



## GOFISH-20 AFTER COVID-19 AUGUST UPDATE

### **Impact of COVID-19 on recreational fishing**

Recaptures of tagged fish are being used as a random sample of the fishing population to get a sense of the impact of COVID-19 on recreational fishing in Queensland.

Recaptures are correlated to the level of fishing effort so any change in the number of recaptures is likely to reflect a change in fishing effort. Location of recaptures and the address or postcode of the fisher is another measure providing an approximation of how far fishers are travelling to go fishing. The changes observed provide support for recaptures being sensitive to changes in fishing effort.

While there are no restrictions currently on recreational fishing the biggest issue is the border closure with NSW and its impact on interstate visitors, and in particular on fishers. This month we have extended the analysis to look at the changes to interstate fishers.

### **Summaries for locations 2019-2020**

- Statewide
- South East Queensland (Sunshine Coast to Gold Coast)
- Fitzroy River
- South East Queensland impoundments

### **Observations**

- Statewide recaptures have rebounded and are now just 4.5% lower than for the same period last year
- From late Apr to late July there were no recaptures by interstate fishers however since then there have been 10 recaptures by interstate fishers, all from NSW
- From Jan-Aug there have been 20 recaptures by interstate fishers compared with 15 for the same period in 2019
- There has been an increase in the average distance between fisher's address and recapture location jumping to a high of 183km in Aug boosted by long distance travellers
- There has been little change in the rate of recaptures in SEQ suggesting there has been little impact from Covid-19 although travel distance is down slightly due to earlier travel restrictions
- Impoundments were closed in Apr so the rebound in fishing has been strong and now exceeds the recaptures in 2019 suggesting an increase in fishing effort since May
- Recaptures remain at a low level in the Fitzroy River for May-Aug however numbers are traditional low over winter months
- The Fitzroy river appears to have had the largest impact without any signs of recovery as opposed to other areas

Infofish Australia  
August 2020

MEASURE	ACTUAL	GRAPH																																													
<b>QUEENSLAND</b>		<b>STATEWIDE PERSPECTIVE</b>																																													
<b>Number of recaptures</b>	<table> <tr> <td></td><td>2020</td><td>2019</td></tr> <tr> <td>May</td><td>142</td><td>143</td></tr> <tr> <td>Jun</td><td>120</td><td>75</td></tr> <tr> <td>Jul</td><td>78</td><td>96</td></tr> <tr> <td>Aug</td><td>84</td><td>83</td></tr> <tr> <td>YTD</td><td>974</td><td>1020</td></tr> </table>		2020	2019	May	142	143	Jun	120	75	Jul	78	96	Aug	84	83	YTD	974	1020	<p>MONTHLY RECAPTURES 2019-2020</p> <table> <tr><th>Month</th><th>2019</th><th>2020</th></tr> <tr><td>JAN</td><td>150</td><td>150</td></tr> <tr><td>FEB</td><td>150</td><td>150</td></tr> <tr><td>MAR</td><td>150</td><td>150</td></tr> <tr><td>APR</td><td>150</td><td>150</td></tr> <tr><td>MAY</td><td>150</td><td>150</td></tr> <tr><td>JUN</td><td>150</td><td>150</td></tr> <tr><td>JUL</td><td>150</td><td>150</td></tr> <tr><td>AUG</td><td>150</td><td>150</td></tr> </table>	Month	2019	2020	JAN	150	150	FEB	150	150	MAR	150	150	APR	150	150	MAY	150	150	JUN	150	150	JUL	150	150	AUG	150	150
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<b>Cumulative distance (km) address or postcode to recapture location Jan-Aug 2020-2019</b>	2020-2019 Jan-Aug -23.8% Aug +59.6%	<p>RECAPTURE CUMULATIVE DISTANCE ADDRESS TO RECAPTURE JAN-AUG 2019-2020</p>																																													
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<b>Number of recaptures</b> <div> <div>2020</div> <div>2019</div> </div> <div> <div>May</div> <div>7</div> <div>7</div> </div> <div> <div>Jun</div> <div>8</div> <div>2</div> </div> <div> <div>Jul</div> <div>5</div> <div>7</div> </div> <div> <div>Aug</div> <div>2</div> <div>11</div> </div> <div> <div>YTD</div> <div>85</div> <div>120</div> </div>		
<b>Cumulative recaptures</b> <b>Jan-Aug</b> <b>2019-2020</b> <b>Dots show recaptures by interstate fishers</b>	Aug 2020-2019 -72.7% Interstate fishers Jan-Aug 2020 1 2019 3	
<b>Cumulative recaptures</b> <b>Jan-Dec</b> <b>2020-2019</b> <b>Dots show recaptures by interstate fishers</b>	2020-2019 Jan-Aug -29.2%	
<b>Cumulative recaptures based on local and non-local postcodes</b> <b>2020-2019</b>	Local trips 2019 68.9% Jan-Mar 2020 71.7% Apr-Aug 2020 91.3%	
<b>Cumulative distance (km) address or postcode to recapture location</b> <b>Jan-Jul</b> <b>2020-2019</b>	Distance 2020-2019 Jan-Mar +6.4% Apr-Aug -92.3%	
<b>Cumulative distance (km) address or postcode to recapture location</b> <b>2019-2020</b>	Distance 2020-2019 Jan-Aug -49.8%	
<b>Average distance (km) address or postcode to recapture location</b> <b>Jan-Jul</b> <b>2020-2019</b>	Average distance 2020 Feb 239 Aug 30	

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SOUTH EAST QLD	ESTUARIES	REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE																		
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<b>SOUTH EAST QLD</b>	<b>FRESHWATER</b>	<b>IMPOUNDMENTS</b>																																													
<b>Impoundments In a circle inland of SEQ</b>	All stocked with Australian Bass	Lake Somerset Lake Wivenhoe Lake Moogerah Lake Maroon Lake Advancetown Lake Borumba																																													
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Product of Infofish Australia



Supported by Suntag

## Data sources

Data used in the GOFISH-20 Crystal Bowl are:

- Tag and recapture records for Queensland from Infofish Suntag database from [http://crystalbowl.infofishaustralia.com.au/infofish/f\\_infofish.htm](http://crystalbowl.infofishaustralia.com.au/infofish/f_infofish.htm)
- Postcodes data from Australia Postcode Location Data at Corra at <https://www.corra.com.au/australian-postcode-location-data/>
- River flow data from Water Monitoring Information Portal Station 130005A the Gap on the Fitzroy River at <https://water-monitoring.information.qld.gov.au/>

## Data analysis

- Effort proxy is based on daily number of recreational recaptures each year
- Distance based on straight line distance between centroid of grid in which the fish was recaptured and their residential address, or town or suburb or centroid of their postcode, whichever is provided
- Fitzroy River includes Infofish maps FRR, PAR and CIS
- SEQ is from Sunshine Coast to Gold Coast including Infofish maps SC23, SC22, SC21, SC20, PPB, CAB, MB01, MB02, MB03, MB05, GC22, GC23 and TWR
- SEQ impoundments include Infofish maps ADV, LMM, LMH, LWH, LS01 and LBY