Entries close 31 July 2011

recreational fishing photo competition

The twelve finalists will have their photos published in a calendar to be distributed free of charge to recreational fishers across NSW in 2012.

Don’t miss your chance to have your photo featured in the recreational fishing calendar. Entries close on 31 July 2011!

This is your chance to showcase your photographic talents. There are great prize packs to be won.

The competition is easy to enter and open to everyone. You need to include an entry form – visit the I&I NSW website www.industry.nsw.gov.au/fisheries and follow the links to recreational fishing and the calendar competition to submit your form online or phone 02 6051 7703 and have an entry form posted to you.

There are two ways you can enter:
- Digital photos – can be entered via the website www.industry.nsw.gov.au/fisheries using the online entry form.
- Hard copy – via mail to Recreational Fishing Photo Competition, PO Box 49, Albury NSW 2640. If sending your photograph as a hard copy print, please don’t forget to include an entry form.

Also register your interest, either on the website www.industry.nsw.gov.au/fisheries or with I&I NSW on 02 6051 7703, to receive your free copy of the 2012 recreational fishing calendar.


2011 freshwater fishing photo competition calendar
Thanks to our sponsors for their support and supplying the bumper competition prize packs for each of the 12 winning photographers.

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Welcome to the 2011 edition of the NSW freshwater fishing photo competition calendar. Recreational fishing continues to be a very popular pastime in NSW.

The NSW Recreational Fishing Fee has been well supported and the funding raised has been put to good use funding many programs to improve freshwater fishing. This calendar is one example of those dollars at work. The calendar provides a great avenue to promote the many social benefits of fishing to the wider community and the continued support shown from the angling public towards this publication has been tremendous.

This educational calendar provides a great opportunity for anglers to showcase their greatest freshwater fishing experiences, and as I'm sure you will agree, the quality and diversity of photos submitted this year is outstanding. The calendar also provides some terrific images of common freshwater recreational species, along with a round-up of fishing regulations to ensure their long-term sustainability.

The NSW Government will continue to work with the recreational fishing community for healthy, vital fisheries for today and into the future. I hope you enjoy this year's edition of the freshwater fishing photo competition calendar. Best wishes and good fishing in 2011.

The Hon. Steve Whan, MP
Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Emergency Services
Minister for Rural Affairs

2011 freshwater fishing photo competition calendar
WWW.INDUSTRY.NSW.GOV.AU
### January 2011

**Murray Cod** (*Maccullochella peelii*)

- **Legal size:** 60 cm
- **Bag limit:** 2 (only 1 over 100 cm in total)
- **Possession limit:** 4 (only 1 over 100 cm)

**Habitat, distribution:** Murray Cod generally prefer slow flowing, turbid water in streams and rivers, favouring deeper water around boulders, undercut banks, overhanging vegetation and logs.

**Fishing tips:** Anglers troll and cast large lures or use baits such as yabbies, worms and freshwater mussels when fishing for Murray Cod.

**Fishing closure:** Closed season 1 September to 30 November.

**Interesting fact:** Murray Cod is the top predator of the Murray-Darling River system, and is well known for its opportunistic and at times voracious appetite and the consumption of unusual items. Common food items include fish, crustaceans and mussels; less common are water dragons, turtles, frogs, water birds such as ducks and grebes, and terrestrial animals such as mice and snakes. Unusual items reported are kookaburras, possums, a crow with a jam tin on its head, a butcher's knife, golf balls and a margarine container.

**FRESHWATER EVENTS IN JANUARY**
- 14–15 January: Narrandera Fishing Workshop
- 21–22 January: Gaden Fishing Workshop
- 22 January: Dutton Fishing Workshop

---

### Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 New Year’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 Public holiday</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26 Australia Day</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28 NSW schools start term 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Daiwa
Unit K 134 – 140 Old Pittwater Rd BROOKVALE NSW 2100
**GOLDEN PERCH** (*Macquaria ambigua*)

**Legal size:** 30 cm  
**Bag limit:** 5  
**Possession limit:** 10

**Habitat, distribution:** Golden Perch naturally inhabit the Murray–Darling river system (except at high elevations) and the internal drainage systems of Lake Eyre and the Bulloo River. They prefer warm, slow-moving, turbid streams.

**Fishing closure:** No closed season.

**Interesting fact:** A national survey of recreational fishing conducted over a year estimated that 1 million Golden Perch were harvested by recreational fishers, about 2% of total finfish harvested. Just over half (52%) were taken in New South Wales, with lower harvests in Queensland (25%), Victoria (13%) and South Australia (8%). Small quantities (<1%) were also reported from the Australian Capital Territory and Western Australia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Recreational Fishing Trusts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**AusSpin Lures**  
PO Box 393 LAURIE TON NSW 2443  
p: 02 6559 5051, www.ausspinlures.com
RAINBOW TROUT (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

**Legal size:** 50 cm (trout spawning streams (no bait fishing)), 25 cm (all other waters).

**Bag limit:** 1 (trout spawning streams) 2 (artificial fly and lure) 5 (general trout waters and general trout dams) 10 (all other waters).

**Possession limit:** 2 (trout spawning streams) 4 (artificial fly and lure) 10 (general trout waters and general trout dams) 20 (all other waters).

All possession limits are for single or combined salmonid species.

**Habitat, distribution:** This species, native to North America, occurs in the high country from northern New South Wales to Victoria, in hills near Adelaide, South Australia and in Tasmania. These fish are frequently maintained by stocking and have a more restricted local distribution than Brown Trout.

**Fishing closure:** Various trout water closures are in place in NSW waters. Check the NSW Freshwater Recreational Fishing Guide for details.

**Interesting fact:** Rainbow Trout have been introduced for food or sport into at least 45 countries, and across all continents except Antarctica.

---

**Fishing Tackle Australia**

Fishing Tackle Australia  
144 Pacific Highway COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450  
TROUT COD – ENDANGERED  
(Maccullochella macquariensis)

**Status:** Endangered species. Fishing is prohibited: it is an offence to take, harm or be in the possession of a Trout Cod. If caught they must be carefully returned to the water unharmed.

**Habitat, distribution:** The Trout Cod is endemic to the southern Murray–Darling river system, including the Murrumbidgee and Murray rivers and the Macquarie River in central NSW. The species was once widespread and abundant in these areas but has undergone dramatic declines in its distribution and abundance over the past century.

**Fishing closure:** Total fishing closure. Fishing for this species is prohibited.

**Interesting fact:** Spawning of Trout Cod is essentially the same as Murray Cod but usually occurs about three weeks earlier and at significantly lower temperatures in waters shared by the two species.

**FRESHWATER EVENTS IN APRIL**

- 8 April: Get Hooked 2011 registration closes

---

**April 2011 Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Photographer:** Lily McKimmie  
[Wait for me boys!, Upper Murray]
AUSTRALIAN BASS (*Macquaria novemaculeata*)

Legal size: none applicable

Bag limit: 2 (only 1 over 35 cm in rivers)

Possession limit: 4

Habitat, distribution: Bass are found in fresh and estuarine waters, in eastern draining rivers from the Mary River in Queensland to the Gippsland Lakes in Victoria.

Fishing closure: Closed season in rivers from 1 June to 31 August.

Interesting fact: According to a national survey of recreational fishing which ran for 1 year a total of 1,150,183 Australian Bass and Estuary Perch were caught by recreational anglers. 75.6% of these fish were released.

FRESHWATER EVENTS IN MAY

1 May: Murray crayfish season opens. Notified trout spawning streams in effect.

---

Photographer: Cindy Meissner [Reeled in and released, Lake Keepit] Species featured is a Murray Cod.

May 2011
### June 2011

#### Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta*)

**Legal size:** 50 cm (trout spawning streams (no bait fishing)), 25 cm (all other waters)

**Bag limit:** 1 (trout spawning streams) 2 (artificial fly and lure) 5 (general trout waters and general trout dams) 10 (all other waters).

**Possession limit:** 2 (trout spawning streams) 4 (artificial fly and lure) 10 (general trout waters and general trout dams) 20 (all other waters). All possession limits are for single or combined salmonid species.

**Habitat, distribution:** Imported from England, the Brown Trout is possibly the most important sport fish to be introduced in Australia. It is commonly found in cool waters, mostly above 600 m, with moderate to swift flow, and also in cool, clear lakes and reservoirs.

**Fishing closure:** Various trout water closures are in place in NSW waters. Check the NSW Freshwater Recreational Fishing Guide for detailed information.

**Interesting fact:** A typical female produces about 2,000 eggs per kilogram (900 eggs per pound) of body weight at spawning.

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rivers closed to Australian Bass and Estuary Perch fishing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Queen’s Birthday</td>
<td>All notified trout waters closed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**EASTERN FRESHWATER COD**  
*Endangered (Maccullochella ikei)*

**Status:** Endangered species. Fishing is prohibited: it is an offence to take, harm or be in the possession of an Eastern Freshwater Cod. If caught they must be carefully returned to the water unharmed.

**Habitat, distribution:** Eastern Freshwater Cod is only found in the Clarence and Richmond River catchments of northern NSW.

**Fishing closure:** Fishing for this species is prohibited. Fishing by all methods for any species in the Mann River and its tributaries upstream of its junction with the Clarence River except the Oban River and its tributaries upstream of its junction with, but not including, the Sara River, the Guy Fawkes River and its tributaries upstream of its junction with, but not including, the Aberfoyle River and the Nymboida River and its tributaries upstream of its junction with, and including, Wild Cattle Creek is also prohibited from August to October, to protect breeding Eastern Cod populations.

**Interesting fact:** Murray Cod crossed the Great Dividing Range and entered the headwaters of the Clarence River system through a natural river capture event sometime between 0.8 and 1.7 million years ago, as estimated by DNA divergence rates. Subsequent isolation from Murray Cod populations, the founder effect, genetic drift and natural selection all led Eastern Freshwater Cod to diverge from and become a separate species to Murray Cod.

---

**FRESHWATER EVENTS IN JULY**

31 July: 2012 Recreational Fishing Photo Competition closes

---

**Photographer:** Darcy McKimmie [Swim for another day, Upper Murray]
## BROOK TROUT (*Salvelinus fontinalis*)

**Legal size:** 50 cm (trout spawning streams (no bait fishing)), 25 cm (all other waters)

**Bag limit:** 1 (trout spawning streams) 2 (artificial fly and lure) 5 (general trout waters and general trout dams) 10 (all other waters).

**Possession limit:** 2 (trout spawning streams) 4 (artificial fly and lure) 10 (general trout waters and general trout dams) 20 (all other waters).

**Habitat, distribution:** Brook Trout were introduced from North America in the early 1900s. Brook Trout live in cool waters of streams, lakes and dams. Populations are maintained by stocking with hatchery-reared fish. Only three dams in NSW are stocked with Brook Trout: Lake Jindabyne, Dry Dam and Three Mile Dam. No rivers or streams are stocked.

**Fishing closure:** Various trout water closures are in place in NSW waters. Check the NSW Freshwater Recreational Fishing Guide for details.

**Interesting fact:** The current Brook Trout world angling record was caught by Dr WJ Cook on the Nipigon River, Ontario, in July 1915. The 31 inch trout weighed only 14.5 lb because, at the time of weighing, it was badly decomposed after 21 days in the bush without refrigeration. This is the longest-standing angling world record. A 29 inch Brook Trout, caught in October 2006 in Manitoba, is not eligible for record status since it was released alive.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MURRAY CRAYFISH (*Euastacus armatus*)

**Legal size:** 9 cm

**Bag limit:** 5 (only 1 over 12 cm).

**Possession limit:** 10 (only 1 over 12 cm).

**Habitat, distribution:** Murray crayfish can be found in the Murray River upstream of Mildura, in the Murrumbidgee River and in some dams, and are the only species in the freshwater crayfish family that live in both cold and warm water habitats.

**Fishing closure:** Closed season 1 September to 30 April. Fishing prohibited in notified trout waters and Blowering Dam.

**Interesting fact:** The Murray crayfish is the second largest freshwater crayfish species in the world after the Tasmanian giant freshwater crayfish.

table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 Murray crayfish and Murray Cod season closed. Streams open to Australian Bass and Estuary Perch fishing.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

September 2011

**Photographer:** Ian Rose (Grant's big fish, Snowy Mountains) Species featured is a Rainbow Trout.
YABBIES (*Cherax destructor*)

**Legal size:** no limit  
**Bag limit:** 200 in total  
**Possession limit:** 200 in total

**Habitat, distribution:** Yabbies are found in much of central and western NSW, south-western Queensland, most of Victoria and the eastern part of South Australia. They inhabit freshwater creeks, rivers, lakes, farm dams, swamps, floodplains and irrigation channels. They prefer to occupy turbid shallow water that is slow-flowing or still. They can be found at depths up to 5 metres, depending on dissolved oxygen concentrations.

**Fishing closure:** No closed season.

**Interesting fact:** Yabbies are nocturnal detritivores, feeding primarily on algae and plant remains, but also opportunistically feeding on any fish or animal remains they encounter.

**FRESHWATER EVENTS IN OCTOBER**

10 October: Registrations for Get Hooked 2012 open
**SILVER PERCH — VULNERABLE**  
*Bidyanus bidyanus*

**Legal size:** 25 cm in listed stocked dams  
**Bag limit:** 5 in listed stocked dams  
**Possession limit:** 10 in listed stocked dams

**Habitat, distribution:** Silver Perch were once widespread and abundant throughout most of the Murray–Darling river system. They have now declined to low numbers or disappeared from most of their former range. Only one known remaining secure and self-sustaining population occurs in NSW in the central Murray River downstream of Yarrawonga Weir, as well as in several anabranches and tributaries.

**Fishing closure:** Fishing prohibited in rivers.

**Interesting fact:** In 2007–08 the Silver Perch aquaculture industry in NSW was worth $2.25 million. Aquaculture has been the fastest growing primary industry in Australia, with a growth of over 8% per year.
December 2011

Freshwater Catfish (Eel-Tailed Catfish) – Endangered Population in the Murray–Darling (Tandanus tandanus)

Status: The Murray–Darling population of Freshwater Catfish is listed as endangered. Fishing is permitted only in eastern dams and listed western dams and eastern rivers.

Legal size: 30 cm where permitted

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

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

Habitat, distribution: Freshwater Catfish were formerly very abundant across most of the Murray–Darling Basin in inland New South Wales. Catfish numbers declined substantially following the invasion of carp during the 1970s and 80s. In addition to carp, thermal pollution and season flow reversal also have major impacts. Catfish are still relatively common in parts of the Macquarie, Namoi, Gwydir and Border River catchments and coastal catchments north of Newcastle.

Fishing closure: Western waters. Freshwater Catfish fishing is not permitted in any western flowing waters including unlisted western dams.

Interesting fact: The scientific name for Freshwater Catfish comes from an Aboriginal name for the fish – Tandan – which Major Mitchell recorded on his 1832 expedition.
Be a Fishcare Volunteer
If you have a passion for fish and fishing and you’d like to help protect our aquatic habitat, why not think about becoming a Fishcare Volunteer? Volunteers help with activities such as fishing workshops, catch surveys and community fishing events, and talk to anglers about responsible fishing and fishing rules.

There are Fishcare Volunteers in inland and coastal areas around the State. To find out more, visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/info/fvp

Get more fishing information
» Check out the NSW recreational fishing guides.

The saltwater and freshwater fishing guides give information on fishing fees, catch and release fishing, safety tips, knots and rigs, fishing rules, legal lengths, bag limits, protected and threatened species, and tide charts.

They also discuss significant projects in areas such as fisheries enhancement, habitat restoration, essential research programs, game fish tagging, fish stock activities, safety awareness, education and community participation activities. All of these projects are supported by the NSW Government using funds allocated from the Recreational Fishing Trusts.

The NSW Recreational Saltwater and Recreational Freshwater Fishing Guides 2011 are available free from I&I NSW offices and most fishing tackle shops, or can be downloaded from www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/info/guide

» Look at the I&I NSW website.

I&I NSW publish information on local fishing closures with useful information on fishing local waterways including maps, fishing rules, fishing safety, recreational fishing havens, and fish aggregating devices (FADs). See www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries

Dob in the crooks
Stealing fish and black marketing are a serious problem and can deplete our fish and shellfish stocks. This is why Fisheries Officers spend many hours on patrol, detecting and preventing illegal fishing.

Fisheries Officers need your help. Report illegal or suspect fishing activities to your nearest fisheries office or ring the Fishers Watch Phoneline. All information is kept absolutely confidential. Record the type of activity, the time, date and location of the activity, the number of people and any descriptions, and the registration numbers of cars and boats.

Fishers Watch Phoneline 1800 043 536

Improve fish survival – catch and release
Catch and release fishing is becoming much more popular and research shows good fishing techniques mean most fish survive.

To help your catch survive:
» Use artificial lures or non-offset circle hooks when using bait to reduce deep hooking.
» Use barbless hooks to make hook removal easier and minimise the damage that hooks cause.
» Use fish-friendly landing nets with soft, knotless mesh.
» Use wet hands or gloves to handle fish before release.
» Minimise the time the fish is out of the water. Unhook it while it is still in the water, if you can.
» Use needle-nosed pliers or unhooking devices to speed up unhooking.
» If a fish is deeply hooked, don’t try to remove the hook: cut the line as close to the mouth as possible and release the fish.
» Don’t drop the fish on hard or hot surfaces.
» Don’t hold the fish by the gills or eyes.
» Support the fish properly when you take photos.

For more information on catch and release techniques visit the I&I NSW website.

Getting a Fishing Licence
When fishing in NSW, in freshwater or saltwater, you are required by law to pay the NSW Recreational Fishing Fee and to carry the receipt unless exempt (see www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/ licence-fee/exemptions).

This applies whether you are spear fishing, hand-lining, hand-gathering, trapping, bait collecting and prawn netting or in possession of fishing gear in, on or adjacent to waters.

You can purchase your Fishing License:
» over the counter, from fishing fee agents or from most Kmart stores in NSW, or
» over the phone, by calling 1300 369 365 (Visa and Mastercard only), or
» online at https://www.licence.nsw.gov.au

Recreational fishing closures
For detailed local information on recreational fishing closures in your area visit the website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/publications

Get Hooked... It’s Fun to Fish
The Get Hooked... It’s Fun to Fish Program has been developed to teach primary school students about safe, responsible and sustainable fishing, while meeting syllabus outcomes. We promote stewardship, recycling, civic participation and healthy diet and exercise. Get Hooked is about having fun in a safe environment and learning at the same time.

To find out more on how your school can be involved visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/info/get-hooked

p: 02 9527 8473 or 9527 8515
m: 0438 162 610 or 0437 860 299

School terms for Victoria, ACT and Queensland

Victoria
1 February – 8 April, 27 April – 1 July, 18 July – 23 September, 10 October – 22 December

ACT
4 February – 15 April, 2 May – 8 July, 25 July – 30 September, 17 October – 21 December

Queensland
24 January – 15 April, 26 April – 24 June, 11 July – 16 September, 3 October – 9 December
Fisheries office locations and phone numbers

WWW.INDUSTRY.NSW.GOV.AU

Some entries from last year's calendar competition

You could be a winner in 2011!