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# **Around the Jetties**

**May/June 2016**

**Issue 102**

**An Anglers Newsletter**

## **Sub Editors Note.**

Hi everyone if you have been wondering why your newsletter was delayed. It was sadly put on hold as Lynton has been seriously ill over the last few weeks.

He had 11 days in hospital and the episode has left him as weak as a new born baby with about as much power to concentrate; half an hour in front of the computer leads to two hours sleep.

So your newsletter is delayed and shortened. He is recovering very slowly but hopes to be back in earnest in time for the July edition.

He has asked me to let you know that on Friday June 17<sup>th</sup> there is to be a presentation of the 2016 Gippsland Lakes Fish Stocks Assessment. Those who are local and returned the survey on their catch efforts to Simon Conron may be interested in the report. Lynton is not well enough to attend himself and John Harrison is away. Lynton would be glad to hear from anyone who attends prepared to give him a report on the findings of this assessment.

**The Meeting will take place at the Lakes Entrance Mechanics Institute, 18 Mechanics Street on Friday June 17<sup>th</sup> Time 1.00 – 4.00pm.**

My thanks to those who sent letters of support for Lynton. The recreational fishing fraternity, from the average newsletter reader right to the top brass in Fisheries, has given him support and sent their best wishes for a speedy recovery. Your sentiments have been much appreciated by both of us.

Dawn.

## **Stunning News Regarding Mulloway in Lake Tyers.**

The Special Issue Newsletter forwarded to anglers provided a quick look at the exciting prospects facing anglers as the mulloway stocked in Lake Tyers on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2015 grow at a rate that seems quite amazing. We will look forward to bigger stocked mulloway being caught more regularly as the year advances .

## A Startling Catch

In the last issue of Around the Jetties April 2016 was a brief article on the catch of marlin 40kms off the coast. I was also able to report on the catch by Lee Raynor of a 135kg swordfish 40kms off Mallacoota.

That catch has been somewhat dwarfed by the catch of a broadbill swordfish of 255kgs, 90 kms off Lakes Entrance. The catch and information including a photo of this fish were printed in the Lakes Post of May the 4<sup>th</sup> and the fish was caught the previous week by Ashley Duncan.

The report indicates that it took Ashley four and a half hours to bring the fish to the boat, The catch was made more difficult by the fact his big game rod “broke three and a half hours into the challenge.”

Undoubtedly a catch of this magnitude will inspire other big game fishermen to come to Lakes Entrance in their search for marlin and swordfish, as well as other species. It is worth noting that the recreational blue fin tuna fishery off Portland contributes over \$9 million to the local economy, and in the peak of that season over 150 large off shore boats use the ramps in Portland to launch their large specially designed boats.

This is the Photo posted in The Lakes Entrance Post ,May 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. Ashley Duncan is pictured on the left. Fellow angler Matt Porter right

Editor



I congratulate Ashley on this remarkable catch of such a large broadbill swordfish, however I must confess to an element of sadness when I see this fish hoisted in a tree and it would appear to be over 12 feet in length. **I would hope as this fishery develops from Lakes Entrance and Mallacoota, it will be largely catch and release with boat side photos and fish tagging.**

I must confess in the 1990's I was equally guilty of taking large dusky flathead and having them mounted, but over the years and with the realization that almost all dusky flathead over 60cms are female and the future of the fishery depends on these fish in particular my attitude changed, and this fortunately change seems to be very general amongst anglers.

**Catch and release is now a key to recreational angling and the future.**

## A Few Facts of Interest on the Broadbilled Swordfish.

The broadbill swordfish grows to 4.5 metres in length and 650kgs in weight (1430lbs) and has a life span of around 15 years. A swordfish heavier than 90kgs is normally a male so most of the large swordfish caught are female fish. It is suggested that the Australian record for a broadbill swordfish was set off St Helens in Tasmania with a fish of 356kgs caught on April 9<sup>th</sup> 2016.

Over 50 swordfish have been caught off St Helens in the last two years according to the Hobart Mercury and this was highlighted by Paul Worsteling, fishing personality, who caught three sword

fish on the one day again in the St Helens area. These fish weighed between 120 and 270 kgs. Two of these fish were tagged and released.

Dr Sean Tracey is currently conducting a three year research program into the movement of broadbill swordfish, and also into the survival rate of released fish, as little seems to be known about the swordfish and its movement. The Australian Fisheries Management Authority tagged 47 large swordfish in the West Tasman Sea in the period 2006-2009. A number of these swordfish undertook extensive movement of up to 1905kms, however all remained within the Coral/Tasman sea area.

The Hobart Mercury has indicated world wide interest in the catches of broadbill swordfish in the St Helens area in the last two years, and suggests the close proximity of the continental shelf to the St Helens area is the reason for the catches of swordfish in this area, and it may also be associated with warmer currents in that area. The swordfish is a solitary fish and is not a schooling fish, is found in the ocean at depths up to 600 metres, and is mostly found on the surface at night.

**The above information was based on research from a number of sources, as I felt readers would like some basic information on this magnificent fish caught off Lakes Entrance.**

### **A Golden Perch Travels the Murray**

A golden perch (yellowbelly) has covered 1923 kilometres in a swim that took six years mainly in the Murray River. Scientist Jarrod Lyon from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's Arthur Rylah Institute recaptured the fish in the Goulbourn River last week after it had originally been tagged below Lock 3 on the Murray River near Overland Corner which is close to Renmark in South Australia in October 2010. The monitoring of the tagged Golden Perch has detected this fish a number of times including visits to Yarrowonga and Lock 6 near the South Australian border.

The fish grew 10 centimetres during its marathon swim. It was 36cms when it was tagged and is now more than 46cms in length. The biggest recorded movement of a Golden Perch is about 2000 kms, so this fish, which is still swimming is approaching that record. The surveys were conducted by DELWP as part of a program looking at the management of fish habitat in Victoria.



**This item taken from a Fisheries Victoria media release of the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

Photo from Weekly Times May 8<sup>th</sup> provided by Arthur Rylah Institute Scientists

### **Editor - Movement of fish in the Murray River**



In the recent years major changes have taken place in the Murray River. Around the turn of the century barrages and weirs were built on the Murray and they served the purpose of water regulation and navigation assistance for the many river boats, however they also had the effect of limiting the movement of native fish. In the last ten years over \$70 million has been spent providing fishways so that native fish could resume their migratory habits. This funding was provided by the Living Murray program with contributions from the NSW, SA, and Victorian Governments. Many of these fishways had the added bonus of being able to catch

carp separately from other native species and thus provide an opportunity for some removal of this species. Today some 2225 kms of passage from the Murray mouth at Goolwa to Lake Hume has been

provided by the construction of 17 fishways specifically designed to help native species negotiate this grand old river.

The Murray River is not the only stream to benefit by the construction of fishways with 32 other fishways on NSW streams. It was the provision of these fishways that has allowed the Golden perch in this report move through almost 2000kms of Australia's premier river.

### Another Recent Angler Verified Report

The following verified report of two experienced anglers adds to the possible dimension of mulloway angling in the Gippsland Lakes in the months ahead. It is important to recognize that these anglers were experienced and worked on the capture of mulloway across East Gippsland whilst at the same time building their level of experience with this species.

Mark Ramsay and Stuart Hinson of Traralgon were the anglers involved in this rare catch.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> April fishing in the Gippsland Straits, Mark Ramsay hooked and landed a mulloway 71cm mulloway on 6grm vibes in the straits, and after a sharp fight landed and released this fish. This was one of several fish that were actually classified by the anglers as possible mulloway. Both anglers had experienced mulloway angling in the Merimbula area previously, and so brought considerable experience to their angling in the Gippsland Lakes. Mark Ramsay landed a indicated that the bite of the mulloway was very similar to that of an estuary perch, which might give an indication as to what to expect in Lake Tyers in the years ahead.



A week or two later fishing mate Wayne Morley landed another mulloway of 72cm in the same area.



What was of particular interest to the mulloway anglers was that the female fish was carrying eggs and the male fish was in milt, which raises the question as to whether there was a possibility of the mulloway spawning in the Gippsland Lakes.

Special thanks to Mark and Stuart for their interesting details of this special catch and the excellent mulloway photographs.

The interest of Dr Lauren Veale, Aquatic Ecologist currently undertaking a study of mulloway across Eastern Victoria will be aroused with this report and the growth of interest in mulloway fishing across the state.

## **Stocking the Tambo River**

The Andrews Government has announced the stocking of the Tambo River with 9,000 Australian bass, and as well, Lake Guthridge will receive 4000 fingerlings.

This project is part of the Labour Government's "Target One Million Program to grow fishing participation. This stocking will be most welcome as the bream stocks of the Tambo River have been down in recent years, with very poor returns to recreational anglers fishing this former great bream stream.



The release into the Tambo will be made between Bruthen and the Timbarra River, and this release complements the 28,000 fingerling released into the river since 2013. Since 2002 nearly 700,000 bass fingerlings have been released with considerable emphasis on stocking East Gippsland lakes and rivers. One of the most successful bass areas stocked has been Blue Rock Lake, which has also been stocked with trout.

Source-Ministerial Media Release Friday 20th May 2016

## **Results from Angler Diarists Work**

Reported in the most recent Fish-e-Fax publication is the work of angler diarists who have been helping to monitor our flathead fisheries. The catch of dusky flathead over 55cm has increased from 3% in 2009 to 13% in 2015. Angler diarist Peter Stephen said the slot change had absolutely worked at Lake Tyers. "He added the slots limit change had really helped the fishery and there are now lots of dusky flathead over 60cm."

Over the last decade, 23 diarists have measured more than 3,000 dusky flathead from Lake Tyers. This program is funded by angler licence fees and plays an important role in monitoring our fisheries. A prime example of Fisheries Victoria and anglers working together.

Source Fish-e-Facts 30<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

**Around the Jetties on Line** [www.laketyersbeach.net.au](http://www.laketyersbeach.net.au)

**We hope to be back to a full issue in the future. Keep your photos and reports coming in.  
Many thanks for all contributors**

**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. We do not advertise but rely on readers talking to others and the number of readers just continues to increase. Material from the Newsletter may be reproduced but it would be appreciated if the author and publication were noted.

**Good Health and Good fishing**