

New fishing rules for yabby fishing: Yabby Pyramid Net Fact Sheet



Following consultation with recreational fishers, tackle distributors and the broader community, the NSW Government has introduced new rules for the recreational catch of freshwater yabbies in NSW waterways. New fishing methods for yabbies have been introduced to provide sustainable yabby fishing and to enhance protection for aquatic wildlife.

Play your part to prevent the inadvertent capture of native wildlife by only using approved nets in all NSW waters, from 30 April 2021. From this date Yabby traps (“opera house”) are no longer permitted as they have been implicated in the drowning of air breathing fauna such as platypus, turtles and water rats. Research has shown that eco-friendly nets, such as open pyramid lift nets, are just as effective at catching yabbies but have minimal impact on other aquatic wildlife.

The new rules benefit air breathing fauna, improve yabby fishing, provide recreational anglers with consistency across borders and simplify business for tackle stores and their customers. This also makes it easier for anglers to comply with interstate and territory yabby fishing laws which are now in alignment. These changes help to improve the sustainability of our aquatic resources and long term fishing opportunities for recreational anglers.

Open pyramid lift nets can now legally be used in all private waters and most public waters both east and west of the Great Dividing Range. Fishers can also continue to use hoop nets to catch yabbies, a hand hauled yabby net, when used in ground tanks, bore drains or lagoons, or can use up to 2 baited lines in general inland waters.

Up to five nets, comprised of either open pyramid lift nets or hoop/ lift nets or a combination of both may be used to take yabbies. Nets may only be used as hand implements and by the method of lowering nets into the water and then drawing them vertically to the surface.

People wishing to take yabbies recreationally must hold a current recreational fishing licence. A bag and possession limit of 200 yabbies per person applies. Any yabbies carrying eggs (“berried”) must be returned to the water immediately to ensure recruitment back into the population for the next generation of this valuable species.

Further information on the changes to yabby fishing rules can be found at:

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/yabby-crab-faq

