



NSW Research Angler Program

Issue 17 January 2018

Welcome to the “NSW Research Angler Program Newsletter” – providing you, the research anglers and spearfishers of NSW, feedback on the data you are collecting to help us learn more about NSW’s recreational fish species.

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Notable Donations from Spring 2017!

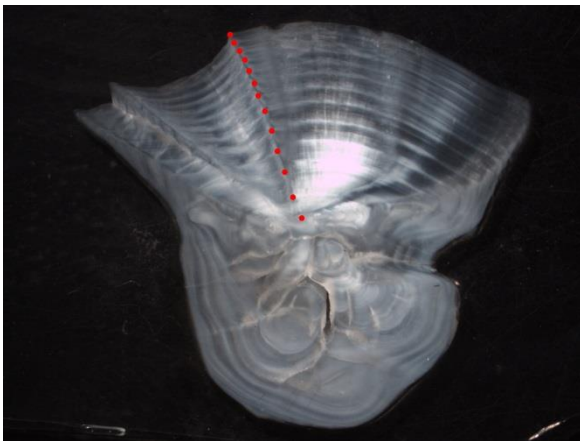
Some great East Coast weather through spring 2017 saw more fantastic fish caught and more valuable donations to the NSW Research Angler Program. Damien Vella had a spring to remember after landing his PB mulloway in October. Fishing solo from his tinny, Damien had a short but intense struggle with 133 cm and 50lb+ of genuine Hawkesbury River monster! The fish, which gave Damien some anxious moments after finding a snag at the end of its first blistering run, was eventually overcome mid-river with some serious drag pressure. Generously Damien donated his achievement to the NSW RAP and the fish was estimated to be a ripe 11 years of age – yet another small but important piece of data helping fisheries scientists understand this iconic species in NSW waters.



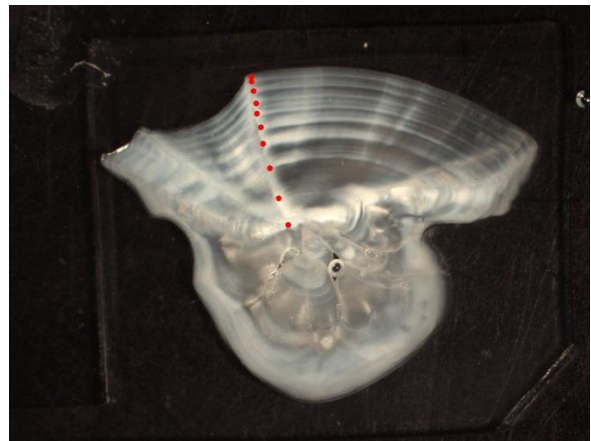
Damien Vella with his seriously plump PB mulloway of 133 cm and more than 50 lb caught in the Hawkesbury River this spring. Photo courtesy Damien Vella.

Spring was also an excellent season for frame donations from the NSW spearfishing community with mulloway, snapper and yellowtail kingfish donated by some passionate and generous spearos. One such fan of chasing fish in fins and neoprene is Sans Souci Dolphins Spearfishing Club stalwart member and serial NSW Research Angler Program frame donor Derrick Cruz who provided us with the jewels from a lovely 125 cm mulloway taken offshore from Coffs Harbour. After analysis of the jewel from Derrick's superbly-proportioned fish, we were able to estimate it to be a relatively youthful 8 years old, giving it an average growth rate of almost 16 cm per year! Many thanks to Derrick and all the spearfishers of NSW for their generous and enthusiastic involvement in the NSW RAP. As Derrick did, don't forget that you can now post the otoliths from your mulloway catches making donating to the program even easier (see page 5 for more information).

Derrick Cruz's superb 125 cm of Mid-North Coast mulloway was in tip top condition when its average growth rate of almost 16 cm per year was calculated from its estimated age of 8 years! Photo courtesy Derrick Cruz.



The otolith section from Damien Vella's monster 133 cm Hawkesbury River mulloway revealed it to be an estimated 11 years old.



The otolith section from Derrick Cruz's 125 cm fish above with growth rings clearly visible giving it an official estimated age of 8 years.



A cracking metro snapper taken by keen research angler Chris Stanley off Sydney's Northern Beaches and donated to the NSW RAP. Photo courtesy Chris Stanley.



The otolith section from Chris Stanley's 54 cm snapper at left showing the growth rings used to estimate its youthful 4 years of age.

Big mulloway are impressive, not just because of their size, but because of the often incredible ages they are estimated to reach. However most of the frames we have donated to the program come from more 'run of the mill' fish more often encountered by rec anglers and spearos than some of the freak giants sometimes featured on these pages. Chris Stanley and mates had a cracking day reef bashing off Sydney's northern beaches picking up an array of species, including one of our NSW RAP species – a 54 cm snapper. Like scores of Research Anglers in spring 2017, Chris generously donated his frame to the program and his delicious snapper estimated to be four years old now makes a small, but important contribution to the monitoring and assessment of snapper in NSW waters

Project Progress – Spring 2017

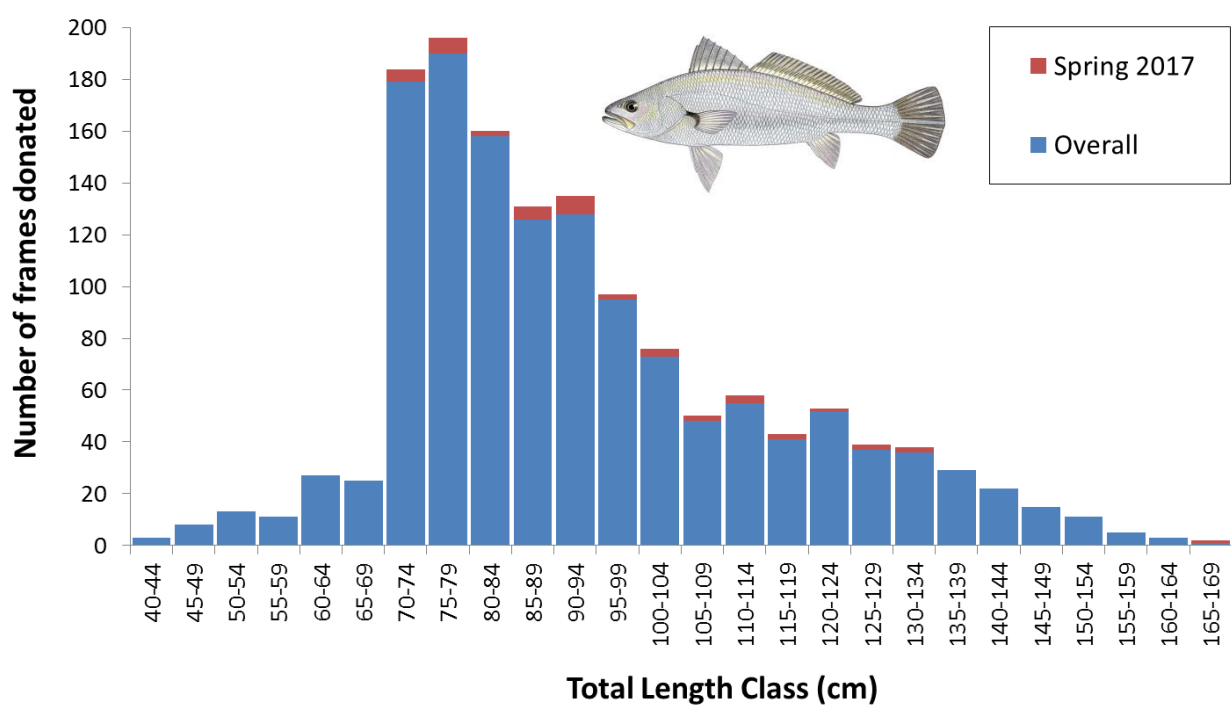
Another 44 mulloway frames or jewels were generously-donated to the program in spring 2017 ranging in size from 70 to 133 cm in length, most being in that most catchable of size classes between 70 and 100 cm. This brings the total number of mulloway frames donated to the program to more than 1400 since the program started seeking frames for jewies back in late 2013!

To add to this are frames from almost 400 snapper, 160 dusky flathead, 170 yellowtail kingfish and 2000 tailor which provides Fisheries NSW with unprecedented access to data from the recreational fishery with which to manage the stocks of these key recreational fish species.

The jewels (or otoliths) from a 133 cm mulloway donated to the program over spring 2017 resulted in an estimated age of 11 years.

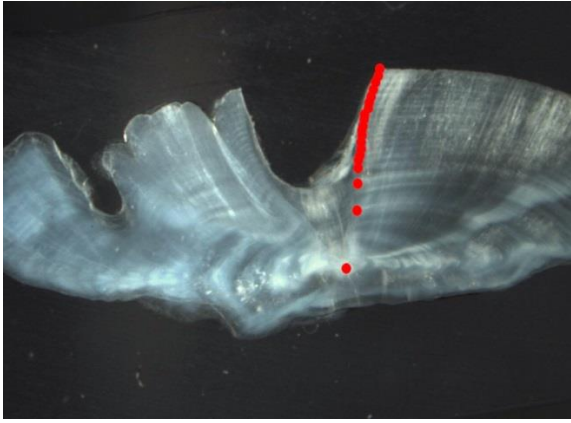


Lengths of mulloway (*Argyrosomus japonicus*) donated to the NSW Research Angler Program from spring 2017 and overall (since spring 2013).



And don't forget that you can now post the otoliths from your mulloway catches (or otoliths from any of our species – if you can find them!) to us making donating to the program even easier. All you need to do is contact us at the NSW RAP (T: 9435 4671, E: research.angler@dpi.nsw.gov.au) and we will send you out a reply-paid padded post pack and data label. Then it's simply a matter of filling out the data label and placing it, along with a single otolith from your fish into the post pack (right), seal it, stick it in the nearest Australia Post box and let the postman do the rest!.

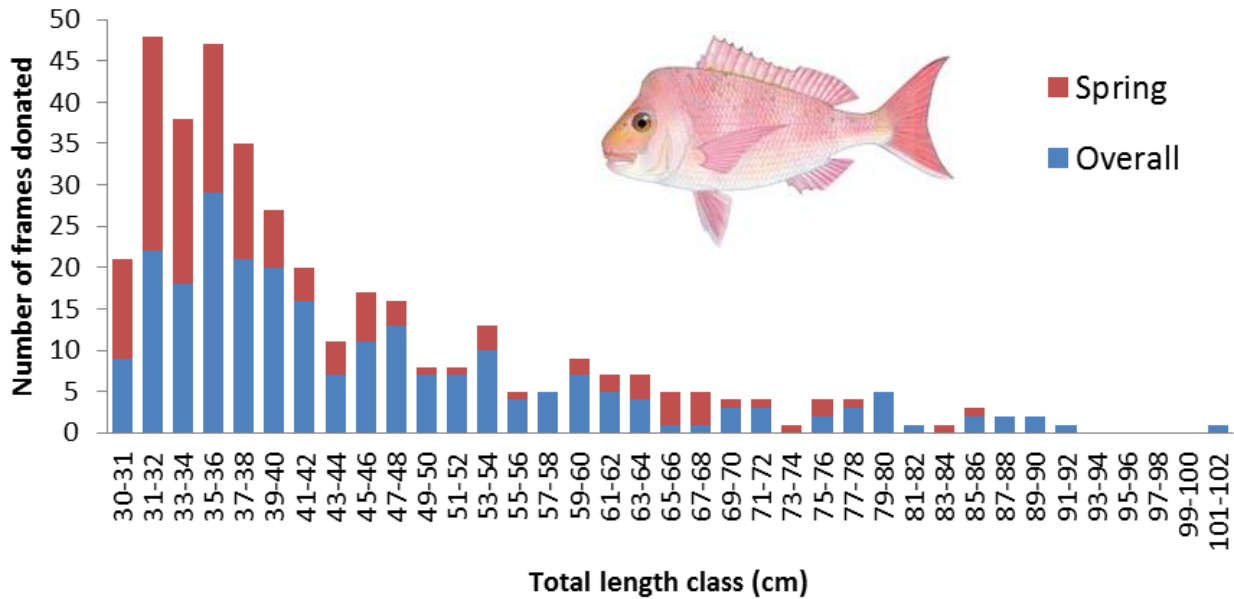




The otolith section from an 61.8 cm snapper donated to the program over spring by Jamie Culver resulted in the Port Stephens fish being estimated to be a surprising 18 years old!

The story of spring 2017 though was snapper, snapper and more snapper with frames from a staggering 144 fish from donated to the program! Once the undoing of old man snapper was the freshest bait, but these days soft plastics account for their fair share of delicious *Chrysophrys auratus* making the species even more highly sought-after (if that's possible)! This spring's donations bring the number of snapper frames donated to almost 400, with fish coming from from the entire length of the NSW coast from Yamba in the north to Eden in the south. As can be seen in the figure on page 6, most (~70%) of the donated frames were from fish were within 10 cm of the the minimum legal length of 30 cm, but there were almost 30 frames donated from fish of >50 cm all the way up to an 84 cm fish from South West Rocks and an 85 cm red from Grassy Head!

Lengths of snapper (*Chrysophrys auratus*) donated to the NSW Research Angler Program in spring 2017 and overall.



“Top Five” snapper donors overall (as of 30 November 2017):

Donor	No. frames donated	Region
Matt Proctor	145	Far South Coast
Taigan Heath	43	North Coast
Keith Kneebone	40	Everywhere!
Paul Blade	26	Mid-North Coast
Dave Rae	19	Mid-North Coast

Even if it is only one frame, one head, or a single jewel, we are willing to do (almost) anything to get it!

Techo Time!

Welcome to the third instalment of “Techo Time” where our resident NSW Research Angler Program technician, Antony Gould, explains how and why some otoliths look different to the others!

Why does my jewy jewel look funny?!

Ever pull a jewel (otolith) out of a mulloway (or any other fish) that didn't look right? Instead of being hard, solid and smooth like a marble it felt like a lumpy sugar cube, was less dense and deformed. What you've got there is called a “vateritic” otolith. Partial or fully-vateritic otoliths occur in about 1 in 100 mulloway donations that we process!

Otoliths are normally composed primarily of “aragonite”. Aragonite and vaterite are both forms of calcium carbonate. Calcium carbonate is a mineral commonly found in nature, also making up coral skeletons, bird egg shells, snail shells, amongst many others. Despite the common name “earbones”, otoliths are not a bone at all. Bones are living tissue, but otoliths are a completely inert mineral or “stone” which sits inside the fishes skull and is used in orientation, balance and hearing. Otoliths are formed in a similar way to a pearl, with aragonite forming in layers around a core. In otoliths, the aragonite crystallises at different densities depending on the water temperature, producing an alternating pattern of “rings” making it possible to determine the age of the fish.

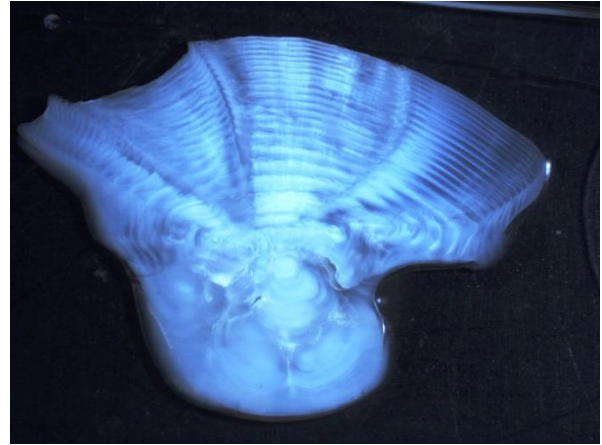
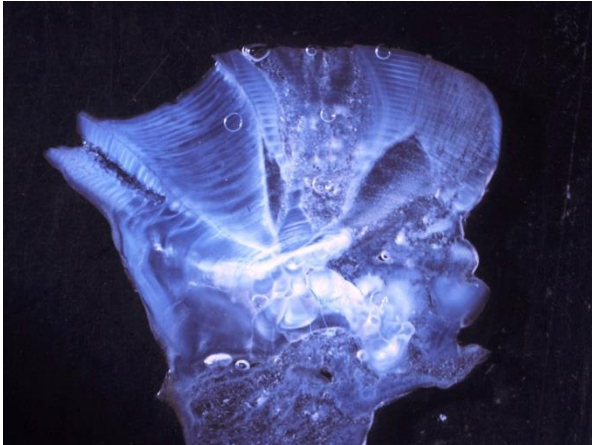
Right: Both these pairs of otoliths were removed from mulloway donated to the NSW RAP. The pair at top are composed of the most common form of calcium carbonate otolith material, aragonite; whereas the pair at the bottom contain a higher proportion of vaterite.



Both of these otoliths came from a 74 cm mulloway donated to the NSW RAP. The normal-shaped jewel on the left is composed primarily of aragonite, whereas the one on the right is primarily vaterite.

Sometimes instead of otolith material crystallising as the usual aragonite, it forms as vaterite. This results in otoliths that look a lot more like they are made of classic irregular hexagonal “crystals” and are larger, lighter and more brittle than aragonite otoliths. These otoliths begin life forming normally as primarily aragonite is laid down, but at some point the calcium carbonate begins crystallising as vaterite; sometimes this occurs in only one otolith of the pair and other times it occurs in both. The underlying causes of vateritic otolith formation remain unknown, but have been recorded many fish species from both marine and freshwater environments at a rate of between 1 and 24% of individuals in populations so far studied.

As otoliths form part of the inner ear of the fish, these deformities have been recently shown to cause hearing problems in farmed fish where the abnormality is much more common. A recent study found that 100% of farmed Norwegian salmon have the deformity and that factors such as temperature, gender and age of maturity were not the cause. Instead, the deformity was linked to growth rate with the abnormally fast growth associated with intensive aquaculture shown to be much more likely to produce fish with deformed otoliths.



The section of a partially vateritic mulloway otolith on the left and one from a normal aragonitic mulloway otolith on the right. Note the irregular large crystal structure of parts of the vateritic section (left) in comparison with the uniformity of the aragonitic section (right).

So, the good news is that if you pull the jewel out of a mulloway and it looks a bit funny, it's a completely natural occurrence and may, at worst, have slightly poorer hearing than its mates. In fact, you could tell your friends that it was a "fast grower" and "big for its age"! Better yet, send it in to us and we can tell you exactly how old it was and how big it was for its age!

For more information, check out the following links:

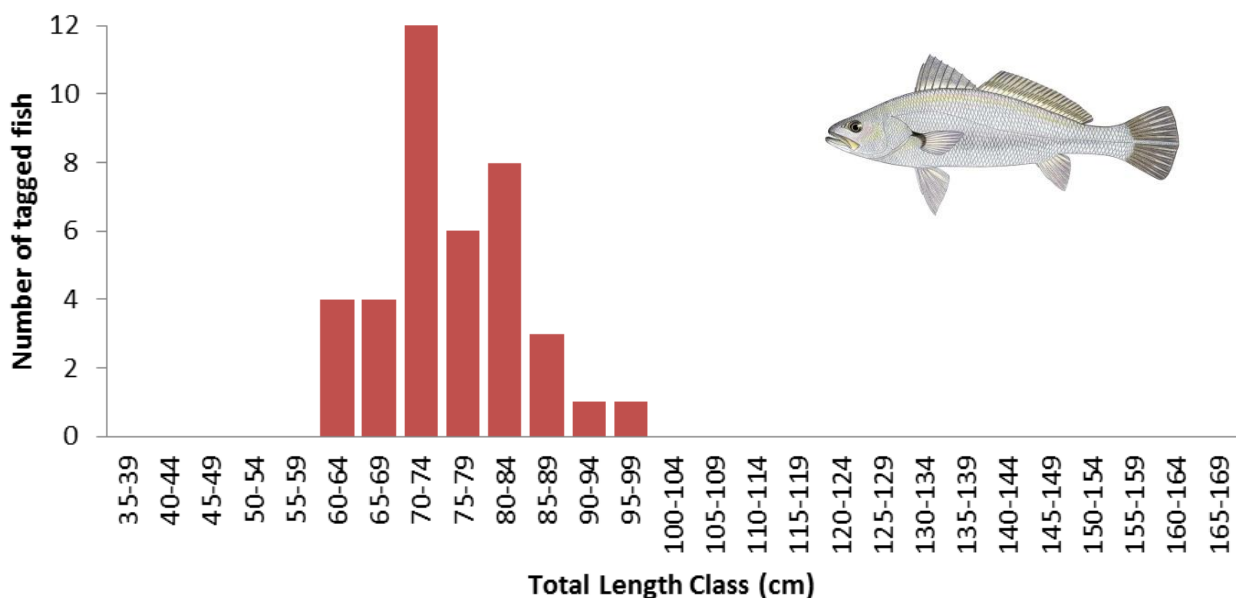
<https://www.nature.com/articles/srep25249>

<http://jeb.biologists.org/content/early/2017/06/07/jeb.148056>

NSW RAP – ANSA Mulloway Tagging

Spring 2017 was a season of plenty for participants in the NSW RAP-ANSA mulloway tagging project with a further 39 mulloway tagged. Twenty three of these fish came from Lake Macquarie and 17 from one of Lake Mac's finest exponents of the mysterious art of mulloway-hunting, Kyle Worley. These fish were classic coastal lagoon-sized mulloway and ranged in size from 61 cm up to an impressive 96 cm. This brings the overall number of tagged jewies to more than 2,000 since March 2014! Coming from one of NSW's other famous fishing "Macquaries", Port Macquarie, Mark Saxon from [Castaway Estuary Fishing Charters](#) and clients were able to tag and release a further ten mulloway of between 62 and 90 cm over spring from the Hastings and Maria Rivers!

Length frequency of mulloway tagged as part of the NSW RAP-ANSA tagging project from spring 2017.



Back in Lake Macquarie, Steven Gresham tagged four fine fish between 73 and 83 cm over spring. Mark Williams' only two tagged mulloway for spring ended up both being in the "Top Five" largest spring mulloway at 96 and 88.5 cm both from his kayak! Elsewhere, Tommy Ivanovic was successful slap bang in the middle of metropolitan Sydney tagging three fish including an 85 cm fish from the Cooks River and Mark Corbin took his tagging exploits all over NSW tagging mulloway the Georges River, Jervis Bay and the Shoalhaven River!

Right: Gianni LoGiudice with a perfectly-proportioned tagged mulloway from spring 2017. Photo courtesy Gianni LoGiudice



Top Five taggers for spring 2017 (as of 30 November):

Tagger	No. fish tagged	Region
Kyle Worley	17	Lake Macquarie
Mark Saxon	10	Port Macquarie
Steven Gresham	4	Lake Macquarie
Mark Corbin	3	Nowra, Sydney
Tommy Ivanovic	3	Sydney



Whilst mulloway are certainly capable of some serious long distance movements, as most jewy fishers know however, they are a creature of habit and generally go about their business in the same patch, day in day out. One such fish which demonstrated astounding long term residence was tagged at 59.5 cm in the Hawkesbury River by [Sydney Sportfishing Adventures](#)' Dan Selby way back in September 2014. The same fish was recaptured by Issa Chahine in November 2017 again in the Hawkesbury River, but this time fish was a very different beast having grown to 104 cm in the intervening 1149 days at any average rate of 0.4 mm/day! Another tagged Hawkesbury mulloway recaptured during spring 2017 at 81 cm by Liam Sandford, had been tagged 517 days earlier in May 2016 by Peter Rothwell in the Hawkesbury when just 65 cm.

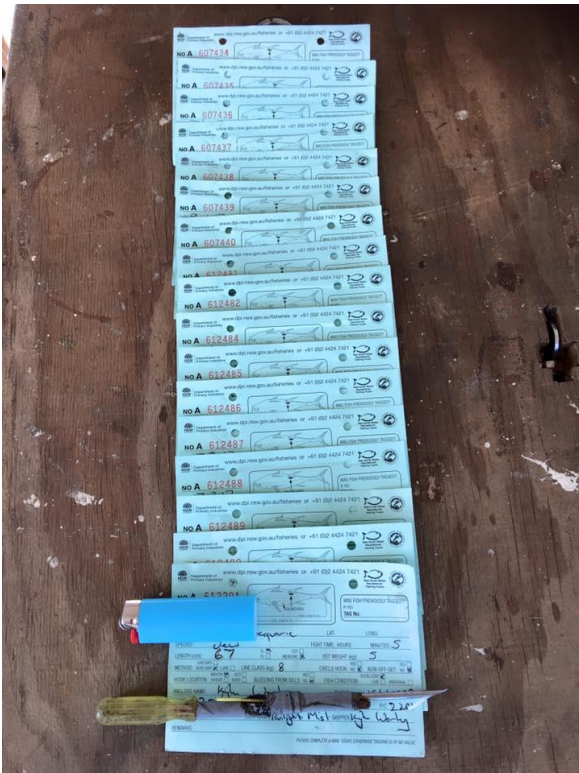
Left: Tag #A607483 found by George Moawad in a 78 cm Georges River mulloway tagged some 566 days earlier by Ivan Maric when just 70 cm! Photo courtesy George Moawad.

Top Five largest fish tagged for spring 2017 (as of 30 November):

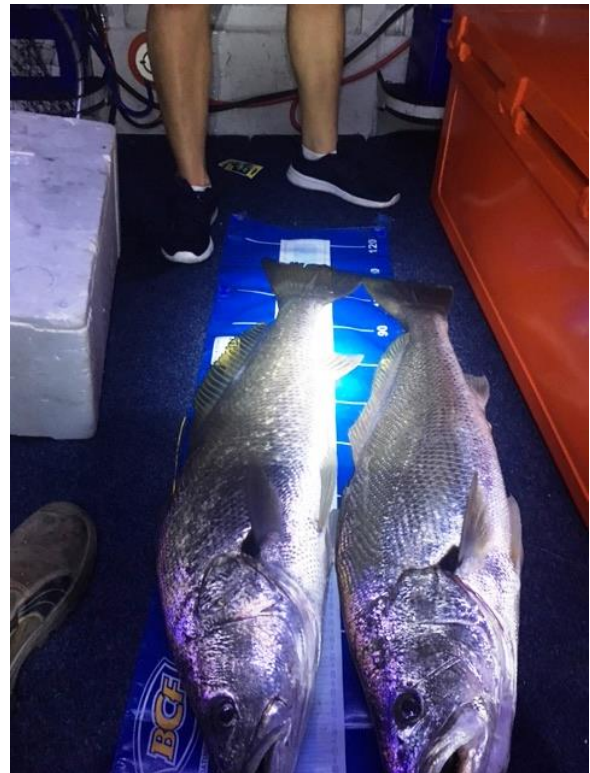
Tagger	Total length (cm)	System
Mark Williams	96	Lake Macquarie
Mark Saxon	90	Port Macquarie
Mark Williams	88.5	Lake Macquarie
Mark Saxon	87	Port Macquarie
Tommy Ivanovic	85	Cooks River

Top Five largest fish tagged overall (as of 30 November 2017):

Tagger	Total length (cm)	System	Season
"Tagger 86"	155.5	Hawkesbury River	Autumn 2016
Josh Anderson	152.5	Yamba	Spring 2016
"Tagger 86"	152	Hawkesbury River	Spring 2015
"Tagger 86"	148	Hawkesbury River	Summer 2016-17
"Tagger 86"	146	Hawkesbury River	Summer 2016-17



The seventeen completed tag cards (and a nifty homemade tag applicator) from Kyle Worley's very successful spring mulloway tagging in Lake Macquarie. Photo courtesy Kyle Worley.



The 104 cm fish at left caught by Issa Chahine was tagged by Dan Selby when just 59.5 cm long 1149 days prior in the Hawkesbury River! Photo courtesy Issa Chahine

Our final two recaptures for spring 2017 were also caught in close proximity to their tagging location. A 76 cm fish tagged by Kyle Worley in Lake Macquarie was recaptured by Rodney Austin 203 days later increasing in size by 8 cm. Out for even longer was a 70 cm fish tagged by Ivan Maric in Botany Bay in May 2016 recaptured in the mouth of the Georges River by George Moawad some 566 days later in November 2017 growing to 78 cm in the process.

Tagged mulloway recaptures for spring 2017 (as of 30 November):

Tagging angler	Total length (cm)	Tagging location	Recapture angler	Total length (cm)	Recapture location	Days at liberty
Kyle Worley	76	Lake Macquarie	Rodney Austin	84	Lake Macquarie	203
Peter Rothwell	65	Hawkesbury River	Liam Sandford	81	Hawkesbury River	517
<i>Unknown</i>	n/a	<i>Unknown</i>	Matt	76	Georges River	-
Dan Selby	59.5	Hawkesbury River	Issa Chahine	104	Hawkesbury River	1149
Ivan Maric	70	Botany Bay	George Moawad	78	Georges River	566

Next time you're out chasing mulloway, keep an eye out for one of our yellow NSW DPI tags like this one found in a 104 cm fish recaptured 1150 days after being tagged when 59.5 cm in the Hawkesbury River. Remember that the tag may be fouled with algae. Photo courtesy Issa Chahine.



If you are fortunate enough to catch a tagged mulloway, please record the tag number, measure the length of the fish, and contact either the NSW DPI Gamefish Tagging Program (T: 4424 7411, E:

gamefish.tagging@dpi.nsw.gov.au) or the NSW Research Angler Program (T: 9435 4671, E: research.angler@dpi.nsw.gov.au). The tag will be yellow, approximately 12 cm long and located just beneath the dorsal spines.

The crucial data collected by this project will help us to learn more about the movements, growth and post-release survival of this iconic fish. Stay tuned for future updates in the Spring 2017 NSW RAP Newsletter!

Also don't forget, you can also now stay up-to-date with all the comings and goings of this component of the NSW RAP by visiting the project Facebook page ([Newtag – NSW Tagging Program – Mulloway](#)).

Don't forget, you can also now stay up-to-date with all the comings and goings of this component of the NSW RAP by visiting the project Facebook page ([Newtag – NSW Tagging Program – Mulloway](#)).

Once again, an enormous thank you must go to the [ANSA NSW Branch](#), and in particular **Stan Konstantaras** and **Chris Anagnostou**, for managing this important and fascinating component of the NSW Research Angler Program.

NSW RAP Presentations

If you are a member of a fishing club (spearfishing or angling) or a tackle shop hosting regular fishing-related presentations and are interested in having someone from the NSW RAP give a talk on the program (and we now have a bunch more species to talk about!), please don't hesitate to get in contact with us (E: research.angler@dpi.nsw.gov.au, T: 9435 4671) and we will send someone out to get you and your audience 'revved-up' about the program!

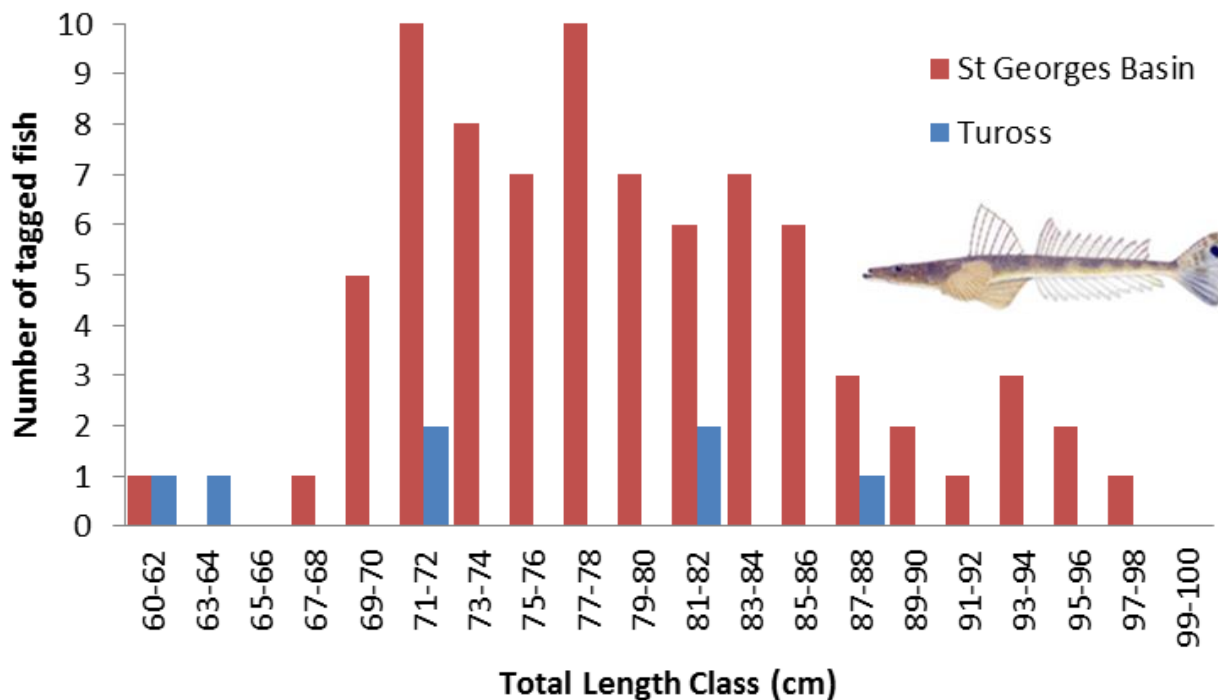
Right: NSW RAP scientist Julian Hughes makes a presentation at the monthly meeting of the Northern Suburbs Underwater Club. Photo courtesy Adam Price.



Trophy Dusky Flathead Fishery Update

In the year since the commencement of the “Trophy Dusky Flathead Fishery” concept in St Georges Basin and Tuross Lake a total of 87 “trophy” duskies have been successfully tagged. These fish have ranged in size from 60 cm, a fine fish in its own right, to some true crocodiles approaching the magic metre mark! It’s these big female fish that the Trophy Fishery concept is based around.

Length frequency of dusky flathead (*Platycephalus fuscus*) tagged as part of the Trophy Dusky Flathead Fishery Concept in St Georges Basin and Tuross Lake.



As can be seen from the above graph, the majority (~80%) of the fish tagged have been from 70 cm up to around the 85 cm mark, but there have also been good numbers of 90 cm plus fish now swimming around sporting a pink NSW DPI tag.

Twenty one "trophy-sized" dusky flathead have also so far been tagged in the latest estuary system to be added to the Trophy Dusky Flathead Fishery program, Lake Macquarie. The program promises to provide more critical information on the dusky flathead fisheries in these iconic estuary systems.

Mark Williams with a real trophy dusky flathead of 90 cm tagged and ready for release in Lake Macquarie, the 10th dusky to be tagged there. Photo courtesy Mark Williams.

The “Trophy Dusky Flathead Fishery” concept has been set up by NSW DPI in collaboration with the local community to promote the importance of these systems as places where anglers can chase really big flathead. Key to the concept is promoting successful catch and release of these ‘trophy’ fish of greater than 70 cm in length. Dusky flathead have been shown to have very low mortality rates following catch and release angling and a “Code of Practice” has been developed detailing best practice catch and release techniques which can be found in a helpful video [here](#).



Steve Gresham releases a tagged 70 cm dusky flathead back into Lake Macquarie. Photo courtesy Steve Gresham.



Steve Norris holds 72 cm of prime tagged Lake Mac trophy flathead just prior to release. Photo courtesy Steve Norris.

The “Trophy Dusky Flathead Fishery” concept not only helps ensure the sustainability of recreational fisheries by protecting large female fish, but also provides anglers with the real possibility of catching a monster ‘lizard’! As part of the trial, the NSW Research Angler Program is involved in a small tagging program, the keeping of Research Angler Diaries and of course any retained dusky flathead frames can be [donated to research](#)! If you would like to participate in the Research Angler Diary component of the “Trophy Dusky Flathead Fishery Concept” for any of the participating estuaries, please contact the NSW RAP (research.angler@dpi.nsw.gov.au, 9435 4671) and we will send you out a Research Angler Diary pack.

More information on the “Trophy Dusky Flathead Fishery” program, including the code of practice, can be found on the [NSW DPI website](#). With the prime summer dusky flathead season fast approaching, plenty of recaptures are expected. If you are fortunate enough to catch a tagged dusky flathead mulloway, please record the tag number, measure the length of the fish, and contact either the NSW DPI Gamefish Tagging Program (T: 4424 7411, E: gamefish.tagging@dpi.nsw.gov.au) or the NSW Research Angler Program (T: 9435 4671, E: research.angler@dpi.nsw.gov.au). The tag will be pink, approximately 8 cm long and located just beneath the dorsal spines.

The “Top Fives”!

Our sincerest thanks to the following dedicated Research Anglers and spearfishers who have made it into our “Top Five” lists of frame donors overall and those for spring 2017.

As mentioned earlier in the newsletter, spring 2017 was all about snapper with a staggering 144 frames donated! This was largely due to the efforts of Eden snapper fisher extraordinaire Matt Proctor who had been stockpiling his frames since May, but even so, that’s still a very handy strike rate of 15 snapper per month! Matt’s fish ranged from ‘pannies’ right up to some lovely 50 cm plus reds. For the second season in a row, Jamie Culver donated a great species mix of frames featuring 18 snapper to 78.5 cm and four mulloway to 132 cm from Port Stephens. Grant Ashwell also mixed it up on the Mid-North Coast donating frames from six jumbo snapper of between 70 and 85 cm along with three metre-plus mulloway! “Solid on the jewies” was John St Vincent Welch who donated frames from 10 Clarence River mulloway of 72-127 cm and Cameron Doak was similarly “solid on the reddie’s” with eight snapper frames to 74.8 cm donated from Port Macquarie.

“Top Five” frame donors spring 2017 (as of 30 November):

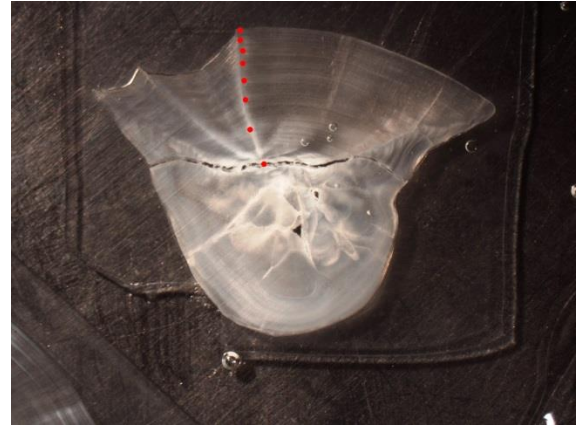
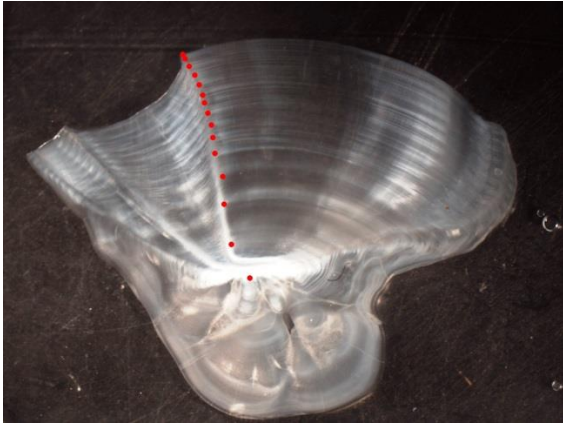
Donor	No. frames donated	Region	Species
Matthew Proctor	103	Eden	Snapper
Jamie Culver	22	Port Stephens	Mulloway, Snapper
John St Vincent Welch	10	Yamba	Mulloway
Grant Ashwell	9	Mid-North Coast	Snapper, Mulloway
Cameron Doak	8	Port Macquarie	Snapper

“Top Five” largest mulloway donated spring 2017 (as of 30 November):

Donor	Total length (cm)	Estimated age (years)	Region
Damien Vella	133	11	Sydney
Jamie Culver	132	18	Port Stephens
Matthew Forrest	128	11	Central Coast
John St Vincent Welch	127	14	Yamba
Grant Ashwell	120	6	South West Rocks

“Top Five” largest snapper donated spring 2017 (as of 30 November):

Donor	Total length (cm)	Estimated age (years)	Region
Grant Ashwell	85	<i>tba</i>	Grassy Head
Grant Ashwell	84	<i>tba</i>	Crowdy Head
Jamie Culver	78.5	16	Port Stephens
Grant Ashwell	76	<i>tba</i>	South West Rocks
Grant Ashwell	75	<i>tba</i>	Grassy Head



The otolith section from a 118 cm Yamba mulloway donated by John St Vincent Welch estimated to be 13 years old (left). Despite being almost the same size at 120 cm, Grant Ashwell’s South West Rocks mulloway was revealed to be just 6 years of age (right).

Damien Vella’s thumping 133 cm 11 year old Hawkesbury River mulloway from earlier in the newsletter was the largest mulloway we had donated to the NSW RAP over spring 2017, but was far from the oldest donated. That title belonged to a similarly-sized 132 cm fish donated by Jamie Culver from Port Stephens estimated to be an impressive 18 years old. A pair of John St Vincent Welch’s ten donated Clarence River mulloway were estimated to be 14 (127 cm) and 13 (118 cm) years old respectively. A 128 cm Brisbane Water mulloway donated by Matt Forrest was estimated to be 11 years old and one of Grant Ashwell’s fish was estimated to be just 6 years old, despite being 120 cm in length – now that’s some growth rate!

“Top Five” largest mulloway donated overall (as of 30 November 2017):

Donor	Total length (cm)	Estimated age (years)	Region	Season
Nathan Debono	168	26	Newcastle	Winter 2015
Adam Price	164	24	Sydney	Spring 2013
Paul Lennon	161	26	Port Stephens	Winter 2017
Keith Kneebone	160	20	Sydney	Autumn 2014
Mark McCabe	159	21	Sydney	Spring 2013

Spring-donated snapper also contained some seriously impressive sizes with Grant Ashwell donating four of the “Top Five” largest snapper for spring at 75, 76, 84 and 85 cm respectively. The ages of these fine fish are yet to be determined at the time of writing, but we will be sure to include these age estimates in the summer NSW RAP Newsletter. Of the snapper we have been able to estimate ages for, Jamie Culver’s 68 cm Port Stephens fish was the oldest snapper donated at an estimated 18 years of age. This was closely followed by three of Jamie’s other donated snapper, with ages of 16, 16 and 12 years estimated for fish of 68.5, 78.5 and 65.5 cm respectively. Rounding out the “Top Five” for spring was a 74.8 cm fish from Port Macquarie donated by Cameron Doak and estimated to be a neat 10 years old!

“Top Five” oldest mulloway donated spring 2017 (as of 30 November):

Donor	Estimated age (years)	Total length (cm)	Region
Jamie Culver	132	18	Port Stephens
John St Vincent Welch	127	14	Yamba
John St Vincent Welch	118	13	Yamba
Damien Vella	133	11	Sydney
Matthew Forrest	128	11	Central Coast

“Top Five” oldest snapper donated spring 2017 (as of 30 November):

Donor	Estimated age (years)	Total length (cm)	Region
Jamie Culver	18	68	Port Stephens
Jamie Culver	16	78.5	Port Stephens
Jamie Culver	16	68.5	Port Stephens
Jamie Culver	12	65.5	Port Stephens
Cameron Doak	10	74.8	Port Macquarie

“Top Five” oldest mulloway donated overall (as of 30 November 2017):

Donor	Estimated age (years)	Total length (cm)	Region	Season
Vaughan Little	34	156	Nowra	Spring 2013
Paul Lennon	33	149	Port Stephens	Summer 2016-17
Nathan Debono	26	168	Newcastle	Winter 2015
Paul Lennon	26	161	Port Stephens	Winter 2017
Scott Robson	26	154	Newcastle	Summer 2013-14
Evan Leeson	26	144	Port Macquarie	Autumn 2014
Paul Martin	26	148	Batemans Bay	Autumn 2017
Marwan Nasr	25	147	Sydney	Spring 2014
Greg Slater	25	133	Eden	Winter 2016
Adam Price	24	164	Sydney	Spring 2013
Jack Graham	24	<i>Unknown</i>	Eden	Winter 2016
Hari Corliss	24	151	Port Macquarie	Winter 2015

As well as those mentioned above, thanks to all the fishers who donated their spring mulloway, kingfish, dusky flathead, snapper, pearl perch, mackerel and tailor to the NSW RAP, here's hoping for some quality summer fishing for all our species!

Drop-off Locations

Many thanks must once again go to all participating drop-off locations for their enthusiastic involvement in the program. This program would simply not be possible without your continued support. The list of drop-off locations for donated frames is changing regularly as more tackle retailers become involved in the program.

For the full and up-to-date list of places where you can drop-off your frames, heads or jewels, please visit:

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fish-tagging/researchangler/drop-off-locations>



77 cm of fat October North Coast mulloway donated by Rob Prosser and estimated to be a youthful 4 years old. Photo courtesy Rob Prosser.



This thumping 75 cm Port Macquarie snapper donated by Cameron Doak was estimated to be 10 years old.

Monthly Prize Draw Winners!

The lucky monthly NSW Research Angler Program prize winners for spring 2017 were decided by randomly drawing one frame donor from each month.

Congratulations to the following Research Anglers:

September	Joel Pease	(Wollongong)
October	Jamie Culver	(Port Stephens)
November	Grant Ashwell	(Taree)



Each winner will receive a \$50 gift voucher generously donated by [MO Tackle Coffs Harbour](#) (for use in-store or online)

Future winners will be published in upcoming newsletters and on our website. Don't forget to include your contact details (phone number, postal or email address) on the label accompanying your donated frame to ensure your chance of winning!

Remember, if you're going to catch and keep any of our species (**Mulloway, Snapper, Dusky Flathead, Yellowtail Kingfish, Tailor, Pearl Perch, Spotted or Spanish Mackerel**) for a feed, please fillet your fish and donate the frame, head or a single otolith to research –

WE NEED THE DATA FROM YOUR FISH!

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT.
KIND REGARDS, **HAPPY NEW YEAR** AND TIGHT LINES!**

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