



Lynton.G.Barr  
P.O.Box 23  
Swan Reach 3903  
Victoria  
Phone 03 5156 4674  
[delbarr1@bigpond.com](mailto:delbarr1@bigpond.com)

## Round the Jetties Special Issue

### Amazing News for Gippsland Anglers

#### Confirmed Report of Mulloway catch in Lake Tyers.

Well known local angler and Charter Boat operator Frank Molito has confirmed in a report to John Harrison, Lake Tyers Beach Angling Club Project Officer, in which he describes the catch of three mulloway in Lake Tyers. John Harrison reports that in late February a friend of Frank Molito caught a mulloway using bait in Lake Tyers, Then a couple of weeks later Frank caught two mulloway himself on vibes in the Fisherman's Landing area.

**All three fish were approximately 49cm in length and all were released.**

#### What are the Implications of this catch for Anglers.

These fish were released into Lake Tyers on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October in the Now Nowa region. This release was reported in the **November 96 issue** of Around the Jetties in some detail. **The fingerlings were 8-10cms in length.** The resulting initial catch of the 49cm fish would seem to **indicate an outstanding growth rate** according to Frank Molito of 5cms per month. Given this growth rate is sustained the species could reach legal size of 60cms by the end of this year.

#### Predictions

John Harrison reports "that Anthony Forster's ( Fisheries Victoria Inland Waters Manager) prediction that legal size fish would be taken by the end of the year may well turn out to be a reality." Craig Ingram Coordinator of the Target One Million Program supported this prediction. Anglers will now need to wait to see if these predictions are fulfilled but it has been a dramatic start to this Marine Stocking Project. Anglers should keep in Mind that Tamboon has received over 5000 mulloway fingerlings but we have no reports of catches at this stage.

#### A Small Piece of History

It is somewhat fitting that Frank Molito has been involved in this early catch of mulloway, as readers would recall the stories published in Around the Jetties of the catches in the Gippsland Lakes of large mulloway by his father renowned commercial fisherman Pat Molito. Perhaps these catches will serve as a historical basis for a trial marine stocking of mulloway in the Gippsland lakes in the future.

#### Catch /Possession Limit

The catch limit for mulloway is 5 fish per day and most anglers I have spoken to are questioning the maintenance of such a high catch limit in a new fishery. The general consent is 2 fish per day, and this would tend to keep these fish as a priority species and encourage a fishery for trophy mulloway. Lets hope that Fisheries Victoria assess the merits of this suggestion.

#### What Can We as Anglers do Now

**We all have a part to play and can support this project.**

Fisheries Victoria have asked that John Harrison maintain a log of both Mulloway and estuary perch catches in Lake Tyers. Anglers are asked to advise John of successful catches indicating (1)date of capture, (2)total length, (3)approximate location, (4) bait or lure and (5)if released or retained

**Johns Contact Details –Phone 5156 5648 Email [johnbethharrison@gmail.com](mailto:johnbethharrison@gmail.com)**

John will be away from 7th June to July 30<sup>th</sup> and from September 1<sup>st</sup> until October 11<sup>th</sup>. During these periods **Around the Jetties will take your catch details**, see heading for phone and email address. This information will be forwarded to fisheries so we can all take part in this exciting development.

**Please remember the same information is required for the recently stocked estuary perch of which over 20,000 have been stocked into Lake Tyers.**

**Around the Jetties appeals for photographs of fish for publication particularly mulloway and later estuary perch to provide an even better historical coverage of this development**

### **A Disturbing Report Just To hand (May 11<sup>th</sup>)**

A 22year old Paynesville man with an eel access licence has been found guilty of 25 charges relating to fishing operations that killed 250 eastern long neck turtles and other native animals. The man pleaded guilty to charges including using an unregistered boat to take fish for sale, making a false statement , fishing where he was not licenced to do so, and destroying protected wildlife. The offences occurred between December2014 and February 2015.The prosecutor Fisheries officer Matt Bateson told the court the condition of the licence the man was **operating was that the nets had to be cleared every 48 hours**. Some of the nets were not checked for two weeks by that time they were full of dead decomposing fish, eels, eastern long necked turtles a native water rat as wells as some fish.

The man was given a Community Correction Order for 24 months, required to serve 250 hours of supervised unpaid work, and to undergo a mental health assessment and treatment program, and had all his property seized as well as a number of fyke nets. He can no longer hold an Eel Access Licence and is no longer authorised to fish commercially.

MagistrateWalsh said submitting false and misleading information in his catch and effort returns jeopardized the integrity of the catch and effort data used to manage the fishery. He said the man's actions threatened the entire commercial fishery.

This case may raise more questions regarding commercial catch and effort operations particularly at flood times in the Gippsland Lakes and a number of other issues..

**This report came from a Fisheries Victoria Media Release 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

**We have produced his Special Issue of Around the Jetties so that anglers were informed as soon as possible of this news and to make information on who to contact if you happen to catch a mulloway in the weeks ahead. For those readers in wider Victoria, John Harrison's home overlooks Lake Tyers and he is generally fishing a couple of days a week in the early morning, so he really does have an intimate knowledge of the fishery in this special estuary.**

**I feel certain that Dr Lauren Veale aquatic ecologist will be vitally interested in these catches as she works on her three year study of mulloway across Victoria, and of course this becomes more interesting to local anglers remembering the outstanding catches of mulloway at Mallacoota See Issue 100**

**Best Wishes Lynton**