



# NSW Research Angler Program

Issue 13 December 2016

Welcome to the “NSW Research Angler Program Newsletter” – providing you, the research anglers and spearfishers of NSW, feedback on the data you are collecting by donating your frames to research.

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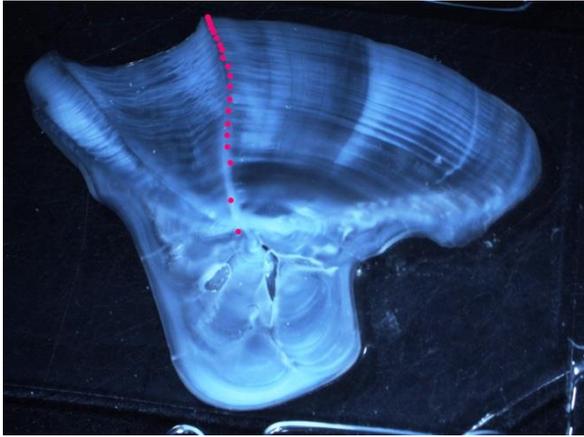
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## Notable Donations from Spring 2016

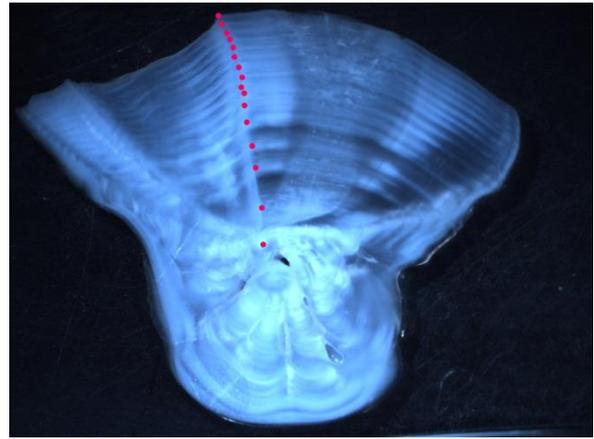
Longer days, increasingly active currents and slowly warming water is what spring is all about for the East Coast fisho and Spring 2016 well and truly “sprung” for the NSW Research Angler Program with some fine fish caught (and donated) by NSWs enthusiastic Research Anglers and spearfishers. In the thick of the action was North Coast mulloway-on-lures specialist Damian Cliffe, who donated four thumping fish from the region around Yamba. Damian’s four fish included a huge 1.5 m breakwall mulloway estimated to be 14 years old. Smaller (but only just) was a 145 cm fish (pictured at right), which kept things interesting by being estimated to be a grand 18 years of age! This is just the eighth 18 year old mulloway so far recorded in NSW waters.



145 cm of prime North Coast breakwall mulloway donated by Damian Cliffe and estimated to be 18 years old! Photo courtesy Damian Cliffe.

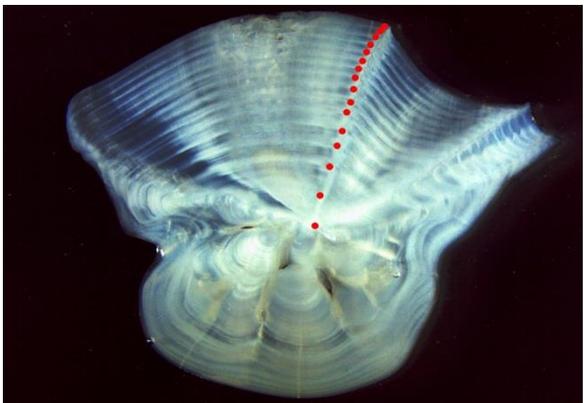
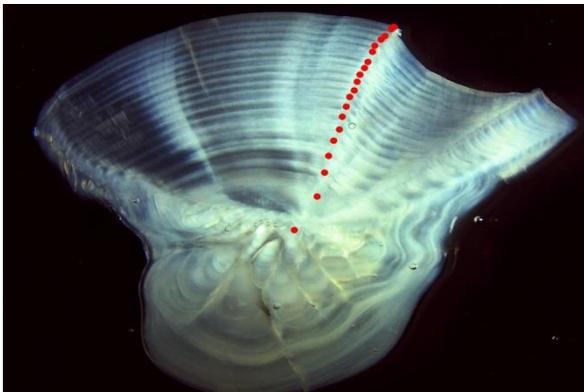


The eighteen annuli or 'growth rings' counted in the otolith section from Damian Cliffe's 145 cm Yamba mulloway revealed it to be 18 years old.



Despite being 5 cm longer, Damian's 150 cm mulloway was estimated to be only 14 years old.

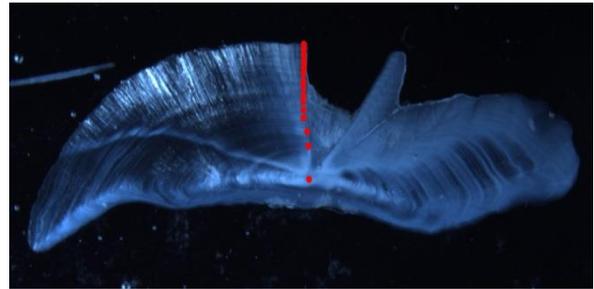
Sometimes in chasing an enigmatic and wily creature like mulloway, it helps to have a bit of luck occasionally. Well, this applies as much to chasing them with a speargun as it does with lures, baits or flies. It does, however, help if you can take advantage of a bit of luck when it comes your way by being good at your chosen hunting technique. One guy who consistently performs for the NSW RAP had a slice of luck this spring successfully landing two trophy mulloway in one day. At 142 and 146 cm (and around 30 kg each), a jewel from each of these two donated fish were enthusiastically analysed in the lab and revealed the fish to be 18 and 15 years respectively. Two big fish in one day maybe lucky, but the five other jewies James found time to donate to the program with lengths of 86, 105, 123, 127 and 143 cm, demonstrate that he may just be quite good at hunting them!



The otolith sections from James' 142 cm mulloway (top) estimated to be 18 years old and (below) 146 cm fish estimated to be 15 years old.



James Sakker with a 146 cm and 30 kg of Coffs Coast mulloway speared on the very same November day as a 142 cm fish seen in the background. Photo courtesy James Sakker.



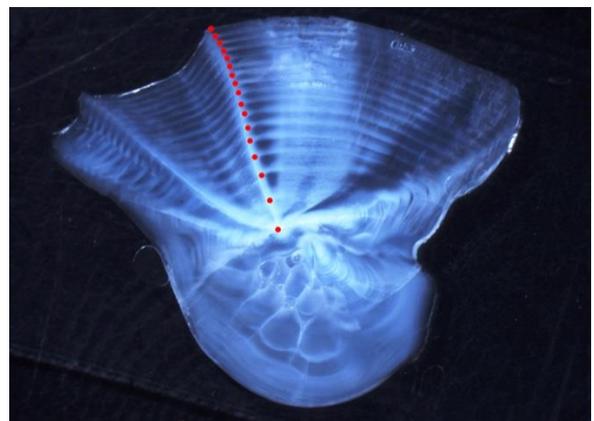
The otolith section (above) from Martin Jackson's lovely 73 cm South Coast snapper (left) estimated to be 13 years old.

Another cracking spring catch donated to the NSW RAP was an absolutely superbly-conditioned South Coast snapper taken by Martin Jackson flicking plastics offshore from Batemans Bay. You don't see too many better looking than this fine specimen and at 73 cm took some serious stopping! And not only was Martin's snapper big and handsome, but analysis of one of its otoliths revealed a ripe estimated age of 13 years, making it one of the largest 13 year old snapper so far recorded in NSW waters!



Our final notable donation for spring 2016 was the largest mulloway donated to the NSW RAP this season and came in the form of a PB mulloway caught by multiple past frame donor Brendan Stocks. From the spiritual home of mulloway in NSW, the mighty Hawkesbury River, this fish was reward for countless patient hours Brendan has spent chasing mulloway in and around Sydney. At 151 cm and 34 kg, Brendan's fish was big no doubt, but also had some 15 years under its belt as revealed by analysis of one of its otoliths. Now that's a PB that is going to take some beating!

Left: A suitably stoked Brendan Stocks with his new PB mulloway of 151 cm, 34 kg and 15 years old from the Hawkesbury River. Photo courtesy Brendan Stocks.



Above: The otolith section from Brendan's mulloway containing 15 annual growth rings.

## Project Progress – Spring 2016

Spring 2016 was another top season for all our species with frames generously donated from 80 recreationally-caught mulloway, 45 snapper, 18 yellowtail kingfish, 27 dusky flathead and more than 200 tailor – that’s almost 400 fish in 3 just months!

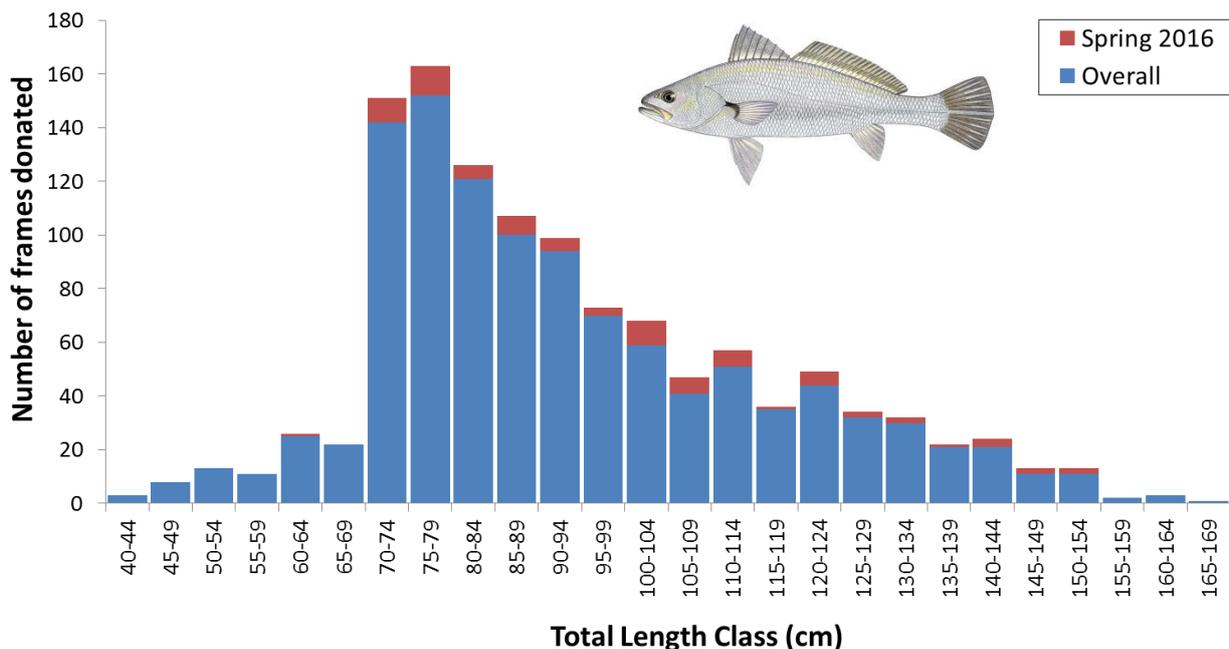
As well as plenty of mulloway in the 70-80 cm size class, spring’s donations also featured almost 39 fish of over 100 cm in length! Amongst these were frames from plenty of trophy-sized individuals with 10 fish of 130 cm or greater donated.

As can be seen from the below graph of the sizes of fish donated to the NSW RAP since late 2013, the excellent numbers of large (and potentially old) fish donated have made up a significant proportion of the overall total, providing excellent data for assessing the NSW mulloway population. Also evident from the below figure is evidence of some strong (and weak) size classes – fish the 110-114, 120-124 and 140-144 cm classes appear potentially stronger than those surrounding weaker classes. This pattern is a feature of fish species with recruitment tied to variable environmental factors, like mulloway and flood events for example!



NSW RAP scientist Julian Hughes with a shopping trolley full of frames donated to Central Coast drop-off point **BCF West Gosford**. Photo courtesy Luke Reilly.

**Lengths of mulloway donated to the NSW Research Angler Program in spring 2016 and overall since its commencement in September 2013.**

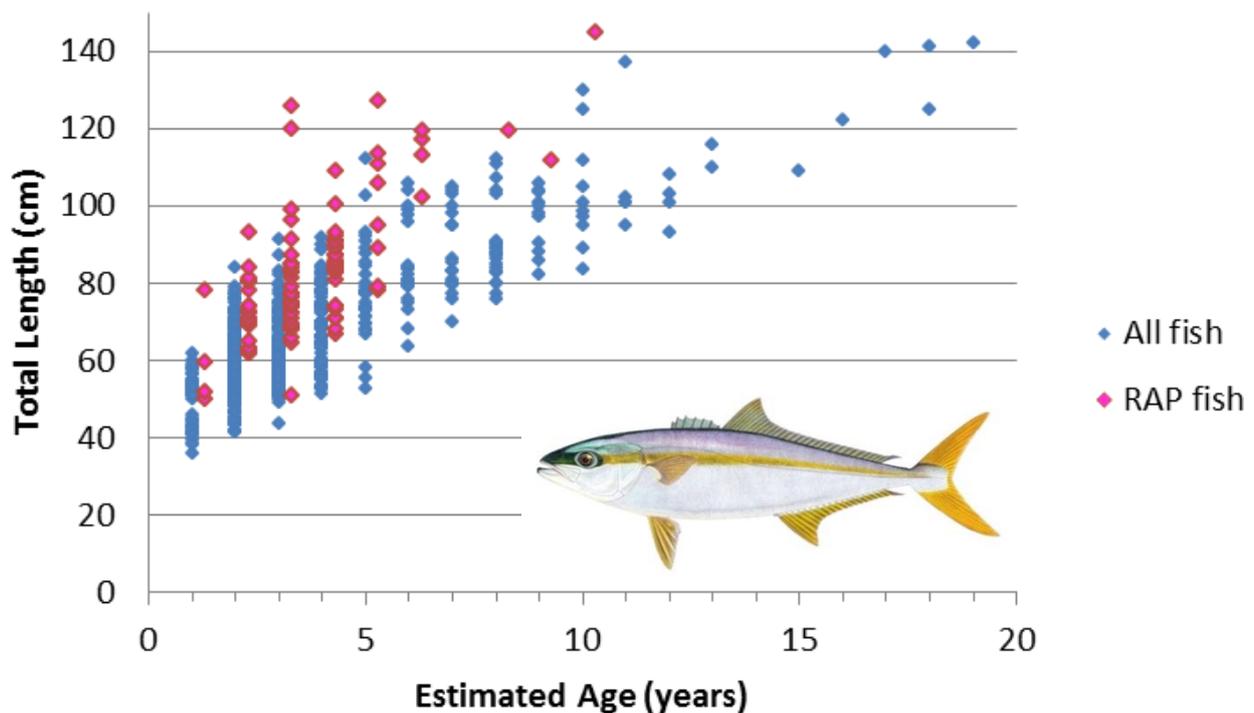


And don't forget that you can now post the otoliths (jewels) from your mulloway catches to us making donating to the program even easier! All you need to do is contact us at the NSW RAP (T: 9435 4671, E: [research.angler@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:research.angler@dpi.nsw.gov.au)) and we will send you out a reply-paid padded post pack and data label. Then it's simply a matter of filling out the data label and placing it, along with a single jewel from your fish into the post pack (right), seal it, stick it in the nearest Australia Post box and let the postman do the rest!.



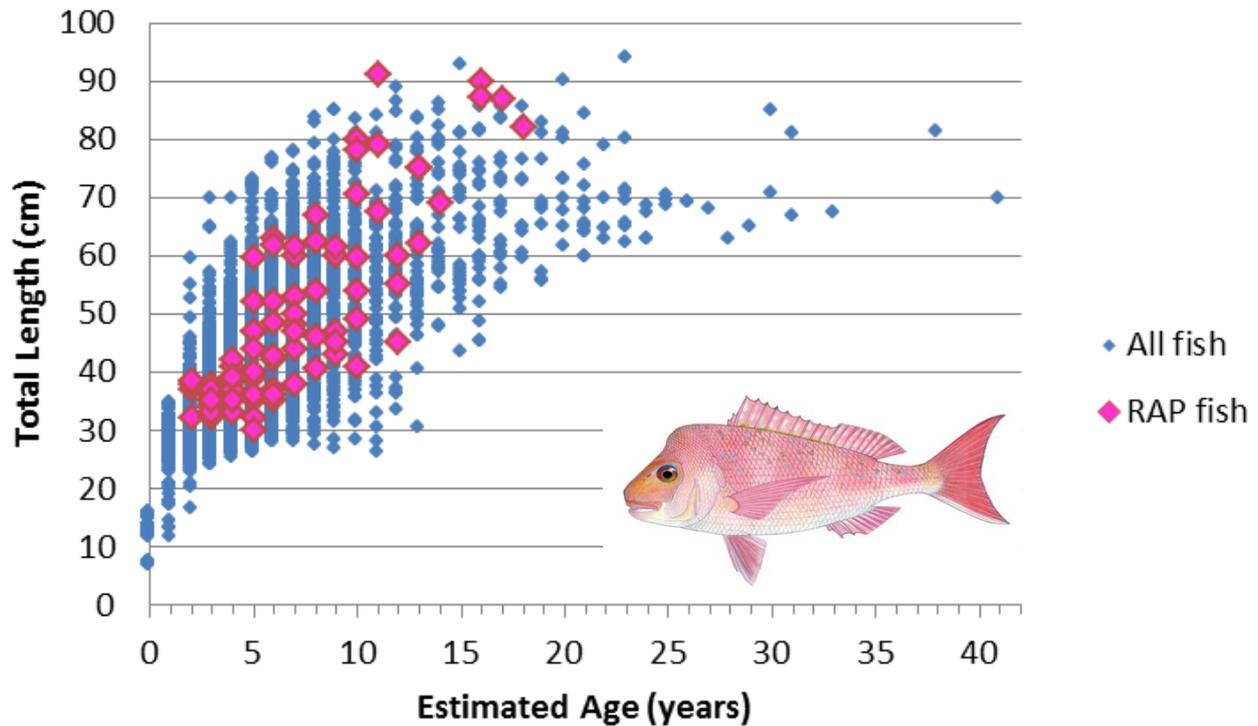
Below is a size-at-age graph for yellowtail kingfish collected from NSW waters. The blue points represent fish primarily sampled from the commercial fishery for the species. The purple points are exclusively recreationally-caught fish donated to the NSW RAP. Despite being added to the program only 18 months ago, you can already see how rec angler and spearo donations have changed our understanding of the kingy population in NSW. Even though there is plenty of overlap with the historically collected data, it is evident that recreationally-caught fish are often in the largest individuals for a given age, suggesting faster growth. This interesting pattern is difficult to explain, but does show the improvement NSW RAP donations have made to the variation in size-at-age we see for a yellowtail kingfish in NSW waters!

Size-at-age data for yellowtail kingfish (*Seriola lalandi*) in NSW: the blue points represent the data Fisheries NSW had for kingfish prior to the start of the program (mainly from commercial sources). The purple points represent data from recreationally-caught fish donated to the NSW Research Angler Program since their addition into the program in mid-2015.



A very similar situation is also evident for one of the other important rec species added to the program in mid-2015, the mighty snapper *Chrysophrys auratus*. Overlap with historical commercial fishery-based data is clear, but once again and particularly for the older ages classes of 10 years plus, data from the donated fish appears to show that recreationally-caught fish are faster growing, often being amongst the largest individuals for a given age. The behaviour of the fish, whereby rec-caught fish are bolder individuals within the overall population, and therefore more likely to actively chase a bait or artificial also means that they are potentially faster growing with higher activity levels and a greater appetite to match. That's one theory anyway!

Size-at-age data for snapper (*Chrysophrys auratus*) in NSW: the blue points represent the data Fisheries NSW had for snapper prior to the start of the program (mainly from commercial sources). The purple points represent data from recreationally-caught fish donated to the NSW Research Angler Program since their addition into the program in mid-2015.



**“Top Five” snapper donors overall (as of 30 November 2016):**

Donor	No. frames donated	Region
Taigan Heath	40	North Coast
Keith Kneebone	38	Sydney
Paul Blade	17	Coffs Harbour
Trent Alexander	11	Port Stephens
Marcus Miller	8	Sydney

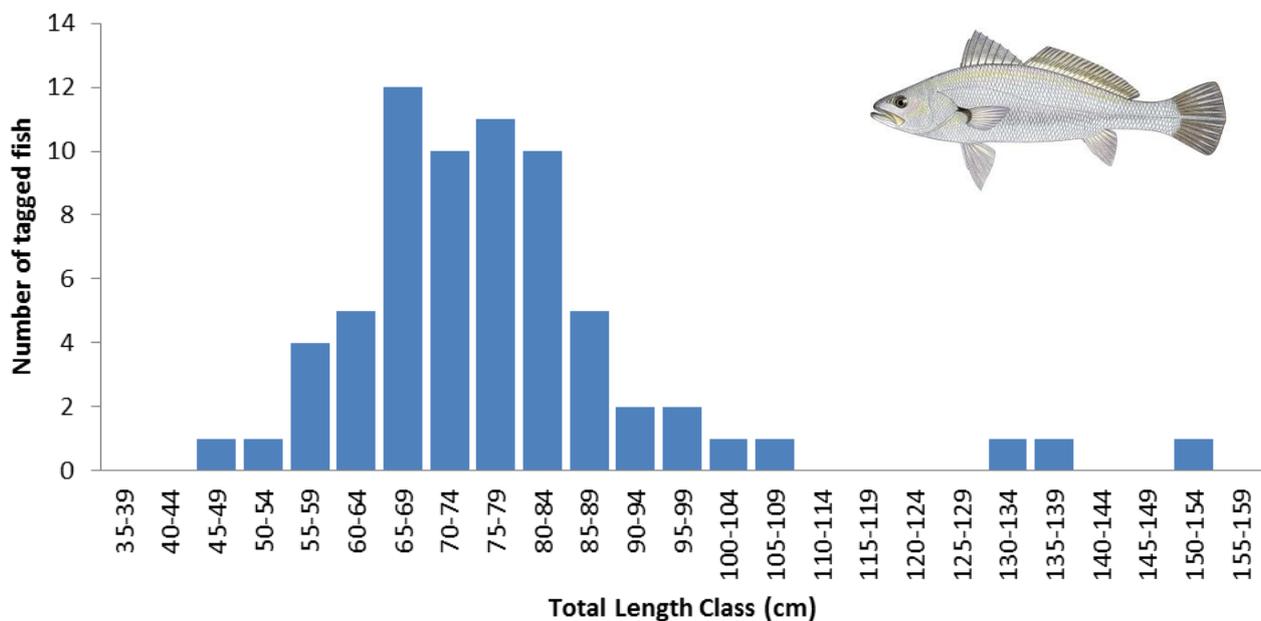
**Even if it is only one frame, one head, or a single jewel, we are willing to do (almost) anything to get it!**

## NSW RAP – ANSA Tagging Project Update

Another season of strength-to-strength form for the NSW RAP-ANSA mulloway tagging project with another 68 mulloway tagged by 15 dedicated taggers. This fantastic spring brings the current overall number of tagged jewies swimming around out there to an incredible 1741 since March 2014! Fish of 65-85 cm in length were the most tagged size range over spring, but a few serious trophies also went back wearing a tag including a 152.5 cm fish from Yamba and a thumping pair of Hawkesbury fish at 130 and 139 cm each! Of special mention are the exploits of Tom Crittenden, who was not only our number one tagger for the second season in a row, but also had two of his previously tagged fish recaptured this spring AND recaptured two mulloway tagged by other participants as well. Now that's a man-of-the-match performance!

Don't forget, you can also now stay up-to-date with all the comings and goings of this component of the NSW RAP by visiting the project Facebook page ([Newtag – NSW Tagging Program – Mulloway](#)).

Length frequency of mulloway tagged as part of the NSW RAP-ANSA tagging project from spring 2016.



For the second season in a row, our number one tagger was Tom Crittenden who managed to tag a staggering 19 fish between 60 and 105 cm from several of Sydney's well known jewy hotspots. Further north, Mark Saxon and [Castaway Estuary Fishing Charters](#) clients tagged 7 fish up to 82 cm from Port Macquarie, taking his overall tally to 41 fish. Kyle Worley also tagged a further 7 fish over spring with a largest of 100 cm from Lake Macquarie, taking his overall tally to 52! Also in Lake Macquarie, new NSW RAP-ANSA mulloway tagging project participant Mark Williams tagged his first five fish, between 65 and 85 cm, and all from a kayak! Down south Brad Gibson also added to his already impressive tally of 55 tagged fish with another 5 spring mulloway from around Wollongong and Peter Rothwell's spring 5 mean he has now tagged 80 from Sydney!

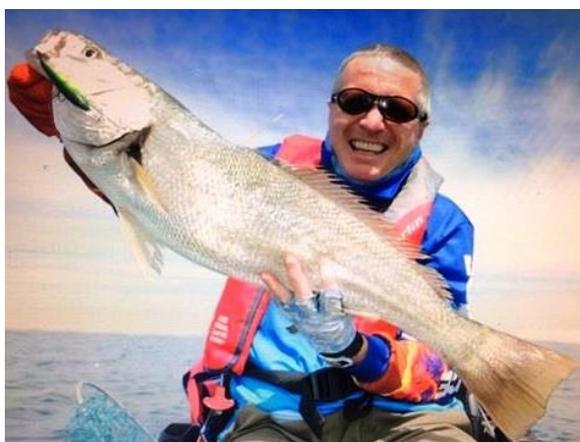
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### Top Five taggers for spring 2016 (as of 30 November 2016):

Tagger	No. fish tagged	Region
Tom Crittenden	19	Sydney
Mark Saxon	7	Port Macquarie
Kyle Worley	7	Lake Macquarie
Peter Rothwell	5	Sydney
Brad Gibson	5	Wollongong
Mark Williams	5	Lake Macquarie

### Top Five taggers overall (as of 30 November 2016):

Tagger	No. fish tagged	Region
Chris Cleaver	250	Everywhere!
Ivan Maric	125	Sydney
Dan Selby	111	Sydney
Mark Pirie	94	Yamba
Paul Blade	85	Coffs Harbour
Peter Rothwell	80	Sydney



Mark Williams with one of five kayak-caught mulloway he managed to tag out of Lake Macquarie this past spring. Photo courtesy Mark Williams.

Josh Anderson from [Ando Lures](#) may have tagged only one fish for spring 2016, but what a fish it was at 152.5 cm taken spinning with one of his own lures off the rocks near Yamba! Josh's 25 kg beast joins some pretty special company being the second largest mulloway so far tagged as part of this program, and the only one of the "Top Five" not tagged by "Tagger 86" from the Hawkesbury River! "Tagger 86", who has become somewhat of a big fish tagging machine, again came through with the goods tagging two of the "Top Five" largest fish for spring with 130 and 139 cm lure-caught beasts from the Hawkesbury! Another fantastic effort from all the fishers involved in this component of the NSW RAP.

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### Top Five largest fish tagged for spring 2016 (as of 30 November 2016):

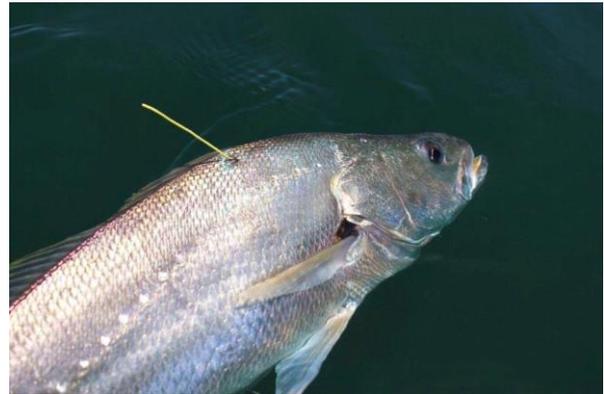
Tagger	Total length (cm)	System
Josh Anderson	152.5	Yamba
"Tagger 86"	139	Hawkesbury River
"Tagger 86"	130	Hawkesbury River
Tom Crittenden	105	Parramatta River
Kyle Worley	100	Lake Macquarie

### Top Five largest fish tagged overall (as of 30 November 2016):

Tagger	Total length (cm)	System	Season
"Tagger 86"	155.5	Hawkesbury River	Autumn 2016
Josh Anderson	152.5	Yamba	Spring 2016
"Tagger 86"	152	Hawkesbury River	Spring 2015
"Tagger 86"	147	Hawkesbury River	Spring 2015
"Tagger 86"	145	Hawkesbury River	Spring 2015



Jay Kim and sideways mate with a freshly tagged daytime mulloway from a well-known Sydney estuary. Photo courtesy Jay Kim & Newtag.



An excellently placed tag can be seen in this mulloway being revived boatside prior to release. Photo courtesy Jay Kim & Newtag.

Ten of our tagged mulloway were recaptured over spring 2016 bringing the total number of recaps since the commencement of this enormously popular component of the NSW RAP in March 2014 to 121!

Despite spring's very healthy number of recaptures, none of the ten fish had moved very far from their tagging locations with one of the best efforts being a 61 cm fish tagged in Botany Bay by Ivan Maric in February recaptured by Tom Crittenden in the Georges River 233 days later at 70 cm in length. A similar within-estuary movement occurred for an 86 cm tagged mulloway caught by Nick Rourke in Broken Bay previously caught (and tagged) by Peter Rothwell upstream in the Hawkesbury River some 390 days earlier when 75 cm.



Brisbane Water was a happy hunting ground for Matthew Forrest this spring catching this 69 cm fish tagged by Luke Reilly some 68 days earlier. Photo courtesy Matthew Forrest.



100 cm of Lake Macquarie silver – one of 7 mulloway tagged by Kyle Worley and team out of the lake in spring 2016. Photo courtesy Kyle Worley.

What was lacking in distance travelled in spring's recaps however, was more than made up for in time, with several tagged fish spending some serious days at liberty. In addition to Peter Rothwell's tagged fish recaptured by Nick Rourke which spent 390 days at large growing 11 cm in the process, there was also a 73 cm fish tagged by Gianni LoGiudice recaptured some 460 days later in the Parramatta River by Tom Crittenden (of course!) growing 6 cm in the interim! Spring 2016's record recap however belongs to a 57 cm fish tagged by Paul Blade at Coffs Harbour waaaay back in September 2014. This fish was recaptured, not far from its tagging location, some 739 days later by Mark Delorenzo! Not surprisingly the fish had grown some 37 cm in this time at the staggering rate of 0.5 mm per day! At the other end of the growth spectrum was a 94 cm Hawkesbury River fish tagged in March by Chris Cleaver which was recaptured in November by Mark Szymanowicz having not grown a single centimetre in 240 days!



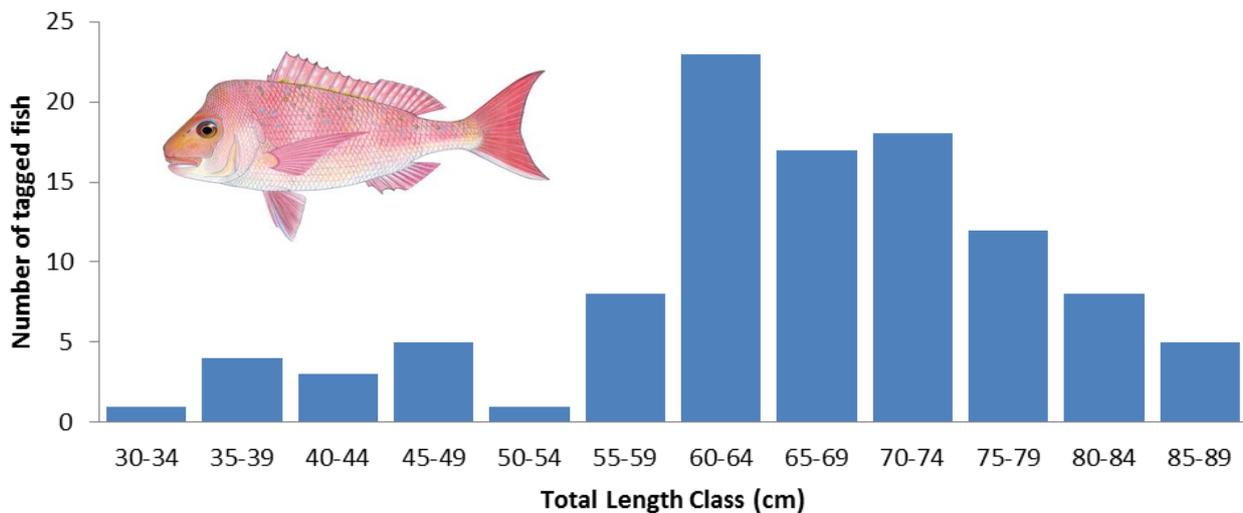
A knobby 77 cm snapper caught, tagged and released at the 2016 [Dave Irvine Memorial Snapper Classic](#). Photo courtesy NEWTAG.



Chloe Laurence with 75 cm of sensational Coffs Harbour snapper tagged and ready for release at the 2016 [Dave Irvine Memorial Snapper Classic](#). Photo courtesy Chloe Laurence.

As promised in the last newsletter, we prepared a small summary of the NSW RAP-ANSA Tagging Project's brief foray into snapper tagging the 2016 [Dave Irvine Memorial Snapper Classic](#) in August. Well the results are in and make for some great reading! Some great winter weather and 36 very capable anglers resulted in a total of 107 snapper ranging in size from 32 up to a whopping 89.5 cm total length being tagged over the two day comp with an average size of 66 cm! As can be seen from the below graph, this average was driven to such an impressive size by the fact that 77% of the tagged fish were larger than 60 cm. All but four fish were caught using a variety of lures with soft plastics proving particularly effective and resulting in the vast majority of fish being released in excellent condition. Sami Omari was the number one tagger for the comp with 7 fish and the largest fish, at 89.5 cm, was tagged by Ryan Camlin. To date, a single recapture has been reported with a 63 cm fish tagged during the comp by Brent Hancock recaptured 17 days later. An awesome effort from all the taggers involved for producing such a great result and huge congratulations to the guys from [ANSA NEWTAG](#) for getting tagging involved in such a fantastic comp!

Length frequency of snapper tagged as part of the 2016 Dave Irvine Memorial Snapper Classic.





Here he is again! Jay Kim with a beautifully-proportioned spring mulloway caught in the middle of the day just prior to release. Photo courtesy Jay Kim & Newtag.

#### Tagged mulloway recaptures for spring 2016 (as of 30 November 2016):

Tagging angler	Total length (cm)	Tagging location	Recapture angler	Recapture location	Total length (cm)	Days at liberty
Luke Reilly	67	Brisbane Water	Matthew Forrest	Brisbane Water	69	68
Paul Blade	57	Coffs Harbour	Mark Delorenzo	Coffs Harbour	94	739
Ivan Maric	61	Botany Bay	Tom Crittenden	Georges River	70	233
Gianni LoGiudice	73	Parramatta River	Tom Crittenden	Parramatta River	79	460
Tom Crittenden	78	Parramatta River	Isaac Pettigrew	Parramatta River	78	4
Gianni LoGiudice	61	Parramatta River	Charlie Mizzi	Parramatta River	71	257
Peter Rothwell	75	Hawkesbury River	Nick Rourke	Broken Bay	86	390
Chris Cleaver	94	Hawkesbury River	Mark Szymanowicz	Hawkesbury River	94	240
Tom Crittenden	75	Parramatta River	Wajze Hamid	Parramatta River	75	37
Kyle Worley	76	Lake Macquarie	Ben Zickman	Lake Macquarie	80	256

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Next time you're out chasing mulloway, keep an eye out for one of our yellow NSW DPI tags. Remember that the tag may be fouled with algae like this one from a 69 cm fish recaptured by Matthew Forrest in Brisbane Water after almost 70 days at liberty.



If you are fortunate enough to catch a tagged mulloway, please record the tag number, measure the length of the fish, and contact either the NSW DPI Gamefish Tagging Program (T: 4424 7411, E: [gamefish.tagging@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:gamefish.tagging@dpi.nsw.gov.au)) or the NSW Research Angler Program (T: 9435 4671, E: [research.angler@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:research.angler@dpi.nsw.gov.au)). The tag will be yellow, approximately 12 cm long and located just beneath the dorsal spines.

The crucial data collected by this project will help us to learn more about the movements, growth and post-release survival of this iconic fish. Stay tuned for future updates in the Spring 2016 NSW RAP Newsletter!

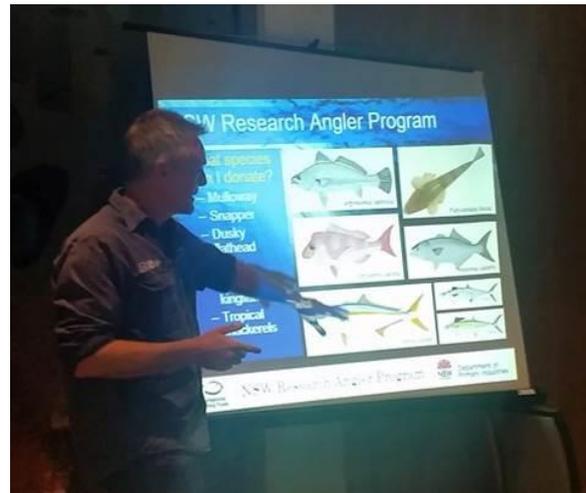
Once again, an enormous thank you must go to the [ANSA NSW Branch](#), and in particular **Stan Konstantaras** and **Chris Anagnostou**, for managing this important and fascinating component of the NSW Research Angler Program.

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## NSW RAP Presentations

If you are a member of a fishing club (spearfishing or angling) or a tackle shop hosting regular fishing-related presentations and are interested in having someone from the NSW RAP give a talk on the program (and we now have a bunch more species to talk about!), please don't hesitate to get in contact with us (E: [research.angler@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:research.angler@dpi.nsw.gov.au), T: 9435 4671) and we will send someone out to get you and your audience 'revved-up' about the program!

**Right: NSW RAP scientist Julian Hughes makes a presentation at the monthly meeting of the Northern Suburbs Underwater Club. Photo courtesy Adam Price.**



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## The “Top Fives”!

Our sincerest thanks to the following dedicated mulloway Research Anglers and spearfishers who have made it into our “Top Five” lists of frame donors overall and those for spring 2016.

Geoff Browne from Manning Point is currently experiencing somewhat of a purple patch in his mulloway fishing career having caught 75 in the past 30 months, all on lures, all during the day and all off the beach! Fortunately for the NSW RAP, fifteen of these more recently caught fish ranging from a 71 cm 3 year old fish all the way up to a hefty 133 cm 18 year old found their way into our labs making for a great spring for Geoff and the program! Regular donors Hari Corliss and Matt Timmins added four fish each to their respective tallies, including a 135 cm 15 year old fish from Hari and a 143 cm 15 year old fish from Matt. Our new favourite donors Matt Forrest and Andrew Mayo also found time to donate four fish each from Brisbane Water and Iluka, respectively, along with an old favourite Paul Blade, who’s four spring donations take his overall tally to almost 70 frames!

### “Top Five” donors spring 2016 (as of 30 November 2016):

Donor	No. frames donated	Region
Geoff Browne	15	Manning Point
Hari Corliss	7	Port Macquarie
James Sakker	7	Coffs Harbour
Matt Timmins	4	Crescent Head
Andrew Mayo	4	Iluka
Matthew Forrest	4	Brisbane Water
Damian Cliffe	4	Yamba
Paul Blade	4	Coffs Harbour

### “Top Five” donors overall (as of 30 November 2016):

Donor	No. frames donated	Region
Paul Blade	68	Coffs Harbour
James Sakker	42	Coffs Harbour
David Birt	35	Newcastle
Kyle Worley	23	Lake Macquarie
Murat Atlihan	23	Sydney

### “Top Five” largest fish donated and associated ages spring 2016 (as of 30 November 2016):

Donor	Total length (cm)	Estimated age (years)	Region
Brendan Stocks	151	15	Sydney
Damian Cliffe	150	14	Yamba
James Sakker	146	15	Coffs Harbour
Damian Cliffe	145	18	Yamba
Matt Timmins	143	15	Crescent Head
James Sakker	143	13	Coffs Harbour

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### “Top Five” largest mulloway donated and associated ages overall (as of 30 November 2016):

Donor	Total length (cm)	Estimated age (years)	Region	Season
Nathan Debono	168	26	Newcastle	Winter 2015
Adam Price	164	24	Sydney	Spring 2013
Keith Kneebone	160	20	Sydney	Autumn 2014
Mark McCabe	159	21	Sydney	Spring 2013
Sal Nahle	158	18	Sydney	Autumn 2016

Brendan Stocks’ monster Hawkesbury jewie from earlier in the newsletter was not only the largest mulloway we had donated to the NSW RAP over spring 2016 at 151 cm, but it was also the (equal) second oldest at an estimated 15 years. Another fish featured earlier, Damian Cliffe’s 150 cm Yamba fish, was the second largest donated (by just one centimetre) and just one year younger at 14. It was instead Damian’s 145 cm fish that was the (equal) oldest mulloway from spring, together with Geoff Browne’s 133 cm Manning Point fish along with James Sakker’s 142 cm fish from Coffs, all estimated to be 18 years old. There were no fewer than four 15 year old fish donated from spring! In addition to Brendan Stocks’ 151 cm from Sydney, there was also James Sakker’s 146 cm from Coffs, Matt Timmins 143 cm from Crescent Head and Hari Corliss’ 135 cm fish from Port Macquarie. Another of James Sakker’s fish, this time a 143 cm model was estimated to be 13 years old and our final ‘Top Five’ for spring 2016 was a 123 cm fish donated by Hari Corliss at 10 years old. Plenty of big, old fish there from some serious ‘repeat-offender’ mulloway tragics – here’s hoping for something similar from these guys this summer!

### “Top Five” oldest fish donated and associated lengths spring 2016 (as of 30 November 2016):

Donor	Estimated age (years)	Total length (cm)	Region
Damian Cliffe	18	145	Yamba
James Sakker	18	142	Coffs Harbour
Geoff Browne	18	133	Manning Point
Brendan Stocks	15	151	Sydney
James Sakker	15	146	Coffs Harbour
Matt Timmins	15	143	Crescent Head
Hari Corliss	15	135	Port Macquarie
Damian Cliffe	14	150	Yamba
James Sakker	13	143	Coffs Harbour
Hari Corliss	10	123	Port Macquarie



James Sakker with a 142 cm and 18 years of Coffs Coast mulloway – speared on the very same day as another 30 kg fish! Photo courtesy James Sakker.



A 150 cm breakwall beauty donated by Damian Cliffe and estimated to be 14 years old! Photo courtesy Damian Cliffe.

**“Top Five” oldest fish donated and associated lengths overall (as of 30 November 2016):**

Donor	Estimated age (years)	Total length (cm)	Region	Season
Vaughan Little	34	156	Nowra	Spring 2013
Scott Robson	26	154	Newcastle	Summer 2013-14
Evan Leeson	26	144	Port Macquarie	Autumn 2014
Nathan Debono	26	168	Newcastle	Winter 2015
Marwan Nasr	25	147	Sydney	Spring 2014
Greg Slater	25	133	Eden	Winter 2016
Adam Price	24	164	Sydney	Spring 2013
Jack Graham	24	<i>Unknown</i>	Eden	Winter 2016
Hari Corliss	24	151	Port Macquarie	Winter 2015
Robert Thorpe	23	137	Newcastle	Autumn 2014
Mark Pirie	23	140	Yamba	Autumn 2014

As well as those mentioned above, thanks to all the fishers who donated their spring mulloway, kingfish, dusky flathead, snapper, mackerel and tailor to the NSW RAP, here’s hoping for a quality summer of fishing for all our species!

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## Drop-off Locations

Many thanks must once again go to all participating drop-off locations for their enthusiastic involvement in the program. This program would simply not be possible without your continued support.

For the full and up-to-date list of places where you can drop-off your frames, heads or jewels, please visit:

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/researchangler/drop-off-locations>



Impossible to separate! Tom and Chloe Laurence with a pair of fine springtime Evans Head mullet donated to the NSW RAP. Both Tom's 114 cm fish and Chloe's 112 cm fish were estimated to be 6 years old. Photos courtesy Tom & Chloe Laurence.

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## Monthly Prize Draw Winners!

The lucky monthly NSW Research Angler Program prize winners for spring 2016 were decided by randomly drawing one frame donor from each month.

Congratulations to the following Research Anglers:

September	<b>Matthew Forrest</b>	(Central Coast)
October	<b>Brendan Stocks</b>	(Sydney)
November	<b>Geoff Browne</b>	(Manning Point)



Each winner will receive either:

- a \$50 gift voucher generously donated by [MO Tackle Coffs Harbour](#) (for use in-store or online),
- or a mullocky-ready lure pack worth \$50 containing a selection of proven hardbody, soft plastic and blade-style mullocky-catchers from Storm, Killalure, Berkley and Rupes.

Future winners will be published in upcoming newsletters and on our website. Don't forget to include your contact details (phone number, postal or email address) on the label accompanying your donated frame to ensure your chance of winning!

Remember, if you're going to catch and keep any of our species (**Mullocky, Snapper, Dusky Flathead, Yellowtail Kingfish, Tailor, Spotted or Spanish Mackerel**) for a feed, please fillet your fish and donate the frame, head or a single otolith to research –

## WE NEED THE DATA FROM YOUR FISH!

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT.**  
**KIND REGARDS, MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY FISHING!**

The NSW Research Angler Program is part of the Resource Assessment & Monitoring Unit of the Fisheries NSW Research Branch and is generously funded by the NSW Saltwater Recreational Fishing Trust and the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

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Published by the Department of Primary Industries.