to waters. It does not apply when fishing in a dam on private land if the surface area of the body of water at full capacity does not exceed 2 hectares.

State boundaries— inland waters

NSW inland waters boundaries include the whole of the Murray River to the South Australian border (excluding the waters of Lake Hume), all parts of Lake Mulwala from Yarrawonga Weir wall upstream to the point where the Ovens River enters the Murray River at Bundalong boat ramp. Note: Hume Weir is managed by the Victorian Fisheries Authority. Victorian fishing laws apply when fishing in Lake Hume on the Murray River arm upstream to the junction with Seven Mile Creek and on the Mitta Mitta River arm upstream to its source. See **Fishing rules for Lakes Hume and Mulwala** (nsw.gov.au) for more information. A midstream border applies when fishing on the NSW side of the Dumaresq, MacIntyre and Barwon Rivers (NSW/QLD border).

Where do I pay the fee?

You can pay at many outlets throughout NSW, such as most fishing tackle shops, select caravan parks, local shops, service stations, DPIRD offices, the FishSmart app and via Service NSW website www.service.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 660 432.

How much is the fee?

- ▶ \$7 for 3 days
- ▶ \$14 for 1 month
- ▶ \$35 for 1 year
- ▶ \$85 for 3 years



Digital fee receipt on your phone

If you own a smartphone you can now link your NSW Fishing Fee Receipt with the Service NSW smartphone app which will enable you to hold a digital fishing fee receipt on your smartphone. www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/get-started-digital-licences

How do I obtain a plastic receipt?

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

Interstate and overseas visitors

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

Exemptions:

- ▶ Persons under the age of 18.
- ▶ An adult assisting persons under the age of 18 to take fish using a single rod per child or to take Prawns using a single dip or scoop net per child.
- ▶ A person fishing in a private dam with a surface area of two hectares or less.
- ▶ An Aboriginal person.

The holder of:

- ▶ A current Pensioner Concession Card issued by Centrelink.
- ▶ A current Pensioner Concession Card issued by the Department of Veterans' Affairs.
- ▶ Department of Veterans' Affairs Veteran Gold Card printed with 'TPI' (Totally and Permanently Incapacitated).
- ▶ Department of Veterans' Affairs Veteran Gold Card printed with 'EDA' (Extreme Disablement Adjustment).
- ▶ Letter or statement from the Department of Veterans' Affairs stating the person receives a Veterans' Entitlement Act 1986 (VEA) Disability Compensation Payment (formerly known as a Disability Pension)

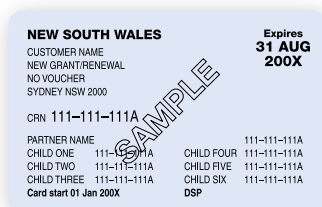
at the 70% rate or higher, or is eligible for Special Rate Disability Pension (SRDP) under the Military Rehabilitation And Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA).

These exemptions only apply to the primary card holder.

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

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

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



Replacement fee receipt

Cost for a replacement fee receipt is \$8.00. Call **02 4424 7499** or **1300 660 436** to obtain a replacement. For digital fee replacement, no fee applies for this option.

Where do my fishing fees go?

Recreational fishing trusts

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

Examples of some trust funded projects are provided as follows. To see more of your licence fees at work, follow us on Facebook or sign up to our e-newsletter—Newscast.

Want to apply for funding?

Anyone can apply for funding from the trusts to improve recreational fishing.

More information and the application package can be found on the website at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/recreational-fishing-fee/licence-fees-at-work/apply-for-funds or phone (02) 4429 7428 or e-mail recreational.fishingtrust@dpi.nsw.gov.au

More facilities for fishers

Funding grants are available for fishing clubs, local councils and community groups to improve recreational fishing facilities including fish cleaning tables, fishing platforms and other infrastructure.

Ensure your local group gets involved!



Habitat action program

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

Did you know that around 500 projects have been funded by licence fees for fish habitat restoration?



Fisheries officers

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



Essential Recreational Fisheries Research

- ▶ Improving effectiveness of freshwater stocking.
- ▶ Research on freshwater fish species.
- ▶ Monitoring of angler catch,
- ▶ Hydroacoustic surveys, socio-economic studies.

For more information on freshwater research check out www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/fresh-rec-fish-research.

Eco huts

The Eco Fishing Huts program is a unique initiative by the NSW Government to develop wilderness fishing opportunities in national parks and other areas across the State.

The DPIRD in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) has developed a network of Eco Fishing Huts at inland and coastal locations to provide affordable access for holders of a current NSW recreational fishing licence (or be eligible for an exemption) to a range of fresh and saltwater sportfishing opportunities.

To start planning your next fishing trip, check out the website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/eco-huts.

The Eco Fishing Huts initiative is another example of recreational fishing fees being used to enhance opportunities for fishers.



Fishing Education

Ever thought of becoming a Fishcare Volunteer?

If you have a passion for fishing and you'd like to get involved, why not think about becoming a Fishcare Volunteer?

The Fishcare program has over 250 motivated volunteers and six dedicated education officers across NSW who teach the community all about fish and sustainable fishing in NSW.

Volunteers provide face to face and hands-on education to anglers on the ground through fishing workshops and assisting with our schools program 'Get Hooked... It's Fun to Fish', as well as providing advisory on the water, at boat ramps, field days and events!



Who can become a volunteer?

If you are over 18 years of age, have a passion for fish or fishing and can assist around one day per month, you can apply to become a volunteer!

Our volunteers range in age from students to retirees, and come from a great range of backgrounds.

You'll be involved in helping create better awareness among anglers and the wider community about fishing issues, but you won't have enforcement powers.

For more information, please visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries or if you think this sounds like you and you would like to apply, send us an email at fishcare@dpi.nsw.gov.au.



Get Hooked: It's Fun to Fish schools program

A FREE school education program is teaching students in both primary and high schools across NSW about safe, responsible and sustainable fishing. This includes visiting schools and conducting in class lessons as well as running fun fishing workshops which enable students to put into practice skills learned during their Get Hooked class lessons.

Is your local school involved in this free program? More information can be found on our website or by emailing gethooked.fisheries@dpi.nsw.gov.au.



Fish stocking

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

Trust funds boost production of native fish and Trout in DPIRD fish hatcheries at Narrandera, Port Stephens, Grafton, Jindabyne and Ebor for public stocking.

Approximately two million Golden Perch, Murray Cod, Silver Perch and Australian Bass plus approximately three million Trout and Salmon are stocked by the hatcheries into inland rivers or dams each year. The enhanced community recreational fisheries program provides funding for community groups to stock their local waterways with native fish.

Annual fish stocking figures Government hatcheries

2019/20*	2,936,330
2020/21	4,616,769
2021/22	5,031,783
2022/23	5,531,095
2023/24	5,365,976

* drought year



Enhanced community recreational fisheries program

Each year stocking groups are also invited to apply for funds from the Recreational Fishing Trust to assist in stocking Australian Bass, Golden Perch and Murray Cod into public waterways in NSW on a two-dollar-for-one-dollar basis. Two dollars is provided from the Recreational Fishing Trust for every \$1 raised by groups to stock native fish in local waterways. Funding conditions apply. For more information check out the website at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/stocking/ECRF or keep an eye on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/NSWDPIFishes.

The enhanced community recreational fisheries program is another great example of your fishing fees at work!





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.

For more information or to book a tour call:



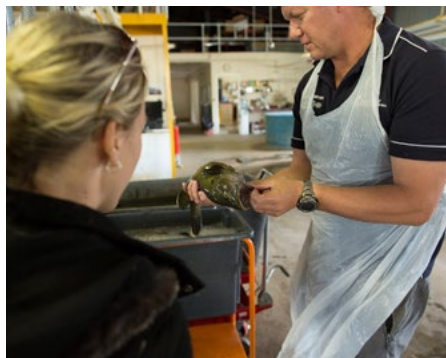
▶ Gaden Hatchery
Snowy Mountains
02 6451 3400



▶ Dutton Hatchery
New England
Tablelands
02 6775 9139



▶ John Lake Centre
Narrandera
02 6958 8200



Fish stocking permit

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

To apply for a fish stocking permit email fish.stocking@dpi.nsw.gov.au. A fish stocking permit is not required for stocking fish into farm dams.





Responsible fishing

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

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

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

Catching and releasing fish

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

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

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

Maximising fish survival

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

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



Other practices to help increase survival

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



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

How to use circle hooks

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

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



Barotrauma

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

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

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

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

DIY release weight



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

More information on these techniques is available under best practice at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/dpi/fishing/recreational-fishing/responsible-fishing

Angler Access

NSW boasts an array of fantastic fishing opportunities in rivers, streams and lakes across the State. Many of these spots are easily accessed and are perfect for relaxed family fishing. To help ensure fishing access is maintained for future generations, DPIRD encourages all fishers to abide by the Angler Access Code of Conduct.

Angling Access Code of Conduct

- 1. Do not trespass. If unsure about access, always ask for consent before fishing.
- 2. Always access waterways legally.
- 3. Do not disturb stock, crops or farm equipment.
- 4. Use “Angler Access” marked paths, gates or fence stiles.
- 5. Practice courtesy and respect towards others.
- 6. Report any environmental damage, illegal fishing or pollution.
- 7. Remove all your rubbish, including fishing lines, packaging and hooks.
- 8. Comply with all fishing regulations.
- 9. Carefully return undersized, protected or unwanted fish back to the water.



Map of Public Fishing Spots

The DPIRD has developed an online mapping tool to assist you in choosing locations to enjoy quality fishing. These locations are based on the NSW public land system and are managed by a variety of organisations such as local councils, Local Land Services and other government agencies. Information on this map is put together through spatial analysis, consultation with fishing organisations and field verification by DPIRD staff and other stakeholders. The sites shown should be seen as a starting point to plan a fishing adventure with family and friends.

Scan the QR code below to access the DPIRD Fisheries online mapping tool.



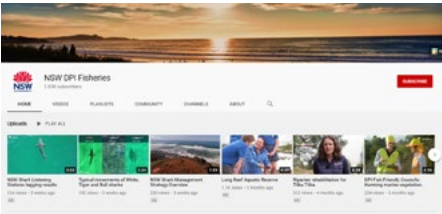
Catch and release mats for recreational fishers

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

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

Online resources

To find out more about catch and release fishing, tackle tips, and how to protect our marine environment be sure to visit the DPIRD Youtube channel at www.youtube.com/user/NSWFisheries/videos to find more informative resources.



Converting fish lengths to weights

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

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

Australian Bass



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

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

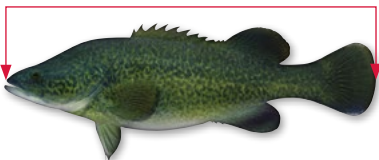
Golden Perch



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

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

Murray Cod



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

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

Trout and Salmon



Rainbow Trout



Brown Trout



Brook Trout



Atlantic Salmon



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

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

Reducing bird interactions

Where possible, avoid or be particularly alert of bird attention when fishing, as birds may attempt to take a bait when lines are cast, or may become tangled in your line. Using lures may reduce the risk of interactions. Keep your distance when fishing near fish-cleaning tables or nesting areas, so as not to disturb birds that are present.

Fishing safely

Basic safety tips include:

- ▶ Plan ahead. Always let friends or family know where you are going and when you will be back and leave a plan of your route if possible.
- ▶ Fish with a mate or two. Having someone nearby makes good sense in case of accident or injury.
- ▶ When fishing in potentially hazardous locations such as those located near areas of fast moving water always wear a lifejacket. Carrying ropes and torches may be useful and it may also be appropriate to wear non-slip shoes.
- ▶ Never enter the water to retrieve lost tackle or snagged fish. If the location looks dangerous, don't fish there.
- ▶ Take a communication device. A mobile phone is a good standby if you are within range. No matter which service provider you are with, 000 will connect you with emergency services from a mobile phone. Consider buying or hiring an emergency beacon for back country trips.
- ▶ Observe first, fish later. Always check weather and water conditions before you start fishing and be aware that conditions may change dramatically in a short period of time.
- ▶ Keep yourself warm and dry and leave the water if you start to feel cold to avoid hypothermia.
- ▶ Ask for advice from locals who know the waterways. They will always tell you when an area is dangerous.

- ▶ Make sure nobody is behind you when you cast. Put away sharp objects such as filleting knives and hooks.
- ▶ Slow down to less than 10 knots within 30m of other powered vessels, structures or the shoreline, or whenever within 60m of persons in the water or unpowered vessels. Always keep a proper lookout and do not cross close ahead of large vessels.

Fishing safely DVDs funded by the recreational fishing trusts and the Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW are available free of charge. Check website www.safefishing.com.au for details.

Wader safety

Basic wader safety tips include:

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

Safe boating

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

Key safe boating tips include:

- ▶ You must comply with all Transport NSW requirements including lifejacket wearing rules. For full details of changes to NSW boating laws from 1 December 2015, visit roads-waterways.transport.nsw.gov.au/maritime.
- ▶ Ensure the vessel is in a fit condition and fuel tanks full. Check batteries beforehand and run the auxiliary motor periodically.
- ▶ Ensure the vessel is fully equipped for emergencies.
- ▶ Know how the safety gear works. Make sure everyone knows where it is stowed and how to use it.
- ▶ Always let someone know where you are going and your expected time of return.
- ▶ Take plenty of food and water.
- ▶ Wear non-slip shoes and take waterproof jackets and warm clothing.
- ▶ If possible, fish with another vessel. In an emergency the other can help or radio for help.
- ▶ If a front approaches, or the weather changes suddenly, head back to shore.

Boating on inland waters

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

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

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

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

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

Food safety

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

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

Tips for fishing

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

Tips for safe eating

- ▶ Always cook your recreational catch thoroughly. Take precautions when eating raw shellfish which has been collected recreationally as they are not subject to the same strict food safety controls as commercially harvested shellfish.
- ▶ Don't eat fish which have washed up on shorelines. Mass fish kills can sometimes mean numbers of dead or dying fish along the shoreline. The cause of death is often unknown and eating these fish can be a health risk.
- ▶ Remember that cooking will not destroy or remove toxins which might be present in species caught in poor quality waters. Eating catch contaminated with toxins can result in serious illness or death.

'Red alert' algal warnings and visible blooms

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

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

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

For further background on algal blooms go to www.waternsw.com.au/water-services/water-quality/algae

Fishing closures

Do not take any species listed in a DPIRD closure. For further information visit: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/closures/summary-fw-closures.

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

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

For further information on waters closed to fishing visit: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/closures/general-freshwater-fishing-closures.

PFAS

PFAS are a group of chemicals that include perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). PFAS are an emerging contaminant, which means that their ecological and/or human health effects are unclear. NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) is leading the NSW Government response and investigations into PFAS contamination at a range of sites.

There are a number of waterways in NSW affected by PFAS. For further information check updated fishing and dietary advice available on the DPIRD or NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) websites. www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/pfas-response, www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/contaminated-land/pfas-investigation-program.

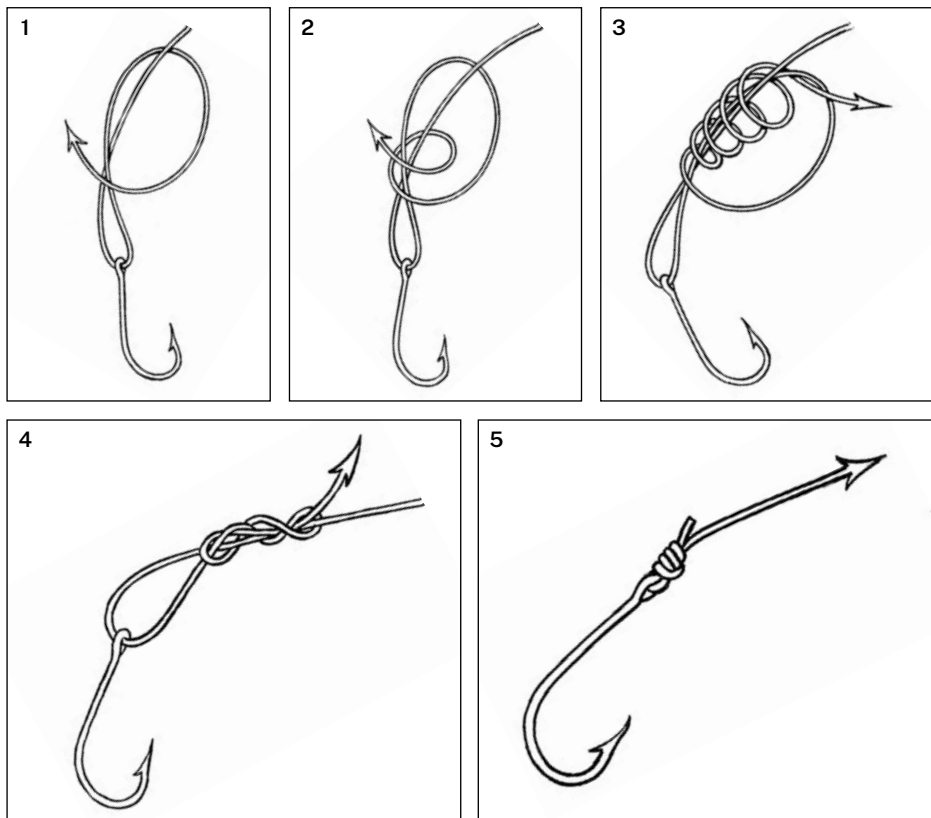
Local recreational fishing guides

Local guides provide valuable information on fishing in inland or coastal NSW. Whether you are a resident or a visiting fisher you can find details on fishing locations, local fishing rules and closures along with summary maps in the local areas on our website at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/info.

Knots and rigs

Uni knot for tying on hooks

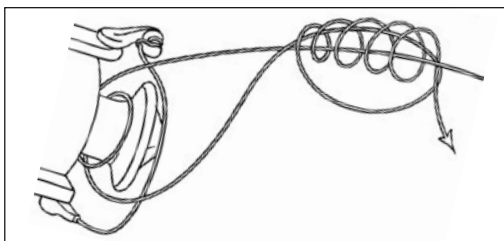
Uni knots are useful for tying small hooks, rings or swivels on to light lines, a frequent requirement in freshwater fishing, because the knot may be formed some distance from the hook and slid into place when formed.



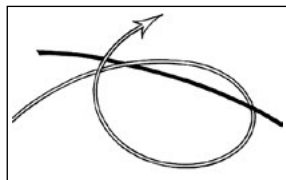
1. Thread the line through the eye of the hook, ring or swivel, and encircle the main line with the tag to form the configuration shown. **2.** Wrap the tag around both the returning tag and main line, but inside the encircling loop made by the tag. **3.** Make four to six wraps in this manner. **4.**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

Uni knot for tying line on to your reel

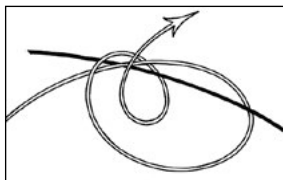
First wrap the line around the spool of your reel, at least once, then tie a standard uni knot with four wraps. Then slide the knot down on to the spool of your reel.



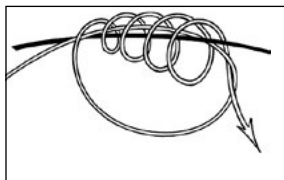
Double uni knot for joining lines



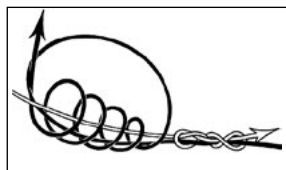
1. Overlap the lines to be joined then encircle one line with the tag of the other.



2. Wrap the double strand inside the formed loop.



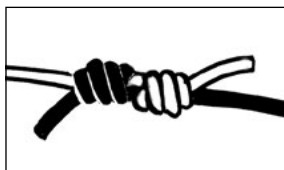
3. Make four wraps in all.



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



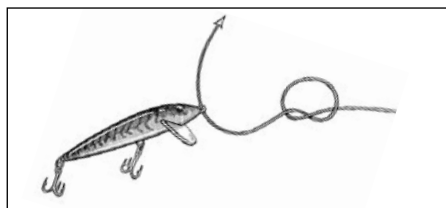
5. Moisten the line and tighten each knot in turn.



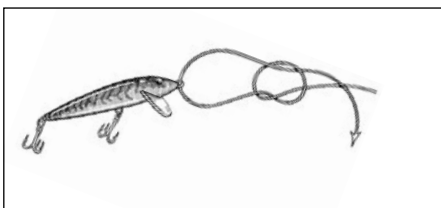
6. Draw the knots together, tighten once more, then trim the tags.

Perfection loop

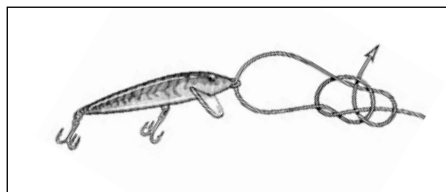
Of many loops used to attach flies and lures, the perfection loop is favoured because it lays relatively straight and does not point out to the side. It is tricky to tie so follow the instructions carefully.



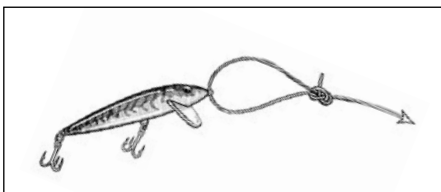
1. Make a simple overhand knot in the leader and thread the tag through the eye of the lure or fly.



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



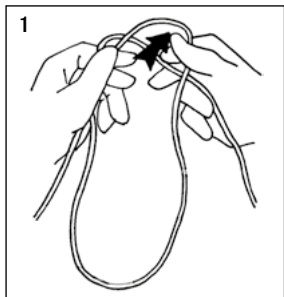
3. Now bend the tag back so it goes back up through the knot as shown. The sequence is over, over, under, over, under.



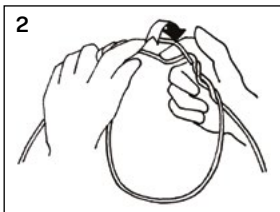
4. Moisten the knot before pulling tight. Trim the tag.

Dropper loop

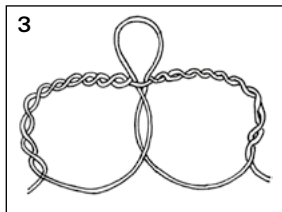
This is a loop which can be used to attach a hook or leader anywhere along a length of line.



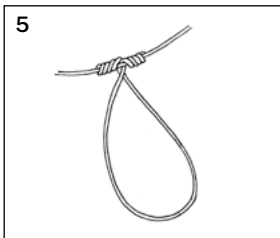
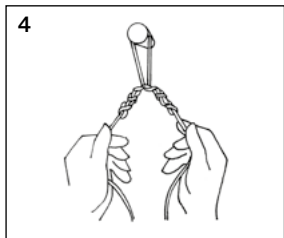
1. Make a loop where the dropper is to be. Then cross the main line to form a second smaller loop.



2. Twist the smaller loop from both ends but alternate the twisting and holding between hands.



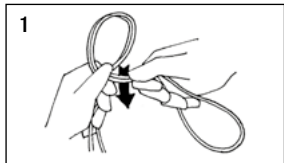
3. Make six complete twists (braid line) or four complete twists (monofilament). Then thread the larger loop through the middle of the smaller loop you have twisted.



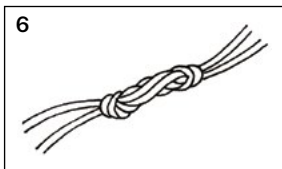
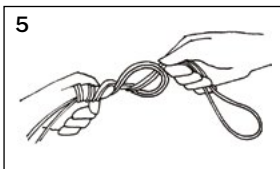
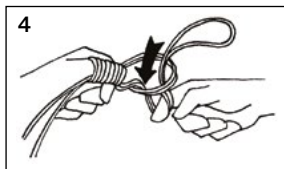
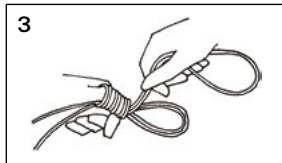
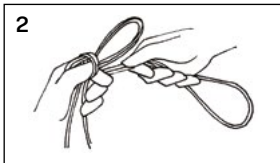
4 and 5. Slip the knot around something solid. Moisten the knot before pulling tight. Take care not to shear off either side. The finished knot will be strong enough for most fishing needs.

Spider hitch

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



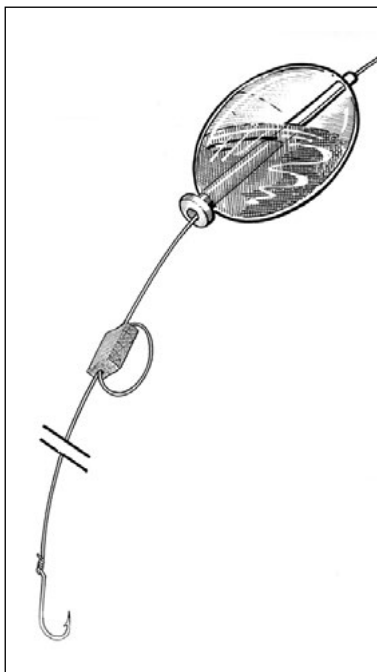
1. Determine your double or end loop size, twist a second loop just above the tag end and hold between left thumb and forefinger. **2.** Wind the double around your thumb **3.** Make four or five complete wraps.



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

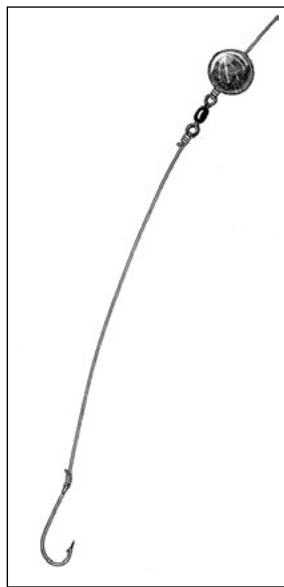
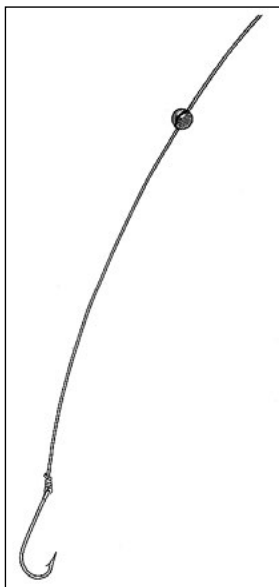
Bubble floats

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



Useful rigs

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

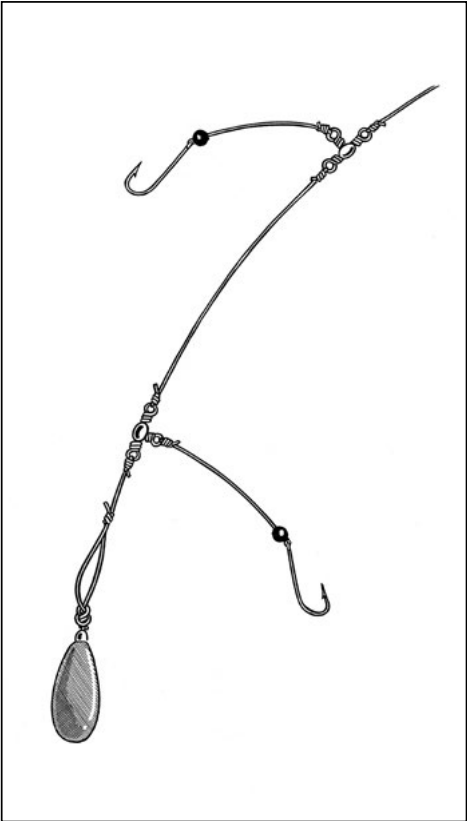
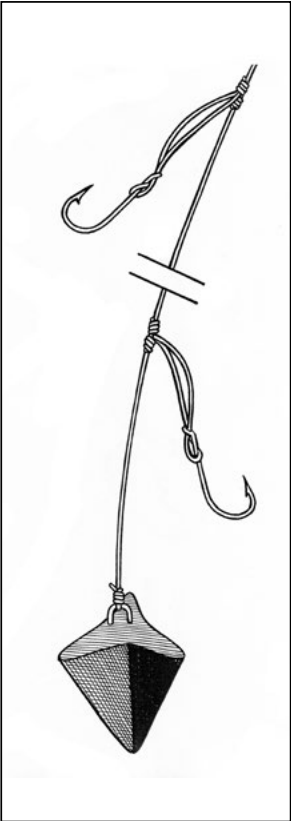


Fixed sinker rigs

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

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

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



Common baits

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

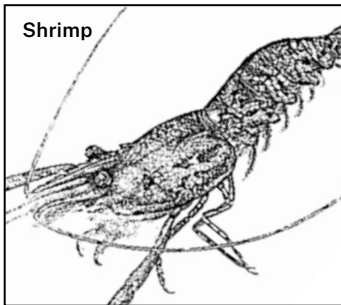
Mudeyes



Grasshoppers



Shrimp



Earthworms



Bardi



Yabbies



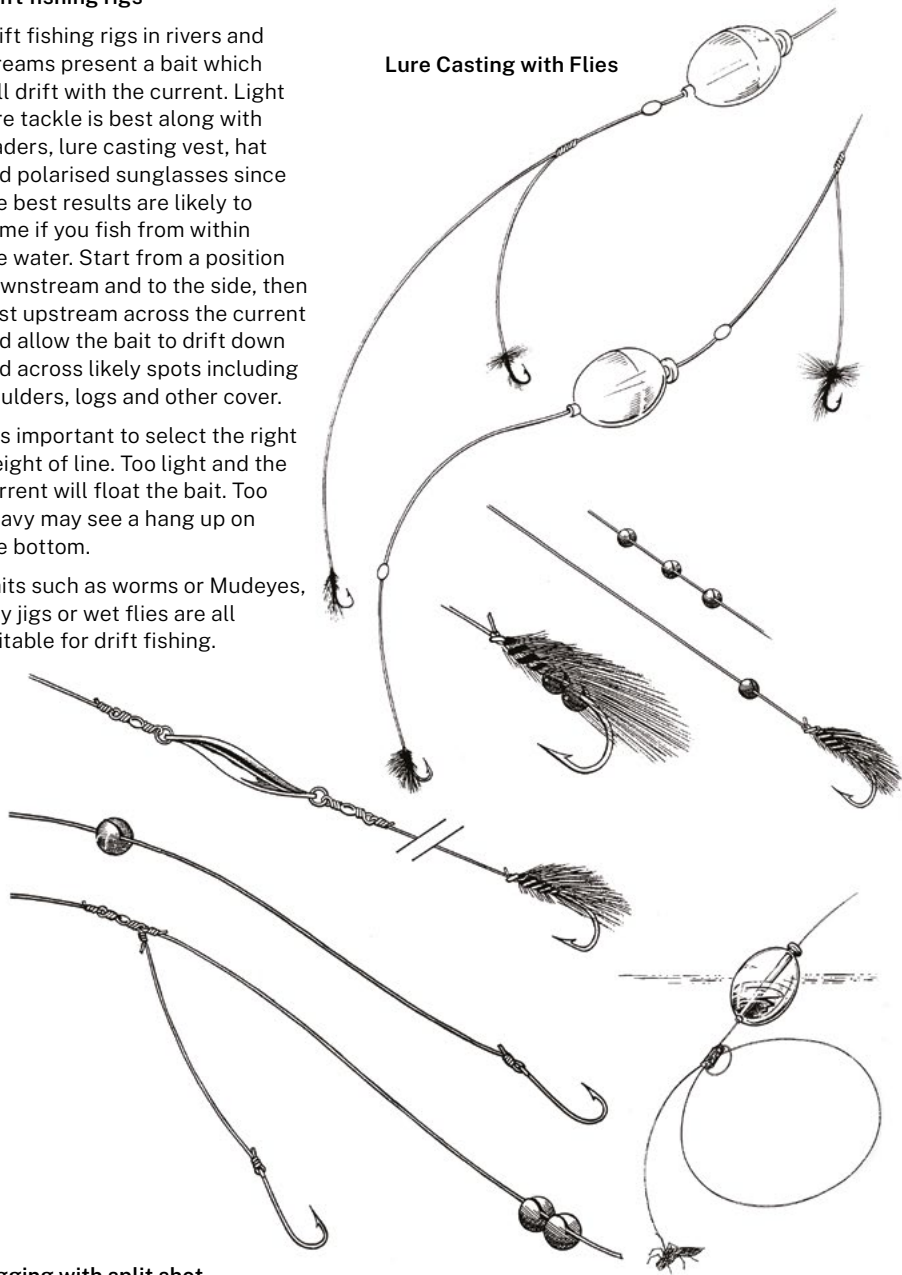
Drift fishing rigs

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

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

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

Lure Casting with Flies



Rigging with split shot

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

Bubble float

Bubble float rigged with stopper and Mudeye bait.

Fish identification and measurement

Most families of fish have several different species which can make identification difficult. It is important to know exactly what fish you catch as different regulations may apply to different species. Various reference books are available which clearly outline a fish's defining characteristics. Some NSW species look quite similar. The following tips have been prepared to help identify popular species from similar looking fish.

Australian Bass

Snout length shorter than Estuary Perch.

Snout profile — slightly concave to straight.

Pelvic fin white at leading margin.

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

Estuary Perch

Snout profile — concave.

Dark grey and silvery on back, paler below.

Snout tapered and elongated (longer than bass).

All fins dark.

Spiny Crayfish and Yabbies

- ▶ All *Euastacus* crayfish species have a set of spines along the bottom of the claws, making recognition relatively easy.
- ▶ Species of *Euastacus* crayfish can often be confused with the common yabby.
- ▶ *Euastacus* crayfish can also generally be distinguished from a yabby by its larger size and the presence of short robust spikes on its claws, carapace and abdomen. Yabbies are smooth shelled.

Cherax Crayfish 'Yabbies'



Smooth, no spines

Euastacus Crayfish 'Spinies'



Rough, with spines

Golden Perch and Silver Perch

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

Golden Perch

Concave head.

Olive green colouration.

Protruding lower jaw.

Rounded tail.

Silver Perch

Small head, eyes.

Darker silvery complexion on back.

Concave tail.

Jaws equal length.

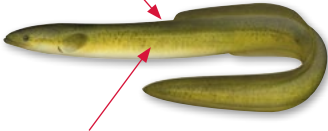
White belly.

Southern Shortfin and Longfin Eels

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

Longfin Eel

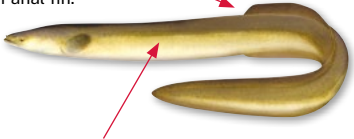
Dorsal fin extends markedly forward of anal fin.



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

Southern Shortfin Eel

Dorsal fin extends a little forward of anal fin.



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

Eastern Freshwater Cod, Trout Cod and Murray Cod

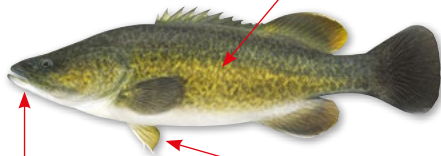
The Eastern Freshwater Cod was once common in north-eastern NSW but wild spawned fish are now considered rare. Eastern Freshwater Cod look similar to Murray Cod and Mary River Cod. They can vary from pale green to golden with heavy black or green convoluted mottling. The pelvic fin is clear and relatively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

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

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

Eastern Cod

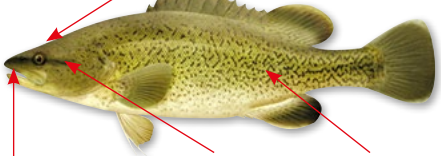
Convoluted mottling.



Lower jaw protrudes. Pelvic fin clear.

Trout Cod

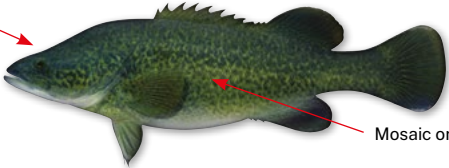
Straight-convex forehead.



Overhanging upper jaw. Stripe through eye. Spotted marking.

Murray Cod

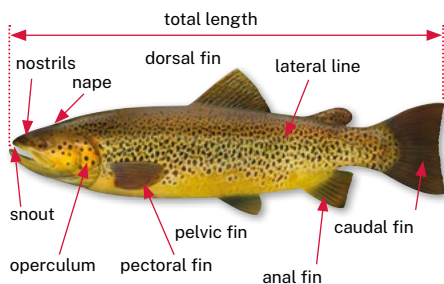
Concave forehead.



Shorter snout. Mosaic or marbled marking.

How to measure the legal length of fish and invertebrates

Finfish



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

Measuring a Murray crayfish



Murray Crayfish have a minimum size limit of 10cm and a maximum size limit of 12cm. The minimum size limit reflects the size at which Murray Crayfish can spawn before being caught. The maximum size limit protects larger Murray Crayfish, ensuring there are sufficient large adults for recruitment within the fishery. Your catch of Murray Crayfish must be measured immediately after capture.

Murray Crayfish are measured in a straight line from the rear of the eye socket to the centre of the rear of the carapace which includes the rib at the rear of the carapace but does not include the fine hairs that protrude from it. The DPIRD provides free Murray Crayfish measuring devices, which can be used to assist in measuring Murray Crayfish caught to ensure they are of legal size. Measuring devices can also be obtained from DPIRD Fisheries offices (refer to the

Fisheries Officers contact details section of the guide). Carrying a measuring device when fishing for Murray Crayfish is recommended.



Fish bag limits, size limits

Why have bag and size limits?

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

Explanation of terms

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

Bag limit: The maximum number of fish taken per person per day. (Day is equal to the 24-hour period from midnight to midnight).

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

Australian Bass and Estuary Perch

Legal length: None.

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

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

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

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

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



Eels: Southern Shortfin and Longfin

Southern Shortfin

Legal length: 30cm.

Bag limit: 10.

Possession limit: 10.

Longfin

Legal length: 58cm.

Bag limit: 10.

Possession limit: 10.

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

Good baits: Fish pieces and earthworms.



Freshwater Catfish (Eel-Tailed)

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

Bag limit: 5 in eastern dams.

and listed western dams, 2 in eastern rivers.

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

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

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

Closure: Freshwater Catfish (Eel-Tailed) may not be taken in western rivers and unlisted western dams (see page 42 for dams where Freshwater Catfish may be taken). Listed as an endangered population in the Murray-Darling Basin.



Golden Perch

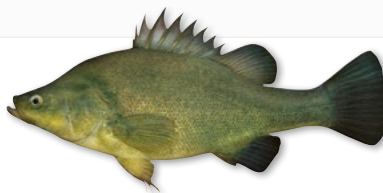
Legal length: 30cm.

Bag limit: 5.

Possession limit: 10.

Habitat: Throughout the Murray-Darling system.

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



Murray Cod

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

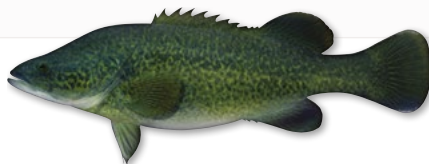
Bag limit: 2.

Possession limit: 4.

Habitat: Throughout the Murray-Darling system.

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

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



Silver Perch

Legal length: 25cm in listed stocked dams.

Bag limit: 5 in listed stocked dams.

Possession limit: 10 in listed stocked dams.

Habitat: Uncommon in rivers. Common in stocked dams.

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

Closure: Silver Perch must not be taken from all rivers and their tributaries and unlisted dams (see page 42 for lists of dams where Silver Perch may be taken).



Other native finfish (except threatened species)

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



Murray Crayfish

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

Bag limit: 2.

Possession limit: 4.

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

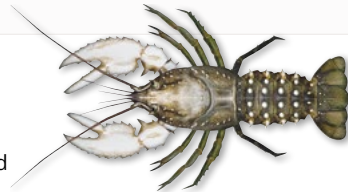
Good baits: Fish heads, chicken gut.

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

- (a) Murrumbidgee River and tributaries between the Hume Highway road bridge, Gundagai and 100m upstream of the weir face at Berembend Weir near Ganmain, excluding Old Man Creek.
- (b) Murray River and tributaries from 130 metres below Hume Weir near Albury to the Newell Highway road bridge at Tocumwal.

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

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



Other Spiny Crayfish (eastern freshwater)

Legal length: 9cm.

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

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

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

Good baits: Fish heads, chicken gut.

Closure: No taking from trout waters.

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

Note: The Fitzroy Falls Spiny Crayfish is a totally protected species and cannot be taken. Fishers taking Yabbies and Spiny Crayfish in upland regions should familiarise themselves with identification of each species as bag and size limits differ significantly.



Yabbies: freshwater

Legal length: None.

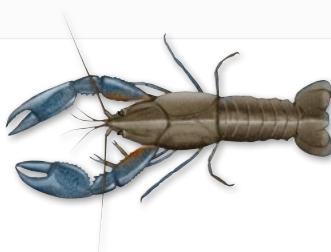
Bag limit: 200 in total.

Possession limit: 200 in total.

Habitat: Central and western NSW waters.

Good baits: Fish heads, chicken gut.

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



Trout and Salmon

See page 44 for full details of listed trout waters.

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

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

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

Habitat: Cool freshwater mountain streams and lakes.

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

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



Rainbow Trout



Brown Trout



Brook Trout



Atlantic Salmon

Summary of permitted lines and hooks

Non tidal waters (fishing technique)	Maximum attended lines permitted for use	Maximum hooks per line permitted	Maximum attended lines permitted in possession
General inland waters, excluding trout waters (artificial flies, lures, bait)	2 (handlines or rods and lines)	2	2 (bait) or 4 (rigged with artificial flies or lures only, with only 2 in use at any time)
General trout streams (artificial flies, lures, bait)	2 (rods and lines only, no handlines)	2	2 (bait) or 4 (rigged with artificial flies or lures only, with only 2 in use at any time)
General trout dams (artificial flies, lures, bait)	2 (rods and lines only, no handlines)	2 (bait) 3 (artificial flies, lures)	2 (bait) or 4 (rigged with artificial flies or lures only, with only 2 in use at any time)
Artificial fly and lure dams (artificial flies, lures only, no bait)	1 (rods and lines only, no handlines)	3	3 (rigged with artificial flies or lures only, with only 1 in use at any time)
Artificial fly and lure streams, trout spawning streams (artificial flies, lures only, no bait)	1 (rods and lines only, no handlines)	2	3 (rigged with artificial flies or lures only, with only 1 in use at any time)

Note: Attended lines must be within 50m and in your line of sight. A hook includes a single hook, double hook or treble hook. Up to three (3) treble hooks attached to any artificial fly or lure is permitted. You cannot use more than the maximum number of hooks permitted per attended line or leave lines unattended.



Permitted fishing gear and methods

Line fishing

General inland waters

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



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



Bait, artificial fly and lure fishing is permitted.

Up to 2 single hooks per attended line or up to 2 lures per attended line, with up to 3 treble hooks attached to each lure is permitted.



Trout waters

Handlines are not permitted in trout waters.

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



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



Artificial fly and lure waters (streams and dams)

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

General trout dams

Fishing with bait*, artificial flies and lures permitted (*see Permitted baits section on page 33).



Up to 2 rods and lines permitted.

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



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

General trout streams

Fishing with bait, artificial flies and lures permitted.



Only 1 rod and line permitted.



Streams: Up to 2 single hooks per line permitted.

Dams: Up to 3 single hooks per line permitted.

Trout spawning streams

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



Only 1 rod and line permitted.



Up to 2 single hooks per line permitted.

Possession of fishing lines

General inland waters: Fishers using bait in non-tidal waters cannot use or have in their possession more than 2 attended lines at any time. A person may possess up to 4 attended lines rigged with artificial fly and lures only, with only 2 attended lines in use at any time. General trout streams and dams: A person may possess up to 4 attended rods and lines rigged with artificial fly and lures only, with only 2 attended lines in use at any time. Bait fishers cannot use or have in their possession more than 2 attended lines at any time. Handlines are prohibited.

Artificial fly and lure streams and dams and trout spawning streams: A person may possess up to 3 attended rods and lines rigged with artificial fly and lures only with only 1 attended rod and line in use at any time. Bait fishing is prohibited. Handlines are prohibited.

Permitted baits

The following baits may be used to take Atlantic Salmon or trout: natural flies or insects or their larvae, worms, Shrimps, Yabbies, Mussels, artificial baits (except products containing Trout and Salmon roe) and plant matter.

Nets and traps

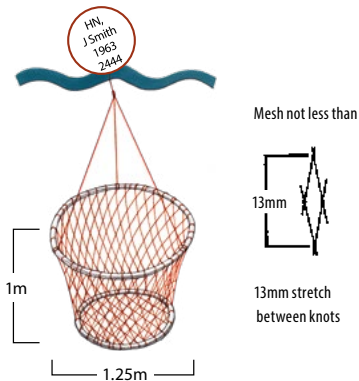
Use common sense when placing your set fishing gear. Do not set in areas of high boat traffic or navigation channels. To minimise the risk of entanglement by people or boats, any buoy rope used to mark set fishing gear must be as short as practical.

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

Specific closures or restrictions may prohibit the use of, or limit the number of nets and traps (see the “Fishing closures and restrictions” section of the guide for more information on page 63).

Hoop or Lift net

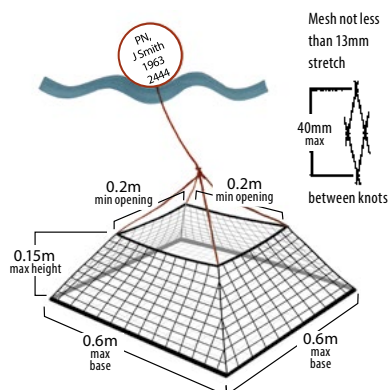
- ▶ Maximum dimensions: Net attached with not more than 2 hoops, rings or frames attached to the net, but not attached to each other by any rigid frame. Drop of net (inclusive of hoops, rings or frames) not more than 1m. Greatest diameter or diagonal of the hoops, rings or frames not exceeding 1.25m.
- ▶ Mesh size: Mesh not less than 13mm.
- ▶ Maximum number: Up to a total of 5 comprised of either hoop/lift nets or open pyramid lift nets or a combination of both.
- ▶ Identification: The buoy must have the letters HN, initial and surname, year of birth and postcode, 15mm in height, clearly visible and in a contrasting colour to the buoy. Any rope attached to the buoy must not be floating on the surface of the water.



- ▶ Maximum set time: Cannot be left set for more than 24-hours.
- ▶ Waters: Inland waters to take Crayfish and Yabbies except closed waters and trout waters (other than using up to a total of 5 comprised of either hoop/ lift nets or open pyramid lift nets or a combination of both, to take Yabbies in Googong Dam and in Lakes Lyell, Wallace, Eucumbene or Jindabyne).

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

Open pyramid lift net

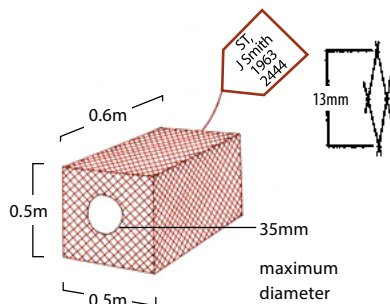


- ▶ Maximum dimensions: Netting with a horizontal opening at the top of not less than 200 mm in all dimensions; parallel to the base of the net with a mesh net height of not more than 150 mm, a maximum base size of 600 mm in length and width.
- ▶ Mesh size: Between 13mm and 40mm.
- ▶ Maximum number: Up to a total of 5 comprised of either hoop/lift nets or open pyramid lift nets or a combination of both.
- ▶ Identification: The buoy must have the letters PN, initial and surname, year of birth and postcode, 15mm in height, clearly visible and in a contrasting colour to the buoy. Any rope attached to the buoy must not be floating on the surface of the water.
- ▶ Maximum set time: Cannot be left set for more than 24-hours.
- ▶ Waters: Inland waters to take Crayfish and Yabbies except closed waters and trout waters (other than using up to a total of 5 comprised of either hoop/lift nets or open pyramid lift nets or a combination of both, to take Yabbies in Googong Dam and in Lakes Lyell, Wallace, Eucumbene or Jindabyne).

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

Shrimp trap

- ▶ Maximum dimensions: 0.6m x 0.5m x 0.5m.
- ▶ Mesh size: 13mm maximum measured across the diagonal.
- ▶ Entrance funnels: Inner hole maximum width of 35mm.
- ▶ Maximum number: One (1) trap may be set, used and in your possession.
- ▶ Identification: Must have a tag with dimensions of at least 80mm by 45mm attached to the trap at or above the water level which clearly displays the letters ST, initial and surname, year of birth and postcode, 15mm in height, clearly visible and in a contrasting colour.



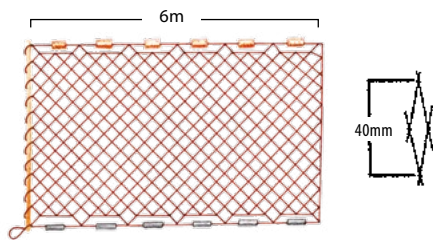
- ▶ Maximum set time: Cannot be left set for more than 24-hours.
- ▶ Waters: May be used in inland waters to take freshwater Shrimp and Yabbies, except closed areas and trout waters.

Landing net

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



Hand-hauled yabby net



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

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

For more information refer to the online fishing guides at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/info.

You can report suspected illegal fishing activity by calling 1800 043 536 or report it online at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/compliance/report-illegal-activity.

Bowfishing

To bowfish for carp in NSW, unless exempt you must have paid the NSW Recreational Fishing Fee, also known as an NSW Fishing Licence.

Bowfishers must also:

- ▶ use an upright bow and arrow with the arrow attached to the bow by means of line and a reel.
- ▶ have a maximum of 30 metres of line attached to the bowfishing reel.
- ▶ only use a flightless (un-fledged) bowfishing arrow with barbs attached (fishing head).
- ▶ not bowfish within 100 metres of a person or vessel that is not part of your bowfishing party.
- ▶ not bowfish within 100 metres of a dwelling,* picnic area, boat ramp or campsite.
- ▶ not bowfish within 500m of a caravan park.
- ▶ not bowfish outside of 30 minutes before sunrise and 30 minutes after sunset.
- ▶ not use any bowfishing equipment aided by lights.
- ▶ only target Carp.
- ▶ only bowfish in waters permitted.

*a dwelling is defined as a place or residence or where someone lives. This does not include sheds or pumphouses

Carp means fish of the species *Cyprinus carpio* and does not include goldfish or any other species of finfish not indigenous to inland waters of New South Wales, such as Redfin perch (*Perca fluviatilis*).

The carrying of bowfishing equipment is prohibited in National Parks Estate.

Heavy penalties may apply if you are found breaking these rules.

Prohibited fishing methods and activities

Line fishing

You are not permitted to:

- ▶ Use more than the maximum number of hooks per attended line.
- ▶ Set line, drop line, or jag (foul hooking).
- ▶ Use handlines in trout waters (rods and lines only permitted).
- ▶ Leave hand held lines unattended unless within 50m and in line of sight.

Gear and methods

You are not permitted to:

- ▶ Use gaffs or possess a gaff hook in, on or adjacent to inland waters.
- ▶ Use spears, spear guns or other similar device other than if using bowfishing equipment (as specified above) to take carp.
- ▶ Use explosives, firearms or electrical devices.
- ▶ Use fish traps, gill nets, drum nets, crab traps, cast nets or any other equipment to take fish or invertebrates other than gear specified within the "permitted fishing gear and methods" section of the guide (from page 31), within the waters prescribed.
- ▶ Use a hand (e.g. 'tickle') to take Trout or Salmon.

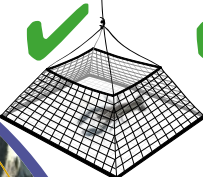
- ▶ Use a light to take Trout or Salmon.
- ▶ Use a bait rake.
- ▶ Use a hand-hauled yabby net in rivers or dams to take Yabbies.
- ▶ Use traps and nets in trout waters except hoop/lift nets or open pyramid lift nets in Googong Dam and in Lakes Lyell, Wallace, Eucumbene or Jindabyne to take Yabbies.
- ▶ Use yabby traps (you may use up to 5 hoop/lift nets or open pyramid lift nets, or a combination of both, to take yabbies. Yabbies caught in a shrimp trap used lawfully to take freshwater shrimp may also be taken). Yabby traps are banned in ALL NSW waters to help prevent inadvertent capture of native wildlife. Use hoop/lift nets or open pyramid lift nets (above), or a combination of these instead, to take yabbies. This will help reduce impacts on non-target native species such as platypus, turtle, water birds and water rats. For more information refer to the DPIRD website at the following link: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/fishing-rules-and-regs/perm-prohib-freshwater or download the FishSmart app at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishsmart-app. Water rats, turtles, platypus etc. are protected in New South Wales by the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. It is an offence to harm or attempt to harm a protected animal.



Department of
Primary Industries

Play your part!
Only use approved nets in all NSW
waters from **30 April 2021**

Help reduce wildlife drowning in yabby traps







X

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Fish filleting

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

Baits

You are not permitted to:

- ▶ Use live birds or live mammals as bait.
- ▶ Use live finfish in inland waters including live Carp or other pest species.
- ▶ Move, buy, sell, release (other than immediately at point of capture) or be in possession of, live Redfin perch.
- ▶ Use non-native fish or parts thereof whether alive or dead (for example Redfin Perch), other than dead Carp.
- ▶ Use prohibited size fish as bait.
- ▶ Use Trout and Salmon roe (eggs) or products containing them as bait.
- ▶ Use dough-based baits or any other similarly artificially manufactured bait product in artificial fly and lure waters and trout spawning streams.

Crayfish

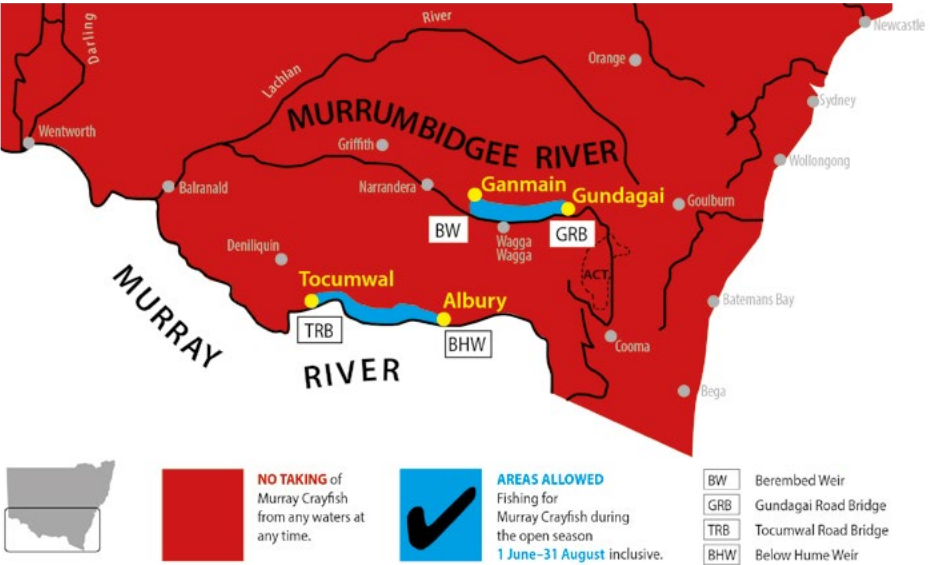
You are not permitted to:

- ▶ Take Murray Crayfish in any waters at any time other than between June and August (inclusive) in the following specified waters:
 - (a) Murrumbidgee River between the Hume Highway road bridge, Gundagai and 100m upstream of the weir face at Berembed Weir near Ganmain, excluding Old Man Creek.
 - (b) Murray River from 130m below Hume Weir near Albury to the Newell Highway road bridge at Tocumwal.
- ▶ Remove or possess the heads, tails or claws of Crayfish when you are in, on or adjacent to any waters. This rule does not apply if the crayfish are being prepared for immediate consumption, immediate use as bait or are being cleaned at a fish cleaning facility or other place specifically provided or ordinarily used for, the cleaning of fish, not being in or on any waters.
- ▶ Keep Crayfish, including Yabbies, Murray Crayfish or other Spiny Crayfish with eggs, or to remove those eggs. Crayfish with eggs must be returned to the water.

General

You are not permitted to:

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



Summary table of bag limits, size limits and fishing seasons*

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

*Note: The possession limit is the maximum number of fish per person if you have been fishing for more than one day. One day is equal to the 24-hour period from midnight to midnight. Fishing is prohibited in general trout streams, artificial fly and lure streams and trout spawning streams from the end of the June long weekend to the start of the October long weekend (see page 43 for the location of Trout waters). Seasonal fishing closures may apply in other waters (see page 63 for the location of these waters). In the table, the terms “eastern dams” and “eastern rivers” refer to waters located within the eastern drainages of NSW. Listed dams are shown from page 41.

Possession limit	Open fishing season
4 (one or more species, only 1 of which can be longer than 35cm in rivers)	September to April in rivers below freshwater impoundments (catch and release fishing permitted from May to August). Dams and rivers above impoundments are open to fishing all year.
4	From 1 June to 31 August in the following specified waters only (including all tributaries, lakes, lagoons, dams, reservoirs, ponds, canals, channels or waterways of the main channels of the waters listed below, except Old Man Creek, a tributary of the Murrumbidgee River): (a) Murrumbidgee River between the Hume Highway road bridge, Gundagai and 100m upstream of the weir face at Berembded Weir near Ganmain, excluding Old Man Creek, (b) Murray River from 130 metres below Hume Weir near Albury to the Newell Highway road bridge at Tocumwal (see map on page 38). All waters are closed to Murray Crayfish fishing at all other times.
10 (one or more species, only 1 of which can be longer than 12cm)	All year. Cannot be taken in trout waters. Note: The Fitzroy Falls Spiny Crayfish is totally protected and cannot be taken from any waters.
10	All year.
10	All year.
10 in listed dams and eastern dams, 4 in eastern rivers	All year in eastern rivers, eastern dams and listed dams.
10	All year.
4	December to August each year. All year in Copeton and Blowering Dams.
10 in listed dams	All year in listed dams. Cannot be taken in rivers or unlisted dams.
4 (one or more species) in artificial fly and lure streams and dams	From the start of October long weekend to end of June long weekend in artificial fly and lure streams. Artificial fly and lure dams are open to fishing all year.
2 (one or more species) in trout spawning streams	From 1 May to end of June long weekend. Rules for artificial fly and lure streams apply from start of October long weekend to 30 April.
10 (one or more species) in all other waters	From the start of October long weekend to end of June long weekend in general trout streams. General trout dams and all other waters are open to fishing all year.
200	All year.
10 (one or more species other than invertebrates)	All year.
–	All year.

Listed dams

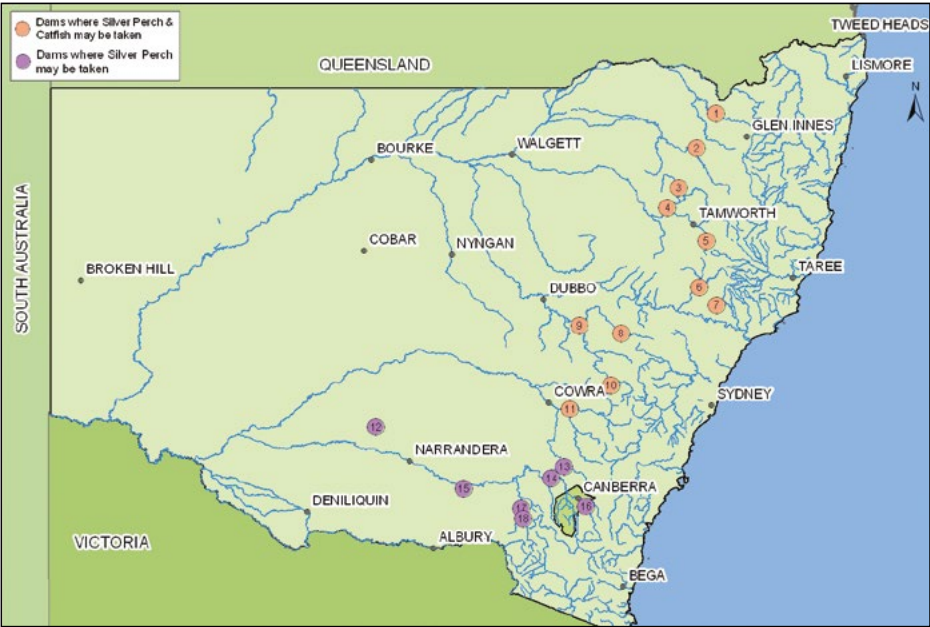
Dams where Silver Perch and Freshwater Catfish may be taken

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

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

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

Dams where Silver Perch and Freshwater Catfish may be taken



Key to trout waters

Trout waters

There are four types of trout waters. Each has different rules. This helps protect breeding populations and shares catches fairly. You will find details in the following colour coded tables. If a stream is not listed look for the major stream it runs into.

1 Trout spawning streams

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

Permitted gear: 1 attended rod and line with up to 2 hooks with artificial flies or lures. Gear rigged for bait fishing is prohibited. May possess up to 3 rods and lines rigged with artificial flies/lures only, with only 1 attended rod and line in use at any time.

2 Artificial fly and lure waters

Fishing season: Saturday morning of the October long weekend to Monday night of the June long weekend except Thompsons Creek Dam , Lake Crackenback, The Mill Pond, Splitters Creek Quarries and Black Lake which are open to fishing all year. Fishing is prohibited from the end of the June long weekend to the start of the October long weekend (except Thompsons Creek Dam, Lake Crackenback, The Mill Pond, Splitters Creek Quarries and Black Lake).

Permitted gear: 1 attended rod and line with up to 2 hooks with artificial flies or lures or up to 3 hooks with artificial flies or lures at Thompsons Creek Dam, Lake Crackenback, The Mill Pond, Splitters Creek Quarries and Black Lake. Gear rigged for bait fishing is prohibited. May possess up to 3 attended rods and lines rigged with artificial flies/lures only, with only 1 attended rod and line in use at any time.

3 General trout streams

Fishing season: Saturday morning October long weekend to Monday night June long weekend. Fishing prohibited from the end of the June long weekend to the start of the October long weekend.

Permitted gear: 2 attended rods and lines with no more than 2 hooks attached. Bait fishing allowed. May possess up to 4 attended rods and lines rigged with artificial flies/lures only, with only 2 attended rods and lines in use at any time.

4 General trout dams

Fishing season: All year.

Permitted gear: 2 attended rods each with a line and no more than 2 hooks attached or no more than 3 hooks attached where those hooks are artificial flies or lures. Bait fishing allowed. May possess up to 4 attended rods and lines rigged with artificial flies/lures only, with only 2 attended rods and lines in use at any time.

Listed trout waters in NSW

Legend

Trout fishing rules apply to all streams and tributaries upstream of points indicated. All forms of fishing are prohibited in general trout streams, artificial fly and lure streams and trout spawning streams during seasonal closures. Targeting other species in trout waters at this time is prohibited.

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

3	Apsley River Upstream of Tia River* junction
3	Barnard River Upstream of Gulf Creek* junction
3	Barrington River Upstream of Moppy River* junction
4	Beardy Waters Dam
3	Beardy Waters Upstream of Furracabad Creek* junction
2	Bell River (A) Upstream of Belgravia Road crossing
3	Bell River (B) Upstream of Molong Creek* junction
3	Belubula River Upstream of Cherry Tree Falls Bridge, Canowindra
3	Bemboka River Upstream of Tantawangelo Creek junction
4	Ben Chifley Dam
2	Black Lake
3	Blicks River Upstream of road bridge at Dundurrabin
2	Bobundra Creek Upstream of Snowy River junction
3	Boree Creek Upstream of Mandagery Creek junction
4	Captains Flat Dam
4	Carcoar Dam
3	Carters Brook Upstream from Stewarts Brook* junction
3	Chandler River Upstream of Wollomombi River* junction

- 3 Cobark River
Upstream of Dilgry River* junction
- 4 Coolumbooka Weir
- 3 Cooplacurripa River
Upstream of Mummel River* junction
- 3 Coxs River
Upstream of Little River junction
Note: Jenolan River totally closed upstream of the spawning pool at Jenolan Caves
- 3 Cudgegong River
Upstream of Lawson Park Weir, Mudgee to Windamere Dam wall
- 3 Deepwater River
Upstream of New England Highway Bridge, Deepwater
- 4 Diggers Creek Dam
Perisher Valley
- 4 Dumaresq Dam
- 3 Dungowan Creek
Upstream of road crossing near Ogunbil Station
- 4 Eucumbene Dam #
- 1 2 Eucumbene River
Upstream of backed up waters of Eucumbene Dam including Providence Portal
- 4 Fitzroy Falls Reservoir
- 2 Flea Creek
Upstream of junction with Goodradigbee River
- 4 Geehi Dam
- 3 Georges Creek
Upstream of Louisa Creek junction
- 3 Gloucester River
Upstream of Sharpes Creek* junction
- 3 Goodradigbee River
Upstream of backed up waters of Burrinjuck Dam
- 4 Googong Dam #
- 4 Gosling Creek Reservoir
- 3 Guineacoor Creek
Upstream of Wollondilly River junction
- 4 Guthega Lake
- 3 Guy Fawkes River
Upstream of Aberfoyle River junction
- 3 Gwydir River
Upstream of Torryburn Bridge and downstream from Copeton Dam to junction with Dingo Creek (excludes Dingo Creek)
- 4 Happy Jacks Pondage

- 3 **Horton River**
Upstream of Cut Road Creek* junction
- 3 **Hunter River**
Upstream of Pages Creek junction
- 3 **Ingeegoodbee River**
Upstream of Victorian border
- 4 **Island Bend Dam**
- 4 **Jounama Pondage**
- 2 **Khancoban Creek**
Upstream of backed up waters of Khancoban Pondage
- 4 **Khancoban Pondage**
- 3 **Kowmung River**
Upstream of Morong Creek* junction
- 2 **Kybean River**
Upstream of Numeralla River junction
- 3 **Lachlan River**
Upstream of Cowra-Young Road Bridge
- 4 **Lake Bathurst**
- 4 **Lake Canobolas**
- 2 **Lake Crackenback**
- 4 **Lake Jindabyne #**
- 4 **Lake Lyell #**
- 4 **Lake Pillans**
- 4 **Lake Wallace (Wallerawang Dam) #**
- 4 **Lake Williams**
- 3 **Laura Creek**
Upstream of ford at Baldersleigh Station
- 3 **MacDonald River**
Upstream of New England Highway Bridge at Bendemeer
- 3 **MacIntyre River**
Upstream of road bridge at Elsmore
- 2 **MacLaughlin River**
Upstream of Snowy River junction
- 3 **Macphersons Swamp Creek**
Upstream of backed up waters of Burrinjuck Dam
- 3 **Macquarie River**
All tributaries of the Macquarie River (but not including the Macquarie River) upstream of its junction with & including Lewis Ponds Creek
- 4 **Malpas Dam**
- 3 **Manning River**
Upstream of Gummi Trail crossing

- 4 Marsden Weir**
- 2 Molong Creek**
Upstream of Borenore Creek junction
- 3 Molonglo River**
Upstream of railway bridge at Burbong
- 3 Moonan Brook**
Upstream of Hunter River junction
- 3 Moredun Creek**
Upstream of ford immediately below Limestone Creek junction
- 2 Mowamba River**
Upstream of Snowy River junction
- 3 Mulla Mulla Creek**
Upstream of Cockburn River junction
- 3 Murray River**
Upstream of Tintaldra Road Bridge
- 4 Murray 2 Pondage**
- 3 Murrumbidgee River**
Upstream of Bredbo River* junction
- 3 Myall Creek**
Upstream of Tuggolo Creek* junction
- 3 Nowendoc River**
Upstream of Nowendoc Falls
- 3 Nymboida River**
Upstream of Wild Cattle Creek* junction
- 3 Oaky River**
Upstream of Oaky River Dam backed up waters
- 3 Oban River**
Upstream of Sara River junction
- 4 Oberon Dam**
- 3 Omadale Brook**
Upstream of Polblue Creek* junction
- 4 Paddys River Dam**
- 4 Pejar Dam**
- 3 Queanbeyan River**
Upstream of fence boundary of Googong Dam Reserve (about 1km downstream of the dam wall)
- 4 Redground Dam (Crookwell water supply)**
- 4 Rossi Weir**
- 4 Sheba Dams**
- 3 Shoalhaven River**
Upstream of Mongarlowe River* junction

- 3 Snowy River**
Upstream of Victorian border
- 3 Styx River**
Upstream of Armidale-Bellbrook Road
Note: Serpentine River totally closed from the top of Serpentine Falls to the weir at the Point Lookout Road crossing near Dutton Trout Hatchery.
- 2 Swampy Plain River**
Upstream of Murray River Junction (excluding Indi Backwater) to upstream boundary of Khancoban Station
- 3 Swan Brook**
Upstream of Kings Plains Road Bridge
- 4 Talbingo Dam**
- 4 Tantangara Dam**
- 2 The Mill Pond**
- 2 Thompsons Creek Dam ****
- 1 2 Thredbo River**
Upstream of backed up waters of Lake Jindabyne.
Note: Thredbo River totally closed in signposted reach at Gaden Trout Hatchery from upstream end of Paddys Corner Reserve to 2.4km upstream. Sawpit Creek totally closed
- 4 Three Mile Dam**
- 4 Todkill Park Dam**
- 4 Tooma Dam**
- 4 Tumut Ponds**
- 3 Tumut River**
Upstream of Murrumbidgee River junction
- 4 Tumut 2 Pondage**
- 3 Turon River**
Upstream of the Upper Turon Road Crossing near Green Point
- 3 Tuross River**
Upstream of Tuross Falls
- 3 Wellingrove Creek**
Upstream of Gwydir Highway Road Bridge
- 4 Wentworth Falls Lake**
- 2 Wildes Meadow Creek**
Upstream of backed up waters of Fitzroy Falls Reservoir
- 3 Wollondilly River**
Upstream of Tarlo River* junction



Threatened species

A threatened species is rare with numbers declining to a point where it is at risk of becoming extinct in NSW. It is illegal to take, harm or possess threatened species. If caught they must be returned carefully to the water. It is also illegal to damage the habitat of a threatened species. You can keep up to date with threatened species listings on the website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing Help increase knowledge of these species by reporting sightings online at

Threatened species

Australian Grayling *Prototroctes maraena*

Conservation status: Endangered species. Found in the southern coastal rivers of NSW. Colour varies from silver with an olive-grey back and whitish belly to olive green or brownish on the back, with a darker mid-lateral streak and greyish fins. Grows to 300mm in length, but are more commonly around 170–180mm.



Freshwater Catfish (Eel-Tailed) *Tandanus tandanus*

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

Found throughout the Murray Darling Basin. Colour ranges from grey to brown, usually mottled with dark brown to black blotching's with a whitish underbelly. Grows up to 900mm and 7kg however fish over 2kgs are uncommon. Fishing for Freshwater Catfish is prohibited in all western flowing waters and unlisted western dams in NSW. Freshwater Catfish may be taken from listed western dams and eastern dams and rivers (see pages 41 & 42).



River Blackfish *Gadopsis marmoratus*

Conservation status: Endangered population (Snowy River catchment).

River Blackfish were once abundant and widely distributed throughout the Snowy River catchment but are now restricted to isolated sub catchments. They have a slender, elongated body with a single long dorsal fin that extends almost the length of the body. They have a slightly mottled appearance with some banding. Colour may vary from green or brown to almost black.

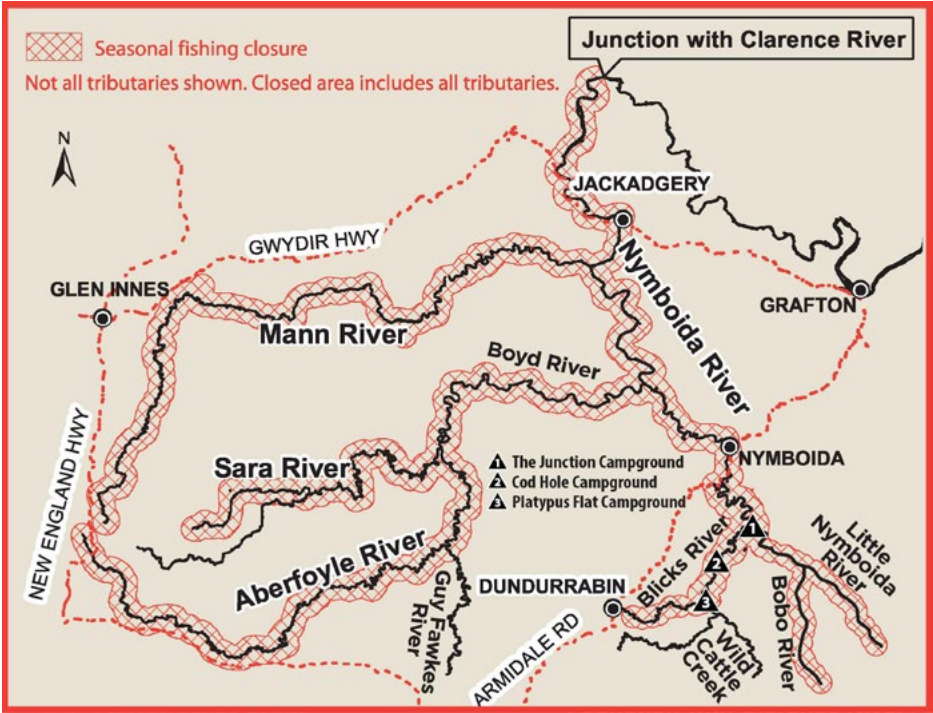


Eastern Freshwater Cod *Maccullochella ikei*

Conservation status: Endangered species.

Remnant populations are now only found in parts of the Clarence River and its tributaries. To protect breeding Eastern Freshwater Cod, all fishing is prohibited from 1 August to 31 October in the Mann River and its tributaries, upstream from its junction with Clarence River, except the Oban River and its tributaries, upstream from its junction with, but not including, the Sara River; Guy Fawkes River and its tributaries, upstream from its junction with, but not including, the Aberfoyle River and the Nymboida River and its tributaries, upstream from its junction with, and including, Wild Cattle Creek. Recorded to 41kg but are generally less than 5kg and 660mm.





Macquarie Perch *Macquaria australasica*

Conservation status: Endangered species.

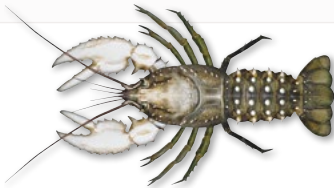
Found in the upper reaches of the Murrumbidgee, Lachlan, Murray and Hawkesbury/Nepean, and Shoalhaven/Kangaroo catchments. Can grow to 550mm in length and 3.5kg in weight, but individuals larger than 400mm or 1kg are uncommon. Coastal drainage fish are much smaller than the western form, generally not exceeding 180mm in length.



Murray Crayfish *Euastacus armatus*

Conservation status: Vulnerable species.

The Murray Crayfish is endemic to the southern tributaries of the Murray-Darling Basin. The species grows to more than 150mm in carapace length and around 2.5kg. It can be distinguished from other species by its large size, white claws and white spines on each side of the tail. May only be taken from the Murrumbidgee River between the Gundagai Road Bridge and Berembeld Weir (excluding Old Man Creek) and in the Murray River between Hume Weir and Tocumwal road bridge from 1 June to 31 August (see map on page 38).



Trout Cod *Maccullochella macquariensis*

Conservation status: Endangered species.

Once widespread throughout the lower Murray-Darling system, only one natural breeding population now remains in NSW. Trout Cod are distinguished from Murray Cod by their blue/grey colour with well-defined spots and dashed markings; the snout and upper jaw are usually longer than the lower; the forehead profile is straight or slightly convex and the snout and forehead are usually clear of any markings. All fishing is prohibited in the Murray River and its tributaries between Yarrowonga Weir and the Tocumwal Road Bridge from September to November inclusive to protect breeding Trout Cod populations. Catch and release fishing is permitted in Talbingo Dam.



Silver Perch *Bidyanus bidyanus*

Conservation status: Vulnerable species.

Once widespread throughout most of the Murray-Darling Basin. Remnant populations remain in some areas such as the central Murray River and parts of the Edward River system. Grows to 8kgs but most are 0.5–1.5kg and 300–400mm in length. May only be taken from listed stocked impoundments (see pages 41 & 42).



Fitzroy Falls Spiny Crayfish *Euastacus dharawalus*

Conservation status: Critically endangered.

The Fitzroy Falls Spiny Crayfish is only found from Wildes Meadow Creek in the NSW Southern Highlands. Maximum reported size is 860mm OCL and 300grams. Often confused with the common Yabby (*Cherax Destructor*) but can be distinguished by its larger size and the presence of short robust spikes on its claws and abdomen while the Yabby is smooth shelled.



Cudgegong Giant Spiny Crayfish *Euastacus vesper*

Conservation status: Critically endangered.

The Cudgegong Giant Spiny Crayfish is known from five sites across a restricted area in the upper Macquarie-Cudgegong Catchment. Documented to reach at least 71.6 mm OCL. Distinguished from other large spiny crayfish based on colouration and spine patterns. Distinguishing features include a predominantly green-brown shell with blue claws, large dark green to black thoracic spines and green walking legs. The presence of spines on the claws, body and legs can distinguish this species from the common yabby (*Cherax destructor*).



Image: Cudgegong Giant Spiny Crayfish (Photo: R. McCormack)

Other freshwater species

A number of small bodied native fish species are listed as threatened in NSW. This includes **Darling River Hardyhead (Hunter River population), Oxleyan Pygmy Perch, Murray Hardyhead, Southern Pygmy Perch, Olive Perchlet (western population), Southern Purple Spotted Gudgeon** and **various Galaxias species**. Some small bodied threatened species may be encountered when using shrimp traps or hand-hauled yabby nets. As such, special care should be taken when using such gear to ensure that threatened species are not accidentally taken/harmed.

Oxleyan Pygmy Perch *Nannoperca oxleyana*

Conservation Status: Endangered.

Endemic to the coastal region of eastern Australia, from northern NSW to south-eastern Queensland. Mostly found in swamps, creeks and lakes of coastal ‘wallum’ heathlands. This species can grow to about 60mm in length but are more commonly seen around 35mm long. Their back is generally darker in colour while the sides are pale and mottled, with three to four patchy brown bars extending from head to tail. There is a dark spot with an orange rim at the base of the tail and a blue ring around the eye.

Image: Oxleyan Pygmy Perch (Photo by G. Schmida)



Murray Hardyhead *Craterocephalus fluviatilis*

Conservation status: Critically endangered.

Native to the floodplains of the southern Murray-Darling Basin, specialising in hypersaline water where it can survive up to three times the salinity of ocean water. The species was previously extinct in NSW prior to its reintroduction to a far west wetland in 2018. Colour ranges from silver to dark gold, with a pale silvery belly and a silver mid-lateral stripe. The eyes and gill covers are bright silver, and the top of the head and snout are slightly darker. They have two small dorsal fins; the tail is forked, and the pectoral fins are positioned high on the body. Similar in appearance to several other closely related species including Darling River Hardyhead, Lake Eyre Hardyhead and Unspecked Hardyhead.

Image: Murray Hardyhead (Photo G. Schmida)



Southern Pygmy Perch *Nannoperca australis*

Conservation status: Endangered.

Native to the Lachlan, Murrumbidgee and Murray catchments in NSW. Often found in small system with low flow and quiet vegetated areas in streams, billabongs and lakes. Grows to 65–85 mm in length. They have a small mouth reaching to just below the eye, and a rounded tail. Individuals vary greatly in colour from pale cream to green-brown, paler on the belly with dark blotches along the body.

Image: Southern Pygmy Perch (Photo: G. Schmida)



Southern Purple Spotted Gudgeon *Mogurnda adspersa*

Conservation status: Endangered.

Two populations occur in NSW; an eastern population found in coastal catchment north of the Clarence River, and a western population found throughout the Murray-Darling Basin. They have a rounded head with a small mouth and a rounded tail. They have two dorsal fins; the first being shorter and lower than the second. Generally dark brown in colour along the back, fading to pale brown or cream on the belly. Distinguishing body markings include white and red spots and a blue wash along the flanks, and yellow bars on the margins of the dorsal and anal fins. Three red-maroon bars on each cheek differentiate this species from other freshwater gudgeon species in NSW.

Image: Southern Purple Spotted Gudgeon (Photo: G. Schmida)



Hanley's River Snail *Notopala hanleyi*

Conservation status: Critically endangered.

Historically found in the Murray River catchment, including the Lachlan and Murrumbidgee Rivers. Artificial dark, hard surfaces such as irrigation pipelines are now the predominant habitat for the species. Hanley's River snail has a round shell that ends in a short conical spire. The outer shell is generally dark green to brown. The body possesses a prominent snout and short eye stalks on the outside of the tentacles and is coloured brown with orange spots.

Image: Hanley's River Snail Photo: NSW DPI



Darling River Snail *Notopala sublineata*

Conservation status: Critically endangered.

Once common in the Darling River and its tributaries, this species now appears to be living only in some irrigation pipelines and amongst rocks making up some weirs. This species has a round shell that ends in a short conical spire. Differs from the similar Hanley's River Snail in its slightly smaller, lighter, thinner shell, which usually has a thin, yellow periostracum. The body colour also differs in being cream to white with pale spots.

Image: Darling River Snail Photo: A. Miller



Flathead Galaxias *Galaxias rostratus*

Conservation status: Critically endangered.

Flathead Galaxias was historically recorded in the Macquarie, Lachlan, Murrumbidgee and Murray Rivers, however there are currently no known secure populations in NSW. Flathead Galaxias are distinguished by their flattened head, light body colour and the position of their anal and dorsal fins. This small fish grows to 14 cm and prefers still or slow-moving waterbodies such as wetlands and lowland streams.

Image: Flathead Galaxias Photo: G. Schmida



Kosciuszko Galaxias *Galaxias supremus*

Conservation status: Critically endangered.

The Kosciuszko Galaxias has only been found at a small number of sites within the upper Snowy River catchment near Mount Kosciuszko. The Kosciuszko Galaxias can be differentiated from other members of the *G. olidus* complex by a distinctive mottled pattern that lacks black, ovoid bars along its side, presence of 8 pelvic fin rays and a distinctly shorter lower jaw.

Image: Kosciuszko Galaxias: Photo: R. Kuitert



Short-tail Galaxias *Galaxias brevissimus*

Conservation status: Critically endangered.

The Short-tail Galaxias is a small freshwater fish with an average length of 70–75mm, however has been recorded up to 97mm. It is predominately brown on the back and upper sides of the body, and has small to moderately large, irregularly shaped, dark brown to black abundant blotches and spots. The Short-tail Galaxias is found at only four patchily distributed sites in the upper reaches of the Tuross River system in southern coastal NSW.

Image: Short tail Galaxias Photo: T. Raadik



Stocky Galaxias *Galaxias tantangara*

Conservation status: Critically endangered.

The Stocky Galaxias is only known from two locations within Kosciuszko National Park—the headwaters of Tantangara Creek and Sally’s Flat Creek. There is also a refuge site which has been rehabilitated to establish a new, geographically distinct population at Eucumbene Borrows, within the National Park. Its preferred habitat is small, cold, clear and fast flowing alpine creeks, typically within open forests of Eucalypts, low shrubs and tussock grass, which are often covered in snow during winter.

Image: Stocky Galaxias Photo: T. Raadik



Darling River Hardyhead (Hunter River population) *Craterocephalus amniculus*

Conservation status: Endangered population.

The Darling River Hardyhead is found in the upper tributaries of the Darling River near the Queensland and New South Wales border. A small population is also found in the Hunter catchment which has always been relatively uncommon. The Darling River Hardyhead is a small fish, with a slender and elongated body. It has large silvery eyes, thin lips and few teeth. The species is dusky gold coloured on the back, and silvery gold below. It has a stripe that runs the length of each side of the body that is dark and silvery.

Image: Darling River Hardyhead Photo: G. Schmida



Olive Perchlet (western population) *Ambassis agassizii*

Conservation status: Endangered population.

Olive Perchlets are a small native fish that occur in both eastern (coastal) and western (Murray-Darling) drainages. Growing to about 70–80 mm but more commonly seen at less than 60 mm, Olive Perchlet inhabit rivers, creeks, ponds and swamps with slow flowing or still waters. They are usually found in sheltered areas such as overhanging vegetation, aquatic macrophyte beds, logs, dead branches and boulders during the day, and disperse to feed during the night. They have large white eyes and are semi-transparent, with a single notched dorsal fin and a forked tail.



Image: Olive Perchlet Photo: NSW DPI



Conserving our biodiversity— aquatic habitats

More habitat = more fish

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

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

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



Protecting biodiversity—tips to remember

- ▶ Travelling at low speed near riverbanks prevents your boat wake from undermining them.
- ▶ Snags are habitat for fish, not for use as firewood.
- ▶ Use established access points to launch and retrieve your boat or to access waterways by foot.
- ▶ Take all rubbish home or dispose appropriately, including fishing line and gear.

- ▶ Take care not to transport fish, water or weeds from one waterway to another. Wash down your boat, trailer and fishing gear to avoid spreading pests.
- ▶ Aquarium fish should stay in an aquarium. Never release them into a waterway or a drain.
- ▶ Get your friends or local fishing club involved in restoring fish habitat and check out the website www.fishhabitatnetwork.com.au.

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

Watch out for:

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

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

The DPIRD produces Newstreams, a free quarterly electronic newsletter to keep people up to date with aquatic habitat activities. To subscribe, email newstreams@dpi.nsw.gov.au and register your contact details.

Pests and diseases

Pest fish species are those that established outside of their native range and can be accidentally introduced into NSW waters or through human mediated activities. Pest species can invade marine or freshwater environments and can threaten native fish and their habitats. It is important that we keep an eye out for possible pests and diseases and their potential sources in order to prevent their spread into our aquatic environment.

Under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act) all community members have a general biosecurity duty to consider how actions, or in some cases lack of action could have a negative impact on another person, business enterprise, animal or the environment. We must then take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent or minimise the potential impact of biosecurity threats.

A number of aquatic pests and diseases are listed as either prohibited matter under Schedule 2 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* or notifiable matter under Schedule 1 of the *Biosecurity Regulation 2017*. Prohibited matter usually includes pests and diseases not yet known to occur in NSW and which have been assessed as posing a very high risk if they were to be found here. Diseases and pest species listed as notifiable matter, whilst usually already known to occur in some parts of NSW, can also pose a very high risk to our species, industries and environments.

Many notifiable species are known only in limited areas of the state (such as single known population of Tilapia at Cabarita in northern NSW, or the presence of Redfin Perch within some inland waterways). Limiting the spread along with early reporting of suspicions at new locations on the 24-hour hotline—**1800 675 888** is especially important for all notifiable pests and diseases, as is reconfirmation of suspicions of disease each season within each waterway. To see the current known distributions of pests and diseases see the website at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/dpi/bfs/aquatic-biosecurity/aquatic-pests-and-diseases.

Things that you can do to reduce biosecurity threats include the following:

- ▶ **See it, record it, report it**—For suspicions of prohibited or other notifiable pests and diseases, take a clear photograph of the suspected pest or disease, record your exact location (e.g. phone GPS, and any landmarks), humanely dispatch and retain the fish dead on ice (not frozen) and call the 24-hour biosecurity hotline 1800 675 888 for further instructions. Note: photographs, while useful, cannot be used to diagnose disease and samples (refrigerated, not frozen) are likely to be needed for confirmation of disease, and in some cases for formal identification of suspected pest species.
- ▶ **When in possession of notifiable pests humanely dispatch them immediately** – it is illegal to be in possession of live notifiable pests so if retaining notifiable species like Redfin Perch, humanely kill these immediately and keep them fresh in an esky on ice. It is also illegal to return these species to the water, unless done immediately at the point of capture (note this is not permitted for Tilapia, see below).
- ▶ **Do not return Tilapia to the water (dead or alive)**—due to the extreme risks posed by Tilapia it is illegal to return them to the water at all (dead or alive). Humanely dispatch Tilapia immediately and secure these and call the biosecurity hotline immediately on 1800 675 888. Ensure that you inspect and wash all equipment and dispose of all organic wastes to general waste.
- ▶ **Make clean part of your routine**—inspect all boats (including niche areas such as live wells, anchor wells, water inlets and outlets), trailers and fishing gear, boots, waders and other equipment for weeds and other organic matter and remove these and dispose of in general waste. Then wash with soapy water well away from waterways and allow to dry completely prior to use in a new waterway. Do a final check prior to use to ensure completely clean and remove any further organic matter and clean and dry again if needed.

- ▶ **Use the right bait mate**—collect your own lawful baits locally or buy from a reputable bait supplier. In freshwater it is illegal to use live finfish as bait, or fish not native to NSW (such as Tilapia and Redfin Perch or imported prawns) as bait (even when dead) except for dead carp. It is also illegal to use trout or salmon roe, or any product containing these. Note while prawns imported for human consumption pose no risks to human health, they can carry diseases that could impact our native crustaceans (freezing does not remove this risk).
- ▶ **Obtain a permit to stock fish in public waters** and buy fingerlings for stocking from a registered hatchery to minimise the risk of contamination with pests/diseases.
- ▶ **Don't dump that fish!** Give unwanted aquarium fish to friends or a pet shop rather than letting them go in the wild. Aquarium fish can pose a risk either as invasive pest fish by directly feeding on or outcompeting native species for food or space, or by carrying diseases that impact our native fish (even without the aquarium fish showing any symptoms of disease itself) Note: It is illegal to release live fish into NSW waterways without a permit and heavy penalties apply.
- ▶ **Prevent accidental fish escapes.** Screen outdoor ponds to prevent overflow during heavy rains and dispose of fish waste appropriately well away from waterways.
- ▶ **Learn how to identify pest species** (see below and at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/dpi/bfs/aquatic-biosecurity/aquatic-pests-and-diseases/freshwater-pests).

Spotlight on notifiable pest species

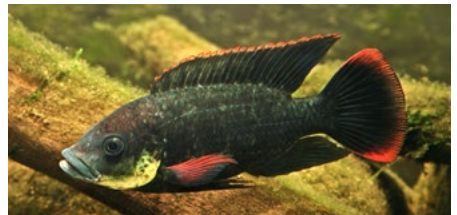
Tilapia

A significant freshwater pest fish to be on the lookout for in NSW is Tilapia. Tilapia are listed in the top 100 of the world's worst introduced species. In NSW and possession and sale of live Tilapia is prohibited.

In December 2014, the DPIRD confirmed the presence of Tilapia at Cabarita on the NSW far north coast. This is the first known incursion of this species in NSW. Other populations of Tilapia within southern Qld are as little as 3km from the Murray Darling Basin, however they are not currently known to occur in this system. Tilapia would pose a significant threat to native species if they were to enter the Murray Darling or to otherwise spread and establish throughout NSW. Under Clause 18 of the Biosecurity Regulation 2017 it is illegal to possess, buy, sell or move this notifiable pest in NSW. Heavy penalties apply for non-compliance. If caught whilst angling, Tilapia must be dispatched immediately and may not be returned to the water. If you find a suspected Tilapia, please report it immediately on the 24-hour biosecurity hotline **1800 675 888**.

How to identify Tilapia

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



Male Tilapia—Credit: Gunther Schmida



Female—Tilapia Credit: Gunther Schmida

Redfin Perch

Redfin Perch is a medium sized freshwater fish native to northern Europe which was introduced to Australia in the 1860s for its angling qualities and is now widespread across much of NSW, Victoria, Tasmania, south-eastern South Australia and the southwestern corner of Western Australia. They can be identified by their bright red lower fins and tail.



Redfin (English Perch) — Credit: Gunther Schmida

Redfin are voracious predators of native fish and invertebrates and can adversely affect native species such as Macquarie Perch by carrying Epizootic Haematopoietic Necrosis (EHN) virus. Redfin can also out-compete other species in enclosed water bodies. Redfin are a notifiable species and it is illegal to be in possession of live Redfin in NSW. If anglers are retaining caught Redfin the fish must be stored dead (e.g. on ice in an esky). It is also illegal to use live or dead Redfin as bait in NSW.

Other freshwater finfish pests

Other freshwater fish considered pests in NSW include established pest fish such as Carp, Banded Grunter, Eastern Gambusia, Oriental Weatherloach and Goldfish. Note whilst still considered pests, carp and Eastern Gambusia are now known to be widespread throughout NSW and you are not required to report sightings of these species. Report suspicions of Banded Grunter, Oriental Weatherloach and other prohibited or notifiable matter, or species that appear out of place (such as suspected aquarium species) on the 24-hour biosecurity hotline **1800 675 888**, email aquatic.biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au or for further details, see the website at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/dpi/bfs/aquatic-biosecurity/report-an-aquatic-pest-or-disease.

Prohibited and Notifiable Diseases

White spot disease of crustaceans was recently detected for the first time in Australia in December 2016, and is now considered to be established in some populations of wild crustaceans in south east Queensland. White spot disease (WSD) can affect a very broad range of crustaceans, including freshwater species. The causative agent can survive freezing, but not cooking, and has previously been detected in imported frozen uncooked prawns. While such prawns are safe for human consumption, they must not be used as bait because of the potential to spread disease to NSW crustacean populations. Fishers can therefore play an important role in ensuring NSW remains free of WSD by ensuring that imported uncooked prawns or other seafood are not used as bait, and by following the requirements of the Biosecurity (White spot disease of crustaceans) Control Order (No. 3) 2017 that bans the importation of uncooked crustaceans and polychaete worms from the south east Queensland infected area. For more information on white spot visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/dpi/bfs/aquatic-biosecurity/aquaculture/prawns/white-spot.



Crayfish plague is an exotic disease that has caused mass mortality in freshwater crayfish in other parts of the world and which has the potential to decimate native NSW freshwater crayfish populations. Signs of this disease can include lethargic, or large numbers of dead crayfish.

In addition to exotic, prohibited matter diseases, a number of other diseases are also notifiable which are known to be present in NSW. This includes red spot disease, or epizootic ulcerative syndrome (EUS), which was first reported in inland NSW in 2008, but where the distribution in NSW freshwater fish remains poorly understood, as well as epizootic haematopoietic necrosis (EHN) which can cause mass mortality in introduced redfin perch and goldfish ulcer disease, which can cause ulcerations in native freshwater fish as well as introduced feral goldfish.



Bony Bream with red spot disease—Credit J. Carson

Reporting

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

- ▶ Reporting any suspect aquatic pest or disease to the DPIRD Aquatic Biosecurity as soon as possible on the 24-hour biosecurity hotline **1800 675 888** or email aquatic.biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au or online at dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity.
- ▶ Take a photograph and send to the DPIRD.
- ▶ If you are able to collect samples, keep them cool (if you suspect disease, do not freeze).
- ▶ Check out the DPIRD website for further information.
- ▶ For general aquatic biosecurity enquiries call **02 4916 3900** during business hours.

Fish kills

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

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

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

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

Water weeds

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

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

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



You can help prevent further spread by:

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

Didymo

Didymo is a highly invasive freshwater algae, commonly known as 'rock snot'. Fortunately Didymo is not found in Australia but in 2004 it was discovered on the south island of New Zealand. It can be spread very easily and by just one drop of affected water. Didymo forms dense brown clumps and smothers stream beds by attaching to rocks and plants. It can attach to clothing of fishers, to fishing gear or boating equipment and can then spread between waterways. Eradication is virtually impossible once it has become established. Fishers are at risk of accidentally introducing Didymo into NSW waters by using contaminated fishing gear and equipment.

What you can do

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

Fishing closures and restrictions

Fishing closures and/or restrictions may apply to ensure that fishing activities remain sustainable, and that biological diversity is protected. For example, fishing closures and/or restrictions may be in place to protect fish and fish habitat; to protect fish where they gather to spawn or migrate; to protect fish during breeding periods; to protect threatened species; to promote a fair share of the catch amongst the community; for safety reasons; and so on. Areas can be closed permanently or temporarily and restrictions surrounding the types of fishing gear and/or methods used can apply at specific times of the year. Some species cannot be taken at any time. For example, it is an offence to take, or attempt to take, harm or possess threatened species.

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

Summary of fishing closures for major freshwater fish species

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

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

1. Fish species	2. Closure	3. Period
Murray Crayfish 	All waters in NSW except the following waters between 1 June and 31 August each year inclusive: (a) Murrumbidgee River between the Hume Highway road bridge, Gundagai and Berembend Weir near Ganmain, excluding Old Man Creek and (b) Murray River from 130 below Hume Weir near Albury to the Newell Highway road bridge at Tocumwal Note: If you incidentally catch Murray Crayfish, either during the closed season or during the open season in unspecified waters, you must immediately return any Murray Crayfish caught to the water unharmed	All year
River Blackfish and Two-Spined Blackfish 	All waters	All year
Silver Perch 	Rivers and dams east and west of the Great Dividing Range except the backed up waters of the following impoundments: Ben Chifley Dam, Blowering Dam, Burrendong Dam, Burrinjuck Dam, Chaffey Dam, Copeton Dam, Glenbawn Dam, Glennies Creek Dam (Lake St Clair), Googong Dam, Jounama Pondage, Keepit Dam, Lake Albert, Lake Wyangan, Pindari Dam, Split Rock Dam, Windamere Dam, Wyangala Dam, Yass Weir	All year
Spiny Crayfish (other than Murray Crayfish) 	Trout waters	All year
Trout Cod 	All waters (catch and release fishing is permitted in Talbingo Dam)	All year
Trout and Salmon 	General trout streams, artificial fly and lure streams (see page 43 for location of these waters) Trout spawning streams (see page 43 for location of these waters)	Tuesday after the June long weekend to the last Friday prior to the start of the October long weekend. Tuesday after the June long weekend until midnight 30 April the following year. Rules for artificial fly and lure streams apply from the start of the October long weekend until 30 April.

Note: Some waterways may be temporarily or permanently closed to fishing or to certain fishing methods (refer to page 65)

Waters and fish species closures

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

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

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

Eastern Freshwater Cod (*Maccullochella ikei*) — Mann River

All fishing methods for any species of fish is prohibited during August to October inclusive in the Mann River and its tributaries upstream from its junction with the Clarence River, except the Oban River and its tributaries upstream from its junction with, but not including, the Sara River; the Guy Fawkes River and its tributaries upstream from its junction with, but not including, the Aberfoyle River and the Nymboida River and its tributaries, upstream of its junction with, and including Wild Cattle Creek.

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

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

Murray Cod (*Maccullochella peelii peelii*)

All fishing methods for Murray Cod prohibited in all inland waters (except Copeton and Blowering Dams) during the period from September to November (inclusive) in each year.

Murray Crayfish (*Eustacus armatus*)

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

- (a) Murrumbidgee River between the Hume Highway road bridge, Gundagai and 100m upstream of the weir face at Berembed Weir near Ganmai, excluding Old Man Creek.
- (b) Murray River from 130m below Hume Weir near Albury to the Newell Highway road bridge at Tocumwal.

Note: If you incidentally catch Murray Crayfish, either during the closed season or during the open season in unspecified waters, you must immediately return any Murray Crayfish caught to the water unharmed.

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

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

Silver Perch (*Bidyanus bidyanus*)

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

Bega River (upper reaches)—nets

Any method involving the use of a net other than a landing net is prohibited in the whole of the non-tidal waters of the Bega River and its tributaries upstream from the junction with Bargo Lagoon Creek to its source, including Bargo Lagoon and Bargo Lagoon Creek, and the whole of the non-tidal waters of Jellat Jellat Creek and its tributaries upstream from the floodgate located approximately 450m above Russels Bridge crossing to its source.

Brogo River—Brogo Dam

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

Clarence River (upper reaches)—nets

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

Cooks River (upper reaches)—nets and traps

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

Deep Creek (upper reaches)—nets and traps

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

Doon Doon Creek—Clarrie Hall Dam

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

Dumaresq River—Bonshaw Weir

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

Edward River—Stevens Weir

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

Frenchman's Creek—Lake Victoria

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

Georges River (upper reaches)—traps

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

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

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

Iron Pot Creek—Toonumbar Dam

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

Jenolan River

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

Lachlan River—Brewster Weir

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

Lachlan River—Brewster Weir (outlet regulator)

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

Lachlan River—Lake Brewster (Ballyrogan Channel)

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

Lachlan River—Lake Cargelligo

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

Lachlan River—Willandra Weir

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

Lachlan River—Wyangala Dam

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

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

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

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

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

Longneck Lagoon—nets and traps

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

MacIntyre River—Goondiwindi Weir

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

Macleay River (upper reaches)—nets

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

Macquarie River—Burrendong Dam

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

Macquarie River—South Dubbo Weir

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

Manly Dam—nets and traps

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

Manning River (upper reaches)—nets

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

Mehi River—Moree Weir

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

Moruya and Deua Rivers (upper reaches)—nets

Any method involving the use of a net other than a landing net is prohibited in the whole of the non tidal waters of the Moruya and Deua Rivers and their tributaries, upstream from the junction with Wamban Creek to its source and including Wamban Creek to its source.

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

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

Murray River—Hume Weir

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

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

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

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

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

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

All fishing methods prohibited in that part of the Murray River at Weir 15 (at Robinvale) within 50m upstream from the centre of the weir wall and from the downstream end of the inner wall of the lock chamber in a straight line across the river to a point on the NSW bank, 65m downstream of where the weir wall adjoins the NSW bank.

Murray River (Rufus River)—Weir and Lock No. 7

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

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

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

Murray River—Torrumbarry Weir

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

Murray River (Wangumma)—Weir and Lock No. 8

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

Murray River (Wentworth)—Weir and Lock No. 10

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

Murray River—Yarrawonga Weir

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

Murray River—Yarrawonga Weir to Tocumwal

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

Murray River—Yarrowonga Weir to Tocumwal—nets and traps

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

Murrumbidgee River—Balranald Weir

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

Murrumbidgee River—Berembed Weir

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

Murrumbidgee River—Burrinjuck Dam

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

Murrumbidgee River—Gogeldrie Weir

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

Murrumbidgee River—Hay Weir

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

Murrumbidgee River—Maude Weir

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

Murrumbidgee River—Redbank Weir

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

Murrumbidgee River—Yanco Weir

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

Murrumbidgee River—Yanco Creek Weir

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

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

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

Namoi River—Lake Keepit

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

Namoi River—Manilla Weir

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

Nepean River—nets

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

Nepean River—Penrith Weir

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

Orara River (upper reaches)—nets

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

Porters Creek—Porters Creek Dam

All fishing methods for any species of fish except when taking Australian Bass and Estuary Perch by catch and release fishing using artificial flies or lures, so that any fish caught are returned to the water unharmed as soon as possible.

Richmond River—Jabour Weir

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

Rous River (upper reaches)—nets and traps

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

Rufus River—Lake Victoria

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

Serpentine River—L.P. Dutton Trout Hatchery

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

Shoalhaven River—Tallowa Dam

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

Swampy Plain River—Khancoban Pondage

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

Thredbo River—Gaden Hatchery

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

Towamba River (upper) — nets

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

Tumut River—Blowering Dam

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

Tumut River—Blowering Dam—nets

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

Tumut River—Jounama Dam

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

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

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

Wallamba River (upper reaches) — nets

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

Warrell Creek (upper reaches) — nets and traps

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

Williams River (upper reaches) — nets

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

Wonboyn River (upper) — nets

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

Woronora River (upper reaches) — nets

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

Fisheries officers

Fisheries officers have an important role in helping our fisheries resources remain healthy and sustainable into the future. They advise recreational and commercial fishers and the general community on fishing and marine estate rules and restrictions and patrol NSW waters to ensure everyone is abiding by the state's fishing and marine protected area laws.

Fisheries officers patrol our waterways including coastal estuaries, lakes and offshore waters plus our inland rivers, streams and dams, seven days a week. You will see fisheries officers at boat ramps, on beaches and rivers, in boats, aircraft and on foot, just about everywhere there are fish and fishers. They deal with recreational fishers, commercial fishers, fish farmers, fish shops and restaurants. They also provide education and enforcement in marine parks and aquatic reserves, assist with conservation issues and education and advisory programs. Most fisheries officers are keen fishers and are happy to provide you with local knowledge and tips for a given area.

Under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* fisheries officers have powers which enable them to stop and search your boat and vehicle, examine your fishing gear, inspect your fish and bait and require certain

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

If you are found breaking the fisheries rules, you may be issued with a written caution or a penalty notice ranging between \$100 to \$2500. In serious matters you may have to face court and have the matter determined by a magistrate. Most serious fisheries offences have maximum fines up to \$22,000 and terms of imprisonment. Some fisheries offences carry a penalty of up to 10 years imprisonment.

Your recreational fishing fee contributes to improving salt and freshwater fisheries compliance and employs additional fisheries officers throughout the state.

This results in more fisheries officers spending time in the field with better equipment to detect and deter illegal activity.

Remember that fisheries officers are there to ensure the rules are being adhered to so there will be healthy fisheries for the enjoyment of future generations.



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Contact details

For general fishing information call **1300 550 474** or check the website [**www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/compliance**](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/compliance).

Please report illegal or suspected fishing activities and harm to aquatic habitat to the Fishers Watch Phoneline on **1800 043 536** (free call).

Report illegal activity as soon as you suspect it is happening, even after hours. After hours calls are received by an interactive voice response system which allows callers to record a message and this will be sent to a fisheries officer.

Fisheries officers in the identified area will be immediately notified of all illegal fishing reports, including those made after hours.

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

Reporting illegal fishing can be done from within the FishSmart app available for smartphones.

Where information is given in good faith, all identifying details will be treated as confidential. Where an immediate response is not possible due to conducting other operations or for safety considerations, information received will be used in targeting ongoing surveillance and enforcement activities.

Inland offices	
Region	Office
Central Tablelands	Research Station Drive, Bathurst 2795
Hume	Level 2, 429 Swift St, Albury 2640
Far West	Agricultural Research and Advisory Station, Silver City Highway, Dareton 2717
Macquarie	Cnr Hampden and Cobra Streets, Dubbo 2830
Monaro	Kosciusko Road, Jindabyne 2627
Inverell Research Station	7023 Gwydir Highway, Inverell NSW 2360
Peel	4 Marsden Park Road, Calala 2340
Riverina	449 Charlotte Street, Deniliquin 2710
South West Slopes	64 Fitzroy Street, Tumut 2720

For office enquiries or to contact a Fisheries Officer please call **1800 043 536**.

Coastal offices

Far North Coast

Tweed	10/12 Greenway Drive, Tweed Heads 2486
Wollongbar Primary Industries Institute	1243 Bruxner Highway, Wollongbar 2477
Clarence	18A River Street, Maclean 2463
Coffs Harbour	32 Marina Drive, Coffs Harbour Jetty 2450

North Coast

Hastings	3/22-24 Acacia Avenue, Port Macquarie 2444
Wallis Lake	2 Palm Street, Tuncurry 2428
Port Stephens	Taylors Beach Road, Taylors Beach 2316
Hunter	55 Lambton Parade, Swansea 2281

Sydney Metropolitan and Central coast

Central Coast	Northloop Road, Ourimbah 2258
Sydney North	12 Shirley Road, Wollstonecraft 2065
Sydney South	1 Water Street, Sans Souci 2219
Illawarra	2/91 Foreshore Road, Port Kembla 2505

South Coast

Batemans Bay	Suite 8, Braysyth Building, Cnr Beach Road and Orient Street, Batemans Bay 2536
Montague	Riverside Drive, Narooma 2546
Far South Coast	13 Cocora Street, Eden 2551
Shoalhaven	4 Woollamia Road, Huskisson 2540

For office enquiries or to contact a Fisheries Officer please call **1800 043 536**.

Marine park offices

Marine parks	Office	
Cape Byron Marine Park	Tallow Beach Road, Byron Bay 2481	02 6620 9305
Solitary Islands Marine Park	32 Marina Drive, Coffs Harbour 2450	02 6691 0600
Lord Howe Island Marine Park	Anderson Road, Lord Howe Island 2898	02 6563 2359
Port Stephens-Great Lakes Marine Park	Taylors Beach Road, Taylors Beach 2316	02 4916 3970
Jervis Bay Marine Park	4 Woollamia Road, Huskisson 2540	02 4428 3000
Batemans Marine Park	Cnr Graham & Burrawang Street, Narooma 2546	02 4476 0807



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Freshwater species bag and size limits summary

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

Explanation of terms

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

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

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

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

* **Note:** The Fitzroy Falls Spiny Crayfish is totally protected and cannot be taken from any waters.

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