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Around the Jetties 24 An Anglers Newsletter

“Look for me close to a river. You will find me on the banks of a river. I am happy by the side of a river for therein lies my heart’s delight”

Trout Quest 1969

Len Axen from Orbost provided this editions quotation and I invite readers to consider providing a relevant quotation for “Around the Jetties.” This quotation was hung over the Geography Department’s office desks at Orbost Secondary College for the last 31 years.

Editorial

I have a confirmed report from VRFish CEO Christopher Collins that Dr Peter Appleford Executive Director of Fisheries Victoria will vacate this post next month, to take up a position in Forests Victoria. According to Christopher Collins, “VRFish welcomes and looks forward to working with the new Acting Director Andrew Hurst.”

As an angler I hope we may now see over due research papers released and statistics such as the Commercial Catch Figures made available whilst still relevant. Perhaps we may even see a system that acknowledges and replies to mail from anglers and attempts to build bridges with anglers. The Acting Executive Director will have a challenging time ahead, but lets hope anglers and Fisheries Victoria can join together for the betterment of this great sport.

In discussions with a fisheries scientist, a couple of days ago, I gained the impression that a major concern was the rapid change in the Gippsland Lakes from an estuarine environment to a totally marine environment. The effects on black bream of this change could be marked and the scientist said as an aside “*You don’t see bream in Port Phillip Bay*” suggesting the Gippsland Lakes may be moving to a similar environment with a profound effect on black bream stocks. The last major recruitment of black bream was in 1989 with a smaller recruitment in 1995.

We may be watching a major change in the Gippsland Lakes that has been accelerated by the deepening of the entrance, and the decline in river inflows, which in turn may be changing the recreational fishery as we know it for ever.

The Dusky Flathead Problem

This article refers to the Gray and Barnes report which was a detailed report on dusky flathead undertaken in NSW and dealt with in issue 21. This was a major study that examined 7,783 flathead and provided the most detailed analysis of the spawning habits of this key estuarine sporting species. (Editor)

The Dusky Flathead Problem - By Concerned Angler

The report by Gray and Barnes contains some eye opening data on a key, to vital, recreational species and should be treated accordingly given its currency. The very fact that our key decision makers chose to limit the daily catch to 5 Dusky Flathead is commendable but to ignore such findings from Gray and Barnes report and only increase the MLL (Minimum Legal Length) by 2cm to 27cm and allow an angler to take one Dusky Flathead over 60cm each day falls horribly short of what is needed.

Let's look at this further. It can be reasonably assumed that Victorian Dusky Flathead are similar to NSW Dusky Flathead re their population characteristics. If Dusky Flathead reach reproductive maturity at 31.72cm for males and 56.75cm for females, many, probably far too many will be harvested before they have the chance to spawn at least once. If only 5% of female dusky flathead is protected under the NSW current MLL of 36cm, how few female dusky flathead are protected under the new Victorian MLL of 27cm?

These new Dusky Flathead regulations have been set when many questions remain unanswered – the status of Dusky Flathead populations, reproductive biology of the species, growth rates of the species, and harvesting rates (both commercial and recreational)

As a snapshot consider what is happening in the Lake Tyers fishery. The only long term harvesting record available is the commercial fishery catch returns from 1915 to almost the year of their exclusion from Lake Tyers. Over that time the highest annual catch of dusky flathead was 6 tonnes and the approximate average annual Dusky Flathead harvest to commercial fishing was 1.5 tonnes. For the sake of the discussion that equates to some 3000 500g Dusky Flathead.

Prior to the advent of soft plastics the recreational harvest was small, probably insignificant, with the exception of a very dedicated few anglers fishing with live bait. And most fish were only caught in the summer months.

Along came soft plastics. Slow to take off soft plastics has grown as phenomena to dominate fishing especially as the proficiency of anglers has grown. Dusky flathead are an easy target on soft plastics. The summer harvest of dusky flathead has grown significantly as a consequence and the window to catch them has extended well beyond the summer months. In itself there is nothing wrong with everyday anglers having great sport with dusky flathead as long as they fish within the regulations and the regulations are set to protect the sustainability of the fishery. It would appear that the current annual harvest of dusky flathead well exceeds the best years of annual commercial harvest and breeding females, particularly the highly fecund big dusky flathead are vulnerable.

The question is can we continue this annual recreational harvest of dusky flathead in the Lake Tyers fishery when we are taking many fish well below their maturity to spawn at least once and NOT protect the large breeding females. After all these large breeding females have the potential to produce some 4 million eggs per annum. And that is assuming they only spawn once with is not clear as yet. Given the management regulation enables the harvesting of pre spawning age dusky flathead which in part is probably unavoidable the high fecundity of large female dusky flathead should be protected. No dusky flathead should be able to be legally harvested once it attains 70cms. The digital camera should replace the notion of taking a trophy to show to a few mates and have a brag.

When you add the professional fishermen pressure in systems like the Gippsland Lakes these regulations throw further doubt on the appropriateness of these new regulations.

Let's hope we don't see the collapse of dusky flathead populations because of these regulations.

Editors Comment

We have printed a number of articles by "Concerned Angler" and they are written with great authority and understanding. I commend this article to all readers. I would also suggest such articles should be compulsory reading for Fisheries Managers and VRFish.

Black Bream - By Concerned Angler

Creating a universal length of 28cm is a sound move but allowing a 10 fish bag limit (not 5) is excessive in 'today's thinking.' After all the decision makers saw wisdom in reducing the bag limit for Estuary Perch to 5; and even 3 where there are also 2 bass in the bag. Bream are a vital recreational fishing species. There is no reason why in only a few years the proficiency of recreational anglers will catch bream at similar rates to Dusky Flathead. That would be ugly.

With our current knowledge and rapid growth in angling technologies, and communication of these, bream deserve protection better than 10 fish per person per day. In the Gippsland Lakes alone our bream stocks are under severe threat on many fronts. Adopting a 5 bream daily limit should clearly satisfy the immediate needs of a recreational angler. It is called managing on the front foot. That would be nice for a change.

Interesting Information on Tagged Fish

Here are some recent interesting black bream recaptures that probably reflect how slowly our black bream do grow in some circumstances.

Tag	Date Tagged	Date recaptured	Days of growth	Actual Growth
A88464	21/6/06 (38cms)	2/8/08(38cms)	773	Nil
A94679	11/3/07 (30cms)	24/4/08(32.5cms)	384	2.5cms
A94788	27/12/06(33cms)	21/4/08(33cms)	484	Nil
A88768	15/12/06(34cms)	1/4/08 (35cms)	476	1.0cm

These tagging results indicate that some bream in over two years show no growth rate and the general growth rate is very slow.

Unusual Movement of Black Bream

And here is a tagged bream with a difference. Black Bream A88613 was tagged on 2.December 2006 and returned to the waters of Lake Tyers. In the last month or so this bream was recaptured at MARLO. This bream was out for 700 days, had grown 3cm and travelled 40km mouth to mouth. The other interesting point of this recapture was the bream had travelled eastward. Offshore travels of estuary species is normally in a westward direction. What awesome data."

Editors comment.

I find one of the great joys of this publication is publishing information provided by anglers for anglers and this information seems only to be available in Around the Jetties It is fascinating to consider the statement by the great Dunbavin Butcher in 1944 when he said "there is no evidence to show that bream moved out of the Gippsland Lakes and fishermen with more than 40 years experience of netting along the beach, close to the entrance have never taken a black bream in the open sea." Tagging adds to our knowledge of black bream and this is the work of recreational anglers. .

This quotation is from D.Butchers "Conservation of the Bream Fishery Fisheries" Pamphlet 1

Artificial Reefs

In issue 22 of Around the Jetties, reader Alex Milledge raised the matter of artificial reefs for Bancroft Bay and the Gippsland Lakes. I wrote to Dr James Andrews Acting Director of Bays and Inlets seeking advice on this matter. (5/3/2009) In this months VRFish News it is reported that three artificial reefs are being placed in Port Phillip Bay at Aspendale, Seaford and Frankston in water 11metres deep The VRFish report indicates, 'it is planned to deploy the reefs in 2009 for a three year trial.' I am surprised information on the introduction of successful reefs in NSW where research has found that artificial reefs can be 80% as successful as natural reefs within three years has not been applied to this project. Excellent photographs of the NSW reefs, and the rapid and extensive crustacean growth on them, can be readily seen in the NSW Report. Again we do not seem to work with other states and use their research.

(See attached photo.)

Disease In Lake Tyers Affects Bream.

On the 8th of March I had an email from Colin Hannah of Lake Tyers Fishing Charters with information and photographs of a disease that seems to be a film growing back over the eyes of the bream. Colin says the film is making the fish go blind with eyes going opaque. Frank Millito confirmed this report and stated some fish were so blind they could be caught in a landing net. A number of other anglers have caught affected fish according to John Harrison of Lake Tyers and a correspondent to this publication, but he says it appears to be a small number and he adds the comment '*so far*' which is significant and important.

John has said that many of the bream he has caught have traces of yellow blotches on the skin and a few '*with red blood like fins*' and added, '*I think all the fish I am catching are in poor condition-thin*' Colin makes the further point that the disease does not seem to have affected other fish, however Frank Millito indicates that it appears to have affected eels in the lake that are currently being caught commercially. Dick Brumley, Fisheries Senior Management Officer at Lakes Entrance immediately instituted steps to examine this problem in detail. The following report is the result of this action.

Fisheries Report on Lake Tyers Bream 3/3/2009

1. On Thursday 12 March, Rebecca Jol, Fisheries Management Officer, Lakes Entrance, transported samples of Lakes Tyers fish to DPI's Attwood facility following reports from the public and Lake Tyers commercial eel fishers of bream in poor condition.
2. These fish were collected with the assistance of commercial eel fishers at Lakes Tyers. They were transported both live and freshly dead on ice for investigation by Ms Tracey Bradley, DPI's Principal Veterinary Officer, Aquatic Animal Health.
3. These investigations identified the external parasite *Caligus epidemicus*, commonly known as copepods as they come from the family *Copepoda*. They were found to be in unusually large numbers and had had a significant adverse effect on the sampled fish. These effects included secondary infections and in some cases blindness.
4. These copepods are very small and only just visible to the naked eye. They are crustaceans related to the sea lice commonly found in coastal waters.
5. Further detailed investigations were undertaken in order to determine whether additional causative factors were involved. These investigations have now been completed and showed no other causes of stress.
6. It is now clear that the primary cause of the stress to these fish has been the high numbers of these external parasites and their secondary effects.
7. Today I took two EPA inspectors to Lake Tyers where they conducted water quality measurements at a range of locations within the system. Relatively high salinity levels were observed throughout, with temperatures over 20 degrees C.
8. The nature of any relationship between specific water quality parameters and these large blooms of copepods is not clear. However we are investigating anecdotal reports going back some years at other locations suggesting a possible relationship between elevated salinity and temperature levels and these blooms.
9. My understanding is that there have been reports of these copepods being present on bream and other species at Lake Tyers in past years. However the numbers of copepods present and the degree of their adverse impact seem to be much greater this year.
10. We will continue to monitor the situation at Lakes Tyers and will provide advice to stakeholders as it becomes available.

Special thanks are due to Dick Brumley Senior Fisheries Management Officer and Rebecca Jol Fisheries Management Officer for their prompt actions to get an answer to this problem and the provision of this

report. Thanks also to the recreational anglers who raised the matter and provided photos. This was a great case of Fisheries Victoria and recreational anglers working together.

(See attached photo.)

What a Sighting

John Bourke gave me a ring a couple of days ago to tell me he had a report from two responsible anglers that a seven foot bronze whaler shark has been seen in Lake Tyers. It was first seen in the Toorloo Arm chasing poddy mullet, and the second sighting was in the area towards the Tavern. One sighting might be put down to any number of things but two sightings in separate areas by respected people would seem to indicate accuracy. Now just as a point of interest, yesterday when fishing in Pile Bay I caught a 40cm dusky flathead that had an area of scales removed from its back and a bleeding slash on its belly. My immediate thought was that a quite large fish had attacked it, now I am wondering. We would be interested of any other reported sightings.

Of course it is quite possible that a shark has been stranded in the lake as it closed. In 1982 a pair of dolphins were stranded in the lake and actually bred in Lake Tyers. A considerable furore occurred when the baby dolphin was caught in commercial nets and died. In 1984 a second dolphin was born in Lake Tyers resulting in the formation of "The lake Tyers Dolphin Protection Group." In 1984 the lake again opened to the sea and the dolphin family returned to the ocean. Just thinking about this shark question I recalled an incident a couple of years ago when I saw Graeme Merryful fishing in Lake Tyers opposite Mill Point pull a large ray to the edge of his boat before breaking off, and I caught, about the same time in the same area, a 4ft barracouta, so a shark could well be a possibility.

Back Numbers

A couple of readers who have kept a file of all issues of "Around the Jetties" have asked for the odd back number to complete their file and we have been able to oblige. Since our last issue the readership of "Around the Jetties" has risen by 8, and we welcome these new readers.

New Regulations in Action

Recently I was in a local shop when I saw a tray of tailor priced at \$5.98 per kilo. The tailor seemed very small so I bought one of these fish for 59 cents. The fish was 22cms in length, which was 1cm under the new legal limit, but this may have been due to shrinkage!! I wonder at the logic of this small minimum size, and this really comes home when one looks at these small fish which I think most anglers would return and which would have almost no food value.

It is worth remembering the minimum size for Australian Salmon is an even smaller 21cms and this replaces the previous no minimum size limit for this species. Both species have a bag limit of 20 and this together with the current size limit seems to defy logic. I often recall the angler and restaurantor the late Geoff Brooks over 20 years ago in his newspaper column describing the tailor fishing of Lake Tyers as being some of the finest sport fishing available in this state. Whilst this regulation will not change that, it provides scant recognition for one of the most underrated fish in this state. I would have thought a 28-30cm minimum size limit would have been appropriate both for this species and Australian salmon. John Bourke reports that tailor are breeding in Lake Tyers and very small fish can be seen in the shallows. Peter Spehrs has also reported large numbers of small tailor in the lake.

(See attached Photo.)

Fishing Licences Continued

Reader John Delzoppo has continued his research into the question of when fishing licences were introduced in Victoria, and has provided a copy of the 1932 Act Relating to Trout Fishing Licences. This would seem to be the first statewide introduction of a fishing licence however it was specifically for non-indigenous trout. A trout fishing licence to catch non-indigenous trout could be issued under this act to any person over 17 years. For failure to have a licence the angler would incur a fine would of not less than 1 pound or more than 10 pounds. Failure to be able to produce a licence would also incur a fine of not more than 5 pounds. It would appear that the Water Act of 1928 could allow bodies such as Melbourne Metropolitan Water or the Ballarat Water Commissioners could grant a licence to fish in specific waters under their control, but the 1932 Act would seem to apply across all waters and supersede the 1932 Act. Of interest was that members of Fisheries

Societies and Clubs could appoint persons approved by the Governor as honorary assistant inspectors and they were issued with a badge and certificate. Thanks to John Delzoppo for this information.

Massive Fish Death in the Wakool

I normally limit most of Around the Jetties to Eastern Victorian issues, however many anglers head north to the Murray and tributaries on annual fishing trips and the name the Wakool conjures up memories of the great inland fishing of the north. The massive fish kill referred to came to my attention when talking to a landholder from the area. By reading the following information compiled by the Wakool Landholders Association and which I have summarised you will quickly grasp the enormity of this man made event.

“A recent flow (February 2009) of environmental water has resulted in a massive kill of iconic native fish in an area stretching from Deniliquin to Swan Hill.” This covers many streams including the Merran, Colligen, Wakool and Niemur and is commonly referred to as the “Wakool System”

The Wakool system had been denied water and had dried during recent drought into a number of waterholes, when it was decided to put an environmental flow through these rivers in February 2009. This flow occurred in the hottest week of the year with water drawn from the top of the reservoir and was therefore warm, and then flowed over scorching hot creek beds turning “inky black” with the tannin from eucalypts growing in the creek beds. The water was almost depleted of oxygen when it reached the pools in these rivers, and the fish remaining in these rivers were killed “en masse”

At one hole on the Niemur River “over two hundred large Murray cod up to 75lbs were seen floating belly up in the river.” This experience was repeated through the whole Wakool system. The attached photo is from the Niemur River. From another hole on the Colligen three front-end loader buckets of dead Murray cod and yellow belly were removed. To make the situation worse a similar kill although not so severe had occurred in spring 2008, but authorities had never learnt the lesson.

I am not going into who is to blame for this disaster however one could have hoped that NSW Inland Fisheries Officers would have been aware of the possibility of this disaster, and the NSW Department of Water and Energy allocated this release to replenish stock and domestic water supplies in the Wakool. Unfortunately but understandably due to the massive disaster of the bushfires this fish kill received almost no publicity apart from the Land Magazine of February 26th which headed its article “Blackwater Wipe-out.” Dr Stewart Rowland from the Grafton Aquaculture Centre is quoted as saying “these rivers and creeks were vital for cod stocks. The loss of cod in these current kills will have a significant impact on local breeding and fish recruitment.”

I have put together a series of photographs provided to me and a statement in full from the Wakool Landholders Association, and I will email this material to any reader requesting further information. Events such as this should concern all anglers and fisheries managers and one would hope answers would be sought so that such sickening event does not occur again.

An anabranch of the Murray River incorporates the Wakool and Niemur Rivers as well as the Colligen, and Merran Creeks between Swan Hill and Deniliquin.

(See attached Photo.)

New Product

A new soft plastic glue has been introduced to the market place designed to glue together lures that have been damaged. For information see Website www.searingtackle.com.au

It Gets a Bit Confusing.

In a recent a press statement (23/3/2009) chair of the Gippsland Lakes Coastal Board, Duncan Malcolm, stated “ **visitors and locals are reporting good fishing, regular sightings of dolphins, regrowth of seagrass, and plenty of mussels, spider crabs and sandworm starting to appear**”

This sounds great but is at variance with the interim report into “Fish Populations and seagrass condition in the Gippsland Lakes” reported to the Gippsland Lakes Taskforce in October last year with a summary in this publication. Generally low numbers of fish were found and of 30 areas sampled for seagrass only three were found to have medium to dense seagrass. This study provides a basis for future studies but would hardly indicate a good fishing possibilities or a regrowth of seagrass. Regarding mussels, spider crabs and sandworm there is no indication of a return of these species in the Metung area, and they are not being taken by bait catchers for sale and this probably provides a good indication of the status of their health

Duncan Malcolm suggests the health of the Lakes seems to have greatly improved with no sign of algae and water that is crystal clear, and this is true and is certainly a good sign for which all would be thankful.

As reported previously this publication is waiting for the publication of the commercial catch figures for 2007/8 currently delayed by Fisheries Victoria. These figures will provide the first indications of the current status of fish stocks but the anecdotal information provided to this publication on the fishing in the Lakes does not support the view that fishing in the Gippsland Lakes and tributaries could be considered “good fishing,” and rather it is the opposite.

(It becomes vital that future studies on fish stocks and seagrass are undertaken as soon as possible, and a base figure has been provided by the 2008 study, which provides a starting point. Editor)

Bait in the Gippsland Lakes

Following Duncan Malcolm’s comments I talked with a bait licence holder who no longer fishes for bait. He indicated that of the ten licence holders only two were fishing for bait and both were only parttime. He stated he believed his licence was almost valueless because of the depressed state of bait stocks in the Gippsland Lakes. He said only a small amount of sandworm was available in a couple of areas and almost no other bait species including shrimp and spider crab which are found in the seagrass which the Taskforce reported has declined in almost all areas of the Gippsland lakes.

Another bait licence holder only returns to the Gippsland lakes for the annual prawn run, and then resumes his job interstate. I cast my mind back to a time when one had to queue for bait and every shop and garage in places like Swan Reach, Nicholson and Johnsonville sold live bait. Today most outlets no longer stock any fresh bait and almost no fresh bait is available. Yesterday I saw sandworm at the only local outlet for \$8.50 per box, and pippies \$9.50 per pack. Despite extraordinary prices the Gippsland bait industry almost no longer exists, and the reason would seem to be the availability of bait stocks in the Gippsland Lakes.

Vic Bream Classic (Metung)

From the report in the Lakes Post (25/3/2009) of the Bream Classic a person initially looking at the final figures of 164 bream weighed in by the 54 teams might also agree with Duncan Malcolm’s assessment that “visitors and locals are reporting good fishing.” Perhaps we should have a quick analysis of this result. In the 54 teams are 108 anglers and probably the best bream anglers in the state. On each day anglers fished lures and soft plastics between 7am and 2pm, or seven hours on each day.

A bit of quick mathematics would suggest for every bream weighed in each of the competitors fished on average 9.2 hours using boats that quickly covered the whole of the Gippsland Lakes, and using the best gear available to modern day anglers. Its not unreal to suggest that for the average angler not having access to this equipment, the hours per fish caught could be doubled so 12-18 hours fishing for each fish landed by an average angler could be transposed from these figures. Whilst not definitive, and not taking into account the return of fish by competition competitors upgrading their catch, these figures do give an indication of the state of angling in the Gippsland Lakes.

John Bourke drew my attention to the statement in the same edition of the Post that “there were a lot of bream weighed in around the 27-27.5 centimetre mark” I am sure this would not occur given the black bream minimum size limit is 28 centimetres. Editor.

Lake Tyers Fishing Competition

A fishing competition will be held on Lake Tyers on Easter Sunday the 11th April. Good prizes are assured, and the competition is for the biggest single bream in a number of categories. Entry cost is \$10 and a good day is assured. Look to local papers for more details.

Commercial Fishing Regulations

The following are a couple points of interest from the 2009 Regulations governing commercial fishing in the Gippsland lakes.

* A commercial fisherman may still net in the Cunninghame Arm using a 732 metre seine net, from the 1st of May to the 30th of November each year, on a Sunday Monday, Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday each week, in the period commencing 1 hour after sunset and ending at sunrise on the following day. In other

words netting at night is permitted and this would seem to be to avoid conflict with recreational anglers and tourists fishing this popular arm.

* A commercial fisherman operating alone can not use more than 1300 metres of mesh nets in the Gippsland lakes, or if operating with assistance of one other 2200 metres of mesh nets, and this has not changed.

* Commercial fishing equipment must not be used within 400 metres of any river flowing into the Gippsland Lakes and this includes Tom's Creek, Salt Creek and Maringa Creek. This regulation remains the same, and continues to be of concern to recreational anglers.

Upon my initial reading I can find few if any changes in commercial regulations, however I have not had the opportunity to compare the 2009 regulations with the 1998 regulations in full.

* I find the anomaly of a 23cm size limit for tailor applied to recreational anglers, whilst a 25cm size limit is applied to commercial fishermen, and I wonder why a common size limit does not apply to this species.

* The proposition of Fisheries Victoria to allow all anglers to use three lines which would have immediately done away with the distinction in rules between inland and marine waters was strongly opposed by VRFish with the result this anomaly recognised in 2002 will remain, and anglers wishing to find what waters are inland and what waters are marine will have to "refer to the Fisheries Act of 1995 or contact the DPI Customer Service." I would have hoped that VRFish before vigorously opposing this change would have sought the views of anglers on this specific issue, which would have added considerable clarification to current regulations.

Angler Profile **Graeme Dear**

The following short pen picture follows a chat with Graeme Dear who has built a reputation as one of the best bream anglers in Gippsland. Graeme has fished with Aaron Dyer for three years and they have won the Vic Bream Classic fished on the Gippsland Lakes in consecutive years, and will compete in the final, which will be fished on the Gippsland Lakes in October. Despite many Vic Bream events across the state, the Gippsland Lakes event is the only event in which they compete and Graeme doesn't believe they have an advantage fishing this event as one of the rules of the competition is that competitors must not be on competition waters for two weeks prior to the event.

They fish from a Haines Hunter Pro Strike boat owned by Aaron Dyer and this craft with its 150hp Yamaha motor gives a speed of 60 mph. Graeme said that speed is important as it allows you to get to your fishing area ahead of other boats. This is an advantage as other competitors respect your area. Anglers in this competition have a number of rules associated with angler etiquette, personal safety, and fish health that are adhered to by all competitors.

During the Gippsland Lakes competition, Graeme and his partner caught trevally, flathead, and of all things a good sized squid as well as bream. They caught a number of fish but weighed in ten bream that exceeded a total bag weight of 10kgs and this was a record for this competition. Despite this catch Graeme expressed concern about current bream and flathead fish stocks in the Gippsland Lakes and he also was concerned at the flathead numbers in Lake Tyers, and he believes slot size limits should be introduced to protect fish stocks. Graeme stated that this form of protection works well in Queensland.

If Graeme was advising on lures he would suggest that if fishing around jetties soft plastics should be used whilst if fishing sand flats a hard body shallow diving lure and for deep water he would use a vibe lure.

Whilst boats have become sophisticated the biggest advance by far has been in the area of fishing tackle, and personally he uses mostly squidgies. Graeme enjoys all forms of fishing from trout to big game, but on weekends his fishing is mainly in the estuaries of East Gippsland. Graeme is CEO of East Gippsland Catchment Management, and is currently a member of the Lake Tyers Catchment Management Implementation Committee.

A Late Note – As a result of further research by Dawn looking for a diagram of the Copepoda - *Caligus epidemicus* that affects black bream, she found that as early as 1825 and again in 1836, 1861 and 1949 material was collected from Bream in the Mitchell River during a population explosion of this parasite in the Lower Mitchell area, associated with a period of high temperature and salinity. There are many Copepodia other than the one responsible for this problem in Lake Tyers but this little fellow is identified by scientists

by the possession of spines immediately behind the head. G.C Hewitt seems to be an expert in this field as his name crops up regularly on scientific papers.

Please remember you can recommend a friend to receive “Around the Jetties” in 2009 and we welcome new readers whether individuals or angling clubs.

We can provide a large print version of “Around the Jetties” to any reader having problems with the size of the print.

Good health and good fishing
Lynton Barr

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author unless otherwise acknowledged.

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