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# **Around the Jetties**

## **December Issue No 41**

# **An Anglers Newsletter**

The number and excellence of books devoted to the exposition of angling are so great that no other sport can compare with it in these respects.

James Robb  
Notable Angling Literature (1947)

### **Editorial**

I think most anglers will see the work done by Dr Matt Taylor, NSW fisheries scientist, who has received a grant for \$332,000 for a quantitative study into stocking Lake Tyers with eastern king prawns, reported in issue No.40, as providing a possible important break through for the estuaries of this state, which are under ever increasing fishing pressure. The only difficulty most anglers have with the proposal is that they believe there are more important priorities at this time than eastern king prawns, and this concern covers dusky flathead, black bream and estuary perch. If funding were made available for quantitative research covering these estuary species and perhaps the introduction of mulloway to some of our estuaries, no angler would have any difficulty with the research into stocking Lake Tyers with prawns. It needs to be remembered the funding for this project is coming from angler's contributions through their licence fees.

Perhaps there is an answer.

If the government of the day made a contribution to research into our estuarine species this problem could be solved. It needs to be remembered that over 700,000 Victorians fish, and it is said that they spend on average \$721 per person per year, according to the Australian Recreational Fishing Survey (2001) and fishing puts over \$800m into the Victorian economy annually according to the VRFish Economic Study of Victorian recreational fishing. Now this is more than almost any sporting event in this state, Grand Prix included, and this contribution to the state economy should be supported by government recognising that with increasing population, and numbers of Victorians fishing, fish stocks will be under more pressure than ever before. If fish stocks decline then the number of anglers will decline and their contribution to the Victorian economy will decline. Surely its just good sense, for government to take the initiative, and provide immediate funding for urgent research to increase stocks of estuarine fish. Given the figures involved it would not be unreal for anglers to expect a research allocation from government of \$4m annually. That contribution would equate to

\$5.70 per angler per annum, and by the way it's estimated that Victorian anglers contribute \$200 to the Victorian economy for each kilogram of fish caught and kept. This would seem a good investment in the future and one that all parties could endorse and it may have more relevance than expending \$40m or whatever the amount is on the Grand Prix annually. Now that's a vote winner in an election year and just good sense.

## **Prawns in Lake Tyers**

### **Background**

The following is a summary of an article in Fishing World August 2008 by Dr Matt Taylor, the fishery scientist allocated \$330,000 of Victorian recreational anglers licence fees, by the Fishing Grants Working Group, for research into stocking Lake Tyers with eastern king prawns.

Dr Taylor states that about 18 million prawns are harvested annually by Australian anglers with more than 65% of these taken in NSW and this equates to about 111 tonnes of prawns a year and most are eastern king prawns. In 2007 a collaborative project between the University of NSW and the Department of Primary Industry was undertaken to develop prawn stocking in NSW estuaries, funded by saltwater fishing licence fees and the commonwealth Recreational fishing Community Grants program.

Problems to be overcome included a method of transporting and releasing prawns with minimal mortality and to identify ideal habitats for release. Wallagoot Lake between Merimbula and Tathra was chosen as one site whilst the Back Lake at Merimbula was chosen as the other site. The prawns were sourced from the Gold Coast, as there was no availability in NSW. The prawns were post-larvae and were about 12-13mm in length. They were produced from 60 brood stock caught off the NSW coast. The prawns were screened for any disease prior to being flown to NSW. The prawns were packed into bags of seawater and they travelled in foam boxes to Sydney and then travelled by road to the named south coast lakes. Six million prawns were stocked into Wallagoot Lake and two million into the back lake at Merimbula.

Monitoring of the prawns has taken place since their release.

Now it needs to be remembered that Dr Taylor wrote this article in 2008, about eighteen months after the commencement of the project. At this time prawns were found to be still in the lakes in good numbers, however Dr Taylor stated "growth exceeded all expectations with prawns increasing in weight from 0.005grms at stocking to 54grms fourteen months later -an increase in weight of 11,000%. Wallagoot has not been open to the sea for nine years, however the Back Lake had opened to the sea a couple of times since the stocking so the mix in the Back Lake is wild and stocked prawns.

The monitoring program showed the prawns preferred seagrass habitat. Dr Taylor indicated that a number of prawns would be tagged with acoustic pingers and stated this was a significant achievement in the monitoring of the prawns. Further research involves studying the interaction between stocked and wild prawns as well as research into the genetics of the stocking. There is an eastern king prawn enhancement research team of nine scientist/students working on this project.

Now despite the short lead-time Dr Taylor said that fishers had reported catching up to 3kgs of prawns per hour in 2008, and the largest prawn recorded in Wallagoot Lake weighed 54grms and was 20cms in length.

Finally Taylor noted in his report Marine Stocking in Victoria (2010) that pilot releases of 9 million post larval eastern king prawn to Lake Wallagoot had contributed an estimated 10 tons of prawn to the recreational fishery of Wallagoot Lake.

### **Profile-The Scientist allocated \$330,000 in this Project Dr Mathew Taylor**

Dr Taylor works from the University of NSW, and he graduated with a PhD in 2007 and since then has established a research group primarily investigating stocking of marine waters. He has done considerable work on the stocking of mulloway in estuaries as well as his studies on eastern king prawn including work on the genetics of both mulloway and eastern king prawns and has had publications on his work with the above two species. He has received scholarships and awards between 2000 and 2008 and he has received a large number of research grants. He has also done some work involving behaviour of the bull shark and on stocking Australian bass in impoundments.

In looking at the NSW experience I noted considerable funding has already been provided for the study of stocking eastern king prawns and that \$337,000 was provided from the NSW Saltwater Trust Allocation between 2006 and 2008 in three grants to study the effectiveness of stocking the eastern king prawn into recruitment limited coastal lakes. Additional funds were being sought from the Australian Research Council. It was stated that this project "is closely linked with the mulloway stocking work and is being developed as an all encompassing research proposal."

## **Editor**

I don't think any angler could doubt the importance of the work being undertaken by Dr Taylor on both the eastern king prawn and the introduction of mulloway to Victorian estuaries. These are exciting projects that may have a great influence on future fishing in our estuaries. My concern and that of many anglers I have spoken to is that no matter how exciting this project is, we in Victoria at this time have a number of more important needs for research, and for most estuarine fishers the immediate identified need is for research into the dusky flathead, and the impacts of modern angling techniques on our estuarine stock of this species. We also need to know something of the habitat needs of this species and the breeding patterns of this species. NSW has undertaken major research on this species (Gray and Barnes 2008) and this work has been referred to in some detail in a previous issue of Around the Jetties, however I think it is acknowledged that in Victoria we have little knowledge of this species and yet it is a major estuarine species in Victoria. For example in the Lake Tyers Fishery Management Plan this was recognised as an immediate need and there **was not a mention of stocking this estuary with prawns.**

The immediate problem identified in Victoria is that numbers and size of dusky flathead are declining and we have a size limit of 27cms on this species in our state. NSW has a size limit of 36cms and when their 2008 study was undertaken they were suggesting the legal minimum size be increased to 45cms. It needs to be noted that the NSW study found that female dusky flathead reach sexual maturity at 56cms and the male reaches maturity at around 36cms. Dr Taylor in his report to Fisheries Victoria (Marine Stocking in Victoria) makes the point that "the species is relatively poorly studied given its popularity with anglers."

Victoria with its legal size limit of 27cms allows fish to be taken prior to reaching maturity and spawning, and certainly prior to providing a worthwhile fish for anglers either sporting or food wise.

In conclusion it's not that prawn stocking is not important but certainly a Victorian priority has to be to provide research for estuarine species such as dusky flathead, black bream and estuary perch. By the way over \$300,000 has been allocated in NSW towards eastern king prawn research and in the recent announcement of the Minister for Agriculture, in Victoria a further \$330,000 for research on stocking Lake Tyers. There is also a question as to whether such a large amount of Victorian licence fees be allocated to NSW researchers, and the question of the three bait licence holders for Lake Tyers would surely need resolution before any release took place. Stocking Lake Tyers with prawns could be a bonanza for them.

## **The Concerned Angler**

All this when we urgently need funds to study the dusky flathead female sexual maturity and egg production, effects of harvesting immature female dusky flathead, and the habitat and diet requirements of dusky flathead that have been identified in other reports. I reckon they are fiddling and spending big dollars with gimmicky projects when a principle recreational species could be in serious decline

Written 9<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Some Comments by Dr Taylor from his paper "Marine Stocking in Victoria" Feb.2010

## **Regarding Lake Tyers**

"Large mulloway have been caught here but there are no records of juveniles."

"Estuary perch occur in Lake Tyers, and are taken in low numbers."

"Current small interest in estuary perch by anglers fishing in Lake Tyers."

"Recruitment of dusky flathead to Lake Tyers from Bass Strait is potentially limited because of entrance closures."

And of course the suggestion that –

"Dusky flathead are targeted by recreational fishers within the Snowy/Brodribb river estuary."

## **Editor**

Any of the above statement would be open to considerable debate from Lake Tyers recreational anglers, and just out of interest I still have not had confirmed any mulloway catch in Lake Tyers.

## **Some Thoughts Ron Brymer.**

I agree with your comments regarding the Snowy estuary not being a "known" dusky flathead fishery, although I'm sure there are a few locals who might disagree with you. In the terms of my fishing (mostly) the Snowy river, with mainly sub surface plastics, if there were large populations of duskie there, many would have figured as "by catch" in my bream and perch fishing. The lower estuary may be different but, in relative

terms the estuary is quite small. In my 50-60 trips there so far, I have caught one dusky while fishing a 100mm bloodworm wriggler for bream. (Last spring)

Not a bad fish though at 8lb7oz on light bream gear and in 12 inches of water. (See pic) and on the same day I disturbed another two fish in the 5lb plus class on the shallow flats. Very little fresh in the Snowy last Spring though.

Lastly, in regard to the “king prawn” study for Lake Tyers, I had a good chuckle as I haven’t heard something that funny for a while- where do we get these “experts” and those crazy politicians for that matter? I’m willing to bet that it is no coincidence the funds went to “king” prawns with, as you report, three remaining “bait” licences for the lake. If it goes ahead the bait will be sold at \$20+ a kilo-when does bait become a prime eating prawn? -At about 100mm I think.

#### **Editor**

Ron has provided a number of contributions to Around the Jetties and they are always thought provoking and in addition Ron regularly indicates where he fishes, what lures he uses, and their success. Some time ago I read a paper by Ron telling how he became involved in lure fishing, and the results he achieved. This was a great article. Like Ron I have fished the estuary at Marlo on many occasions and have not taken a dusky flathead, however I have had some wonderful trevally, salmon, tailor bream and perch from this estuary.

#### **Funding for VRFish**

In the last issue of Around the Jetties I reported on the Minister for Agriculture's media release in which he said, “the Victorian Government has granted VRFish, the body representing Victoria's recreational fishers funding of \$423,500 from the recreational licence revenue.” The media release goes on to claim the Government's commitment provides a more secure funding base for VRFish. (Fish Fax 29<sup>th</sup> October 2010) I looked at this figure and thought this was a realistic increase of 11% and showed the Government's commitment to Victorian recreational anglers, whilst at the same time making the point that the Government was allocating anglers money from licence fees, rather than providing any additional funding to recreational anglers administration, despite their being over 700,000 anglers in this state. In 2009/10 VRFish received \$377,000 and I thought this \$423,500 announced by the Minister provided a real increase of \$46,000.

#### **From the Executive Officer of VRFish**

I received the following clarification from the executive officer of VRFish on the 25<sup>th</sup> October.

“Hello Lynton,

Thanks for sending through a copy of your newsletter; I always look forward to receiving it. However I just need to clarify one of your news items. You report that VRFish received \$377,000 in funding for the 2009/10 financial years and this is correct. You also report that for this financial year we received \$423,000, which is also correct, and note that it appears that VRFish has received an 11% increase in funding and you are concerned that this may restrict our independence.

The 2009/10 figure of \$377,000 is exclusive of GST, however the 2010/11 figure is inclusive of GST so in real terms we received \$385,000 which is only an increase of \$8,000 over last years and is far short of 11%.”

Regards

Christopher Collins

Executive Officer VRFish

#### **Editor**

Probably no better case study exists of the need for a set percentage of licence fees to be paid to VRFish, to administer the needs of the 700,000 anglers in this state, rather than wait on the Minister allocating via media release funding from the contributions of anglers through their licence fees.

#### **East Gippsland Fisheries Management Plan**

Fisheries Victoria has just released a draft copy of the East Gippsland Fishery Management Plan and is inviting comments from interested persons. Comments have to be in to fisheries by January 11<sup>th</sup> 2011.

Now recreational anglers should be interested in this report as it outlines strategies and actions for managing recreational fishing activities within the Snowy, Tambo, Mitchell and far eastern river basins over the next five years. **This plan does address fisheries in waterways such as Marlo, Sydenham, and Tamboon Inlets and the Snowy, Bemm, and Cann Rivers. The Gippsland Lakes, Mitchell, Tambo and Nicholson Rivers, Lake Tyers and Mallacoota Inlet are not included in this draft.**

The goals of the plan include maintaining fishing at sustainable levels and protecting habitats and environments upon which fish resources depend. This report lists a number of general objectives to achieve this result. Amongst the objectives that will be of special interest to recreational anglers are

- \*Support for black bream research,
- \*A review of recreational catch and size limits for dusky flathead. And specifically ongoing and cost effective monitoring of dusky flathead stocks in the Tamboon Inlet.
- \*Ongoing and effective monitoring of estuary perch stocks in Sydenham Inlet.
- \* Ongoing and effective monitoring of Australian bass
- \*Analysis of trout stock status to understand the status of the fishery.

**Some very general comments on this report.**

I find some of the outcomes of this process, raise more questions than answers. For instance the action on black bream states “with consideration for a wide range of stakeholder views, Fisheries Victoria **will review black bream fishery arrangements as part of the next regulation review process.**” **The question that arises is that given a regulation review process take place every ten years does this mean that the review of the black bream fishery management arrangements will take place in 2019 given the last regulation review took place in 2008/9.** This section of the report does not seem to provide any evidence of ongoing research, into black bream one of the declared objectives of this draft, but rather advances arguments against any closed season, which is an issue that has not been widely discussed, so this approach is somewhat surprising and does seem somewhat out of place in this document.

With regard to the dusky flathead fishery “within two years of declaring this plan Fisheries Victoria, in consultation with stakeholders to undertake a review of existing fisheries management arrangements for dusky flathead” and within three years to undertake ongoing monitoring of the status of dusky flathead using the angler diary program or an ongoing cost effective alternative. It is a little surprising that in the 2008/9 Regulation Review Fisheries Victoria chose to do nothing with regard to dusky flathead size limits despite recreational anglers arguing for an increased size limit, and the evidence in the publication of the NSW research on this species with its 36cm legal minimum size and the consideration that this might rise to 45cms supporting an increase. (Victorias Legal Minimum Size limit is 27cms.)

Angler diarists have been operating from 1997 and surely after this time relevant information on dusky flathead can be obtained from diaries held within Fisheries Victoria. (I am aware of substantial diary information on estuary perch in the Bemm.) Recreational anglers will be somewhat mystified at the suggestion the diary program may not be suitable for monitoring dusky flathead or estuary perch and that other methods may have to be used. Have angler diarists ever been informed of this difficulty? The other items dealing with bass and estuary perch involve seeking funds to establish ongoing monitoring using the angler diary program or some other cost effective measure. Again by the time the problem is monitored you would really need to allow a further three years before any action can be programmed.

This draft provides little more action than a monitoring of the waters of East Gippsland to assess fish stocks. Perhaps this is reasonable and all that could be expected at this stage, but this will be dependent on availability of additional diarists for many of these waters. There are a number of other general statements such as Fisheries Victoria supports applications to the Recreational Fishing Grants Program for fishing events improving responsible fishing practices in East Gippsland. Fisheries Victoria will support Fishcare East Gippsland, and VRFish will promote the Victorian Recreational Fishing Code of Practice. Such general statements tend to appear in most management plans. It does seem that the ongoing success of monitoring fish populations in East Gippsland waters will be largely dependent on the availability of funding from the Recreational Licence Trust Account, and this may be difficult given the current provision of large sums to research areas such as prawns in Lake Tyers. It is a little surprising that the plan does not suggest obtaining funds from any source other than the Recreational Licence Trust Fund.



The trout fishery of the upper reaches of the river basins receives scant attention other than to analyse existing trout stocks and if necessary establish effective ongoing monitoring. In real terms this report would seem to indicate a very poor knowledge of fish stocks in most East Gippsland waters including trout streams. A reference group that will meet at least once a year for the next five years will oversee this management plan.

I found it interesting that 50% of the committee preparing this plan were Fisheries Officers (3) and indigenous representatives (3) and as the draft says the resolution of the native title issue will play a key role in **future fisheries management arrangements**. It is somewhat worrying that on the same committee recreational anglers had only two representatives with others representing relevant government agencies. I wonder how many meetings were undertaken to bring together this plan, and what was the attendance record of those who made up this committee. None of this information is available to recreational anglers.

Readers don't take my word on these matters for there is more. Get a copy of the report for yourself, and provide a comment on this draft management plan.

For a copy Phone 136 186

### **Breaming with Knowledge.**

This was a three-day conference run by Victoria University with an array of academics who delivered papers on the ecology and management of the Gippsland Lakes. Only one 45-minute session out of eighteen was devoted to fish of the lakes, and this was an excellent address by Joel Williams on freshwater flows and fish populations and this dealt with breeding patterns of black bream in the Mitchell River and he talked of the importance of the salt wedge to breeding patterns. This speaker was part of Dr Jeremy Hindell's scientific team from the Arthur Rylah Institute and is also associated with Melbourne University. Joel indicated that he would try and forward to me an outline of his paper, which I will include in its entirety in a future Around the Jetties. He again spoke of the black bream movement out of rivers when floods occur and how this movement can take place in a two-hour period. Readers might recall information of how the commercial fishermen of the Lakes use this occurrence to their advantage to take large numbers of spawning bream by netting at the mouths of rivers and of course it needs to be stated that netting within 400 metres of the mouth of rivers is legal and approved by the relevant authorities. He stated that that there had been a 45% reduction in flows of freshwater into the lakes and this was one of the factors associated with the increased salinity of the Gippsland Lakes. Joel made the point that high freshwater flows encourage spawning and there is some indication that 6-7 years after a high flow there is an increase in the commercial catches of bream as they reach minimum legal size. I will not add to the report of this paper from my notes in the hope that I can obtain the original paper for readers.

The conference provided a great deal of information on the formation of the lakes and the geomorphology associated with this formation, and what was perhaps most interesting was the effect of increased sea levels on our coast line which was stated would be .8 of a metres but this does not include the decline of the ice caps due to warming. Storm surges and the ice cap melting might contribute to a substantially higher sea level. The sand slug of the Tambo received a passing comment, and the indication was that it is continuing to move towards the mouth, and as this publication has mentioned previously this will change this river completely.

Two academics spoke on the algal blooms of the Gippsland Lakes and it was stated there had been eight algal blooms of the Nodularia variety since 1986 associated with elevated spring and winter river flows. It was only in 2007 that the Synechococcus variety appeared as it had never bloomed before in the Gippsland Lakes.

I found the presentation by Professor Barry Hart of Monash University and the independent chairman of the Gippsland Lakes Taskforce of interest. The Taskforce was formed in 2001 and since its inception it has received \$20.2m. The target was to reduce phosphate loads entering the lakes by 40% in 20 years. I was surprised that in his paper that was largely devoted to phosphate loads. Issues such as fish and seagrass monitoring and effect of salinity received almost no mention. In the next months amalgamation of bodies associated with the Gippsland Lakes will probably see the end of the Gippsland Lakes Taskforce.

The last conference of a similar nature was held in 1995, and a major difference is that the 1995 conference provided a conference book to participants, and this was extremely valuable as it contained outlines of the papers delivered. This conference provided no printed information to participants and this was somewhat

disappointing. I think it fair to say the title of the conference was a little misleading and I am aware of several anglers who attended the first day did not return for the second day due to the paucity of information on the status of the fish of the Gippsland Lakes.

## **Odd Items of Interest**

### **Eels and Black Bream**

Sometime back I was asked by a reader did eels eat small bream. I jotted this down to reply to in due course, but only found the reminder a couple of days ago. I like many other anglers will have had the experience of having a keeper net over the side of my boat on the Tambo River, and seeing the net being pulled in all directions. On one occasion I looked over the side of the boat in time to see a large eel attacking a bream in the net. When I pulled the net into the boat one of the fish was dead, and the eel had eaten an area around its head. I had this happen on another occasion in the Tambo when I was fishing off the bank and fish in my keeper net were attacked and partly eaten, and I nearly lost the net before I became aware of what was happening and removed the fish from the water. In John Adams book on the Tambo Shire, commercial fishermen complained that in the 1890's when using seine nets that "eels would frequently attack and eat the fish" caught in the seine nets. On this basis I see no reason to suppose that eels in the upper reaches of the Tambo would not eat small bream, but to the effects of this on young bream would be difficult to determine.

### **Fish Protection Society**

In 1896 there was the formation of the "Fish Protection Society and Anglers Club" in Bairnsdale. The intent of the club was to act vigorously to have all netting stopped in the Lakes and Rivers so the commercial fishermen had to rely on "the harvest of the Gippsland Coast." Anglers at this time were concerned at the effects of netting on fish stocks in the Gippsland Lakes. Anglers concerns at the effects of commercial netting are hardly a new concern.

### **Fisheries Victoria 2011 Calendar Free**

Fisheries Victoria is offering free Go Fish Victoria Calendar featuring a number of recreational species, and it also contains information on those species which include black bream, snapper, calamari, King George whiting and a host of other fish. Acting Executive Director of Fisheries Victoria, Travis Dowling said, "the Calendar contains a wealth of information about each species" as well moon phases and the best months to target each fish. I have been provided with a copy of this calendar and find it has room for notes on every day of the year. I could see anglers using this calendar to record their annual catch of fish or it could be used for a multitude of other purposes. Well worth having and it's free!!!!

To obtain this Calendar simply phone 136 186 or email [go.fishing@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:go.fishing@dpi.vic.gov.au)

### **The Concerned Angler**

Over the last couple of years I had numerous emails from the late Peter Spehrs, and he contributed to this publication under the pseudonym of the "Concerned Angler." Peter passed away this year. I found his writing to be challenging and informed and so much of what he said over those recent years is still relevant today. I approached Peter's family and I am delighted to say that they were happy with me using Peters writing, and thoughts, from time to time. For that I thank the family and the first of those writings appears in this edition in the area of stocking Lake Tyers. Although written last June many would find this very relevant.

### **Black Bream Hatchings**

Recently I visited the RMIT facility at Lakes Entrance and saw the thousands of 3-10mm black bream in one of the tanks. These fish were the result of a successful hatchery course run by TAFE. I have emailed the Bairnsdale TAFE CEO to find out what is going to happen to these fish. I understand that discussion has taken place as to whether the estimated 30,000 can be released into our rivers and that some doubts have been expressed. As yet I have had no response. I am amazed at this facility with its twenty large tanks each capable of holding 50,000 small fish. The facility is currently not used apart from the tank holding the current stock of black bream and it does seem the facility could do with some maintenance. One has to wonder why such a facility is not being used given the parlous state of some of our estuarine fish stocks. The brood stock for the hatchery course (30 large bream have been returned to the local rivers) I have an unconfirmed report of renewed interest in estuary perch and I understand Victorian fish are being hatched at the NSW facility at Narooma. A statement on the future of the small black bream held in a tank at this

facility is urgently needed, as numbers of fish are dying. I find it surprising that the CEO of TAFE would not reply to what is a legitimate query. Makes you wonder.

### **Assault of Fisheries Officer Leads to Prison Sentence for Sunshine Man**

A 29-year-old man who drove his vehicle at a fisheries officer while attempting to flee has been goaled for two months. He was ordered to undertake 150 hours of unpaid community work over 12 months as well as his goal term. The court ordered the forfeiture of his commercial fishing equipment and his car. He was apprehended coming from the Jawbone Marine Sanctuary at Williamstown with a backpack and wet clothes. The man was also fined \$1500 and ordered to pay \$2300 for an incident last year where he and a colleague were caught with 17 black bream and a fishing net in the Werribee River. His companion was fined \$1000 and prohibited from being in possession of any fishing equipment for twelve months. The court heard the two men offended again at Mornington on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2010 and were charged with being in possession of abalone.

Fisheries deserve the congratulations of all recreational anglers when a serial offender such as this chap is apprehended and brought to justice. Great effort.

Fisheries 24 hour reporting line- (13 3474)

### **Murray Cod Season**

The Murray Cod season opens on Wednesday December 1<sup>st</sup> following “a three month closed season for fish which allows fish to breed.” (Just a thought, why is it so difficult to have a closed season for black bream to breed.) Fisheries Victoria has produced a ruler that allows anglers to determine the weight of the cod based on the length and this ruler is free by emailing [go.fishing@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:go.fishing@dpi.vic.gov.au) with your name and postal address. Last summer nearly 1.7 million native fished were released of which 434,000 were Murray cod. The largest recipient of cod was Lake Eildon where 152,000 were released. These cod will take three to five years to reach minimum legal length. Lake Eildon is set to receive over 1 million Murray cod in the next three years as part of a ten year stocking program to develop a booming Murray cod fishery in Victoria. Given reasonable rains Lake Eildon could provide an unreal fishery in this state in the years ahead.

### **Around the Jetties and Many More Readers**

I received the following delightful email after Around the Jetties received some criticism from Chris Barry Planning Officer for the Department of Sustainability and Environment for suggesting the Gippsland Lakes Taskforce had not undertaken a second study into “Fish Assemblages and Seagrass.” The statement in Around the Jetties that drew the criticism occurred three months ago in issue 39. Some readers would be aware of the criticism as the Planning Officer sent it directly to some readers, an action we deplore. Steps have been taken so that invasion of privacy does not occur again.

“Lyn

As secretary of the “Brighton Central Angling Club” you can only publish what is made available to you. Around the Jetties is a great newsletter made available to many anglers that cannot come to meetings in the Gippsland area. Keep up the good work.

Ps I do forward it each month to a further 150 members of the Brighton Central Angling Club.

Regards

Tony Alevizopoulos

Secretary Brighton central Angling Club”

Welcome to the Brighton Central Angling Club readers.

### **Cricky.com Comments**

One of the most amazing aspects of the criticism was the immediate reaction on Internet by Cricky.com an Internet site that provides information to the public on a variety of issues.

Crikey.com naturalist Lionel Elmore who writes on the Crikey Internet site-

“The “Around the Jetties” newsletter was established more than four years ago to keep the recreational fish folk that fished the Gippsland Lakes and Lake Tyers informed as to what is happening in all matters fishing and ecological. It is an informative magazine that describes government projects and initiatives and discusses issues.”

The article goes on to say “the actual comments in Around the Jetties are little more than a “mild nudge” to the Gippsland Lakes Taskforce, but one that received an extraordinary response, not from the Taskforce but from the Department of Sustainability and Environment, totally undermining their independence.”



The article provides more information, but what is surprising is the immediate response from the Crikey Internet publication and the inferences drawn from the actions taken on this issue. This is well worth a read. Just of interest, the Crikey.com site released information on the loss of \$70m of scallops in Bass Strait due to seismic testing five days before the information hit the pages of newspapers.

### **Merry Xmas**

Well this is the last edition for 2010, so its time to wish all readers a very happy Xmas and a Happy New Year from myself and the head and only unpaid employee of the Printing Department, Dawn. We have enjoyed producing this publication and are totally amazed at its growth by word of mouth. Next edition will probably be in early February and we aim for ten issues per year.

### **Thanks to Contributors to Around the Jetties**

A special thank you to those who have contributed items to Around the Jetties during 2010, and a special thank you to Fisheries Victoria who provide reports and media releases on a regular basis. Thanks also to all other agencies who have supplied information.

**Readers-** Don't forget you may get a friend or an interested angler onto the mailing list for Around the Jetties by simply sending us an email with details of the person you are nominating and his email address or a letter with details of a mailing address.

**Contributions-** Your contributions to this angling newsletter are most welcome and we look forward to publishing your items of interest

*Good Health and good fishing and have a merry and safe Xmas.*

Lynton Barr

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