



Freshwater Fisher 2

3 June 2005

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Welcome to the NSW CFA's Freshwater Fisher. Please forward this newsletter on to anyone who may be interested.

Fishing licences to cost more

From 1 July 2005, the recreational fishing licence will increase for the first time in 4 years. Apparently new licences will be made of waterproof plastic. The new costs for the licence will be:

- 3 year - \$75
- 1 year - \$30
- 1 month - \$12
- 3 days - \$6

CFA Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be held in the Riverview Room at Nepean Rowing Club on the banks of the Nepean River on Saturday 20 August 2005. The address is Bruce Neale Drive, Penrith 2750. The meeting will commence at 9.00 am and usually runs to about 4.00 pm. There will be a small charge for tea and coffee, sandwich lunch and for those who stay on, there will be a dinner in the bistro. The usual format of the day is an AGM for the annual report by the President, election of office bearers etc, followed by the usual quarterly general meeting.

Tallowa fishway –postponed but still on the SCA 'to do' list

The fishway on Tallowa Dam on the Shoalhaven seems to have been indefinitely postponed because of the possible structural changes to the dam.

We understand that NSW Fisheries (now DPI) completed a pre-fishway assessment of fish communities in 2000 and then in 2001 the Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) undertook a feasibility study that discovered a fishway was necessary and feasible, and senior management at SCA signed off on the proposals. SCA went on to commission detailed design options and in 2004 DPI was advised to prepare for post-construction assessment and consequently initiated a study in collaboration with Southern Bass to begin PIT tagging bass in anticipation of the upcoming fishway construction.

However we now hear that SCA is considering raising the height of the dam by 7 m (to augment Sydney's water supply) and planning for the fishway has been put on hold while the broader catchment management ramifications of this are worked through. We understand that at this stage there is every intention for the fishway to go ahead although it may need a re-design to allow fish to migrate back downstream, a facility that wasn't developed in the original plan. Fishway design has progressed quite a lot since the original design for Tallowa and presumably any new design will benefit from the latest thinking.

However, if you're a Shoalhaven bass, your love life is looking pretty ordinary for some time to come.

Reports of Murray cod dying from cheese baits

Using cheese as a bait for Murray cod has become popular in the Murray River and associated waters, with the theory being that it imitates a bardie grub, a known and

successful cod bait. However, some reports have emerged from NSW, Victoria and South Australia of Murray cod either diseased or dying from ingesting cheese. The reports have been along the lines of Murray cod being found dead with stomachs ulcerated and blocked with putrid cheese, cod being captured and killed for the table and found with stomachs ulcerated and blocked with putrid cheese, and one report of a tank maintained Murray cod being fed cheese (in response to these concerns) and dying.

DPI is interested in examining any cod thought to have been killed by cheese ingestion. They must be very fresh specimens. If preservation is an issue, put them on ice, do not freeze them. If fishermen have a very fresh cod, whose death or diseased state arouses suspicion of involvement of cheese, and they would like to submit the specimen, they can call their local Fisheries Officer, or Inland Fisheries Manager Cameron Westaway on 02 6042 4211.

DPI is aware of the cheese issue, and a DPI scientist has advised that "... food-borne toxins are known to cause problems in aquaculture, and there are some reports of enteric [gut] diseases in fish under culture conditions linked to poor digestibility of feeds, and feeds with high lipid [fat] content".

However, it must be stressed that it is not known with any certainty if cheese ingestion is an issue with Murray cod. It may be many months before DPI can provide a definitive answer on the issue. In the meantime, anglers may want to consider whether they use cheese as bait for Murray cod.

More websites of interest

Bass Sydney's website is at www.basssydney.com.

Another good general fishing website with links to lots of clubs etc is at www.fishnet.com.au. Alpine Angler. Scott Mitchell's fishing tackle shop at Cooma, operates a site with fishing reports, lake levels, weather reports etc at www.alpineangler.com.au. You can also subscribe to his free occasional email newsletter.

FlyLife magazine runs an excellent website with an online forum of discussions about all sorts of fishing and fishery issues at www.flylife.com.au.

Special freshwater conservation brochures still available

We still have some copies available of the special freshwater conservation edition of Freshwater Fisher we produced with the help of a RFT grant and a donation direct from DPI. Email freshwaterfisher@viridia.com.au if you need any for your club.

CFA awards

At our annual general meeting in August the Council of Freshwater Anglers Annual Awards will be presented, recognising the contributions made by an individual and an organisation to freshwater recreational fishing in NSW. Nominations for the 2005 awards can be made by individuals or by clubs and should be made in writing to the President, Rodney Tonkin, NSW CFA, GPO Box 84, Sydney 2001 or by email to Rodney at rtonkin@netwit.net.au.

Nominations should include reasons why you think the individual or club is worthy of the award and must be sent by the end of June. Clubs can certainly nominate themselves.

Is your club a member of the Council of Freshwater Anglers?

The NSW CFA is the main umbrella group for freshwater fishing organisations in NSW and enjoy a productive relationship with the NSW Department of Primary Industries and other bodies. We welcome all freshwater fishing clubs as members. Member organisations are able to send voting delegates to our quarterly meetings. For more information please contact our Secretary, Mr Bill Spiers on 02 4392 3803 or wspiers@bigpond.net.au.

For more information about this newsletter

Visit the special website page at

<http://www.freshwateranglers.com.au/Freshwater%20Fisher.html>.

Feedback and contributions

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Freshwater Fisher

NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers Inc

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