



Project name: Suntag 2019-2020	Organisation: Suntag Australia Incorporated
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MILESTONE REPORT:	QUARTER 4 (Q4)
REPORT PERIOD:	APRIL-JUNE 2020
MILESTONE DATE:	30 JULY 2020
REPORT DATE:	5 JULY 2020
REPORT PREPARED BY:	BILL SAWYNOK

MILESTONE REPORT REQUIREMENTS

Suntag

1. The number of registered taggers in the Queensland program
2. Number of new taggers in program
3. Number of fish tagged each quarter by species
4. Number of tag recaptures by species

Targets for 2019-20

1. Tag 20,000 fish (revised to 15,000 due to COVID-19)
2. Record 1,500 recaptures
3. Registered taggers in range of 400-500
4. Upgrade database
5. Provide data to researchers and others

MILESTONE Q4 REPORT - SUMMARY

SUNTAG SUMMARY 2019-2020

SUMMARY OF YEAR NUMBERS

MEASURE	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2019-20
REGISTERED TAGGERS	439	430	436	441	441
NEW TAGGERS	27	23	14	22	86
ACTUAL TAGGERS	217	321	166	143	504
FISH TAGGED	3,968	5,034	3,277	3,580	15,859
FISH RECAPTURED	312	552	472	362	1,321

Suntag Q4 Highlights

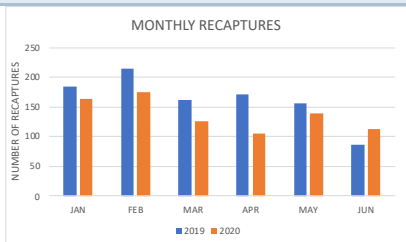
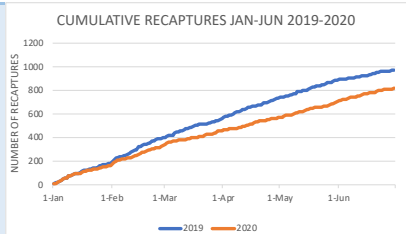
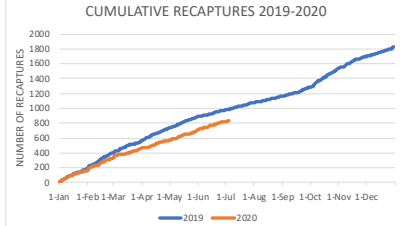
Impact of COVID-19

There are very few objective ways to measure the impact of COVID-19 on recreational fishing. The recapture of tagged fish can be viewed as a random sampling of the fishing population to get some insight into the impact on effort and travel. A number of different assessments were made including statewide, regional for the Fitzroy River and South East Qld, and impoundments adjacent to SEQ. The analysis was based on the cumulative number of recaptures and the direct distance between the fisher's home or postcode and the recapture location comparing 2020 with 2019. The actual distance travelled was unknown, but this provided a reasonable approximation for comparison purposes.

The data were updated daily, and this will continue through to the end of the year to see what happens as restrictions are eased and government support for workers ends or is reduced in Sep. A summary was sent to key interest groups and individuals at the end of each month.

In summary to date there was a reduction in fishing effort from mid-Mar to early-May with travel distance restrictions mostly adhered to. From mid-May fishing effort was mostly back to normal or a bit above with longer travel distances. The impact was mostly felt in regional areas and impoundments (mostly closed during Apr) while there was little impact in SEQ.

Part of the summary of the statewide assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on recreational fishing in Queensland.

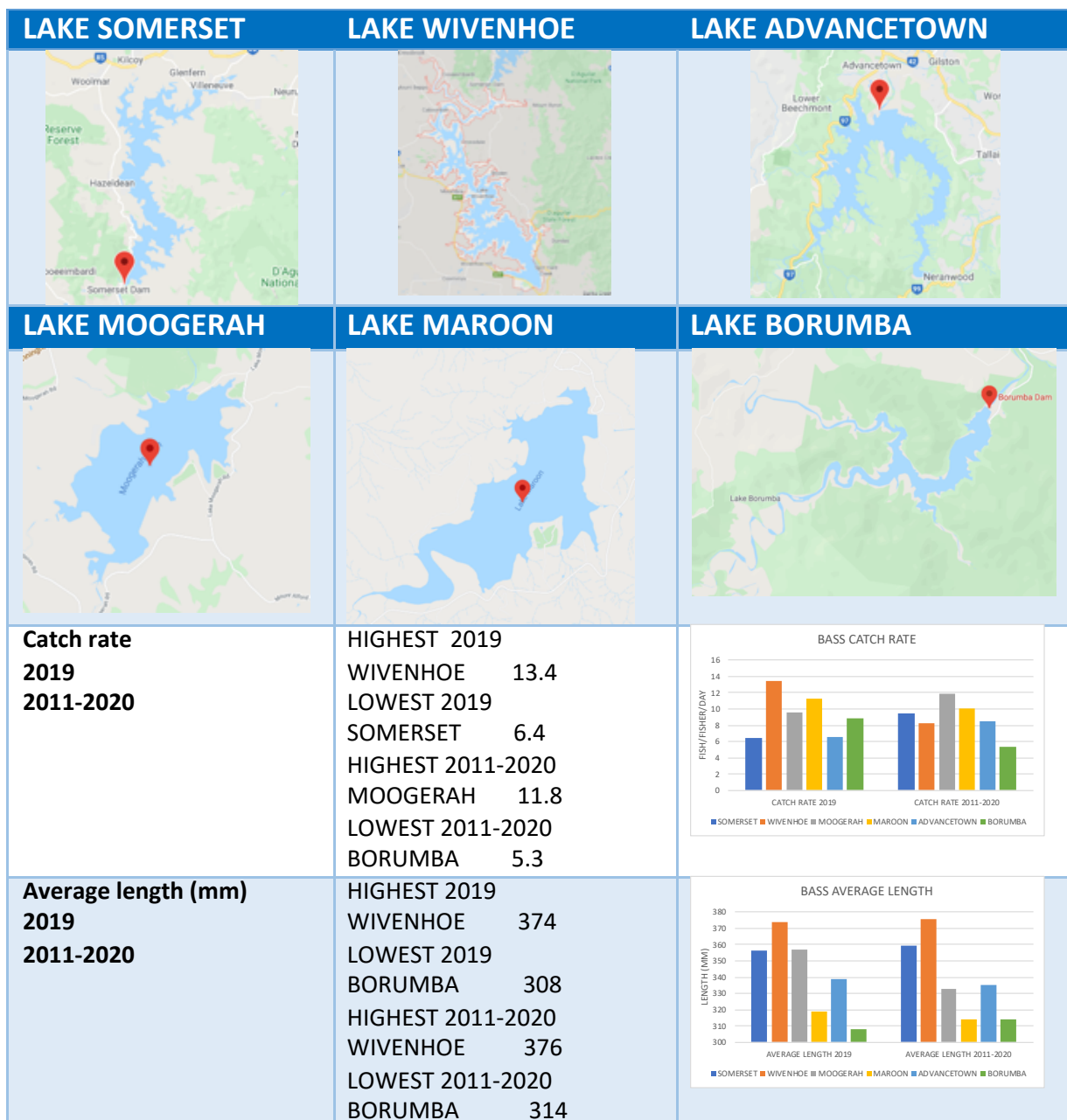
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Monitoring Bass in SEQ impoundments




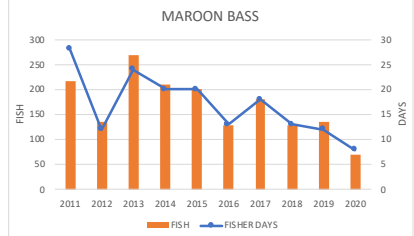
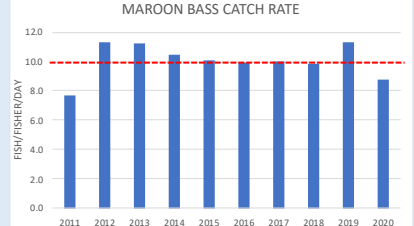
Crystal Bowl dashboards are being developed for Australian Bass in 6 impoundments that fringe SEQ from Lake Advancetown behind the Gold Coast to Lake Borumba adjacent to the Sunshine Coast. A summary dashboard provides a comparison of catch rates for T20 fishers, fish lengths, trophy fish and growth rates.

A separate dashboard is then available for each impoundment providing a 10 year timeline of catch rates, fish lengths, growth, grid locations of tagged fish, recaptures external to the impoundment and postcodes of fishers recapturing fish (indicating where fishers are coming from to fish the impoundment). At this stage dashboards are being updated every 6 months but may be updated more frequently if there is sufficient demand.

Part of the summary dashboard.



Part of dashboard set up for Bass in Lake Maroon

LAKE MAROON	AUSTRALIAN BASS	BATHYMETRY
		
MEASURE	ACTUAL	GRAPH
Lake capacity	1 April 2020 60.6% For latest level https://www.seqwater.com.au/historic-dam-levels	
Catch and effort number of fish fisher days T20 fishers 2011-2020	HIGHEST LOWEST CATCH 2013 2019 269 136 EFFORT 2011 2019 28 12	
Catch rate Fish/fisher day 2011-2020	HIGHEST LOWEST CATCH RATE 2019 2011 11.3 7.7 10 YEAR AVERAGE 10.0	

Data requests Q4

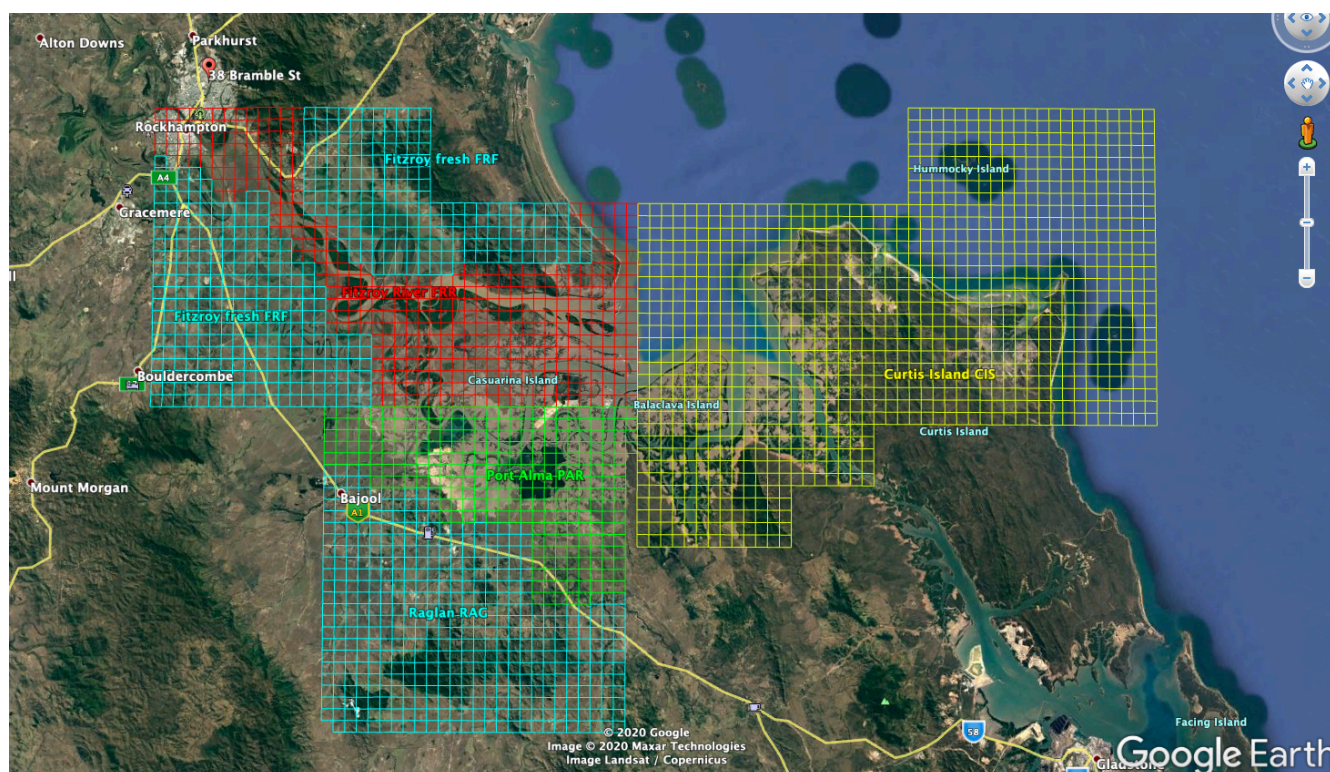
Data requests for the quarter were:

- Movement of fish for social media posting by Gladstone Ports Corporation for World Fish Migration Day on 16 May
- Movement of Redthroat Emperor for management plan update by Fisheries Queensland

Database Upgrade

Database upgrade has been rescheduled for July 2020. As Infofish is funding the upgrade it has been rescheduled due to other paid projects that have priority. Covid-19 also impacted on the database upgrade. However work has been completed on the upgrading and updating of 311 tag grid maps. These were all upgraded as Google Earth maps with most fishers now using GE. Maps are now available as individual maps, for catchments, for regional areas or in any configuration to suit taggers needs.

Maps available for the Fitzroy River estuary



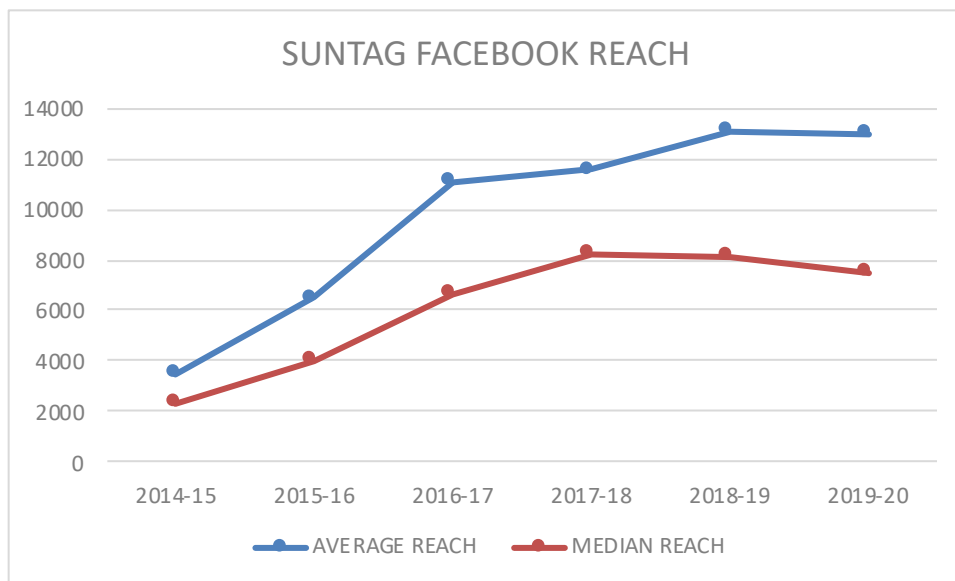
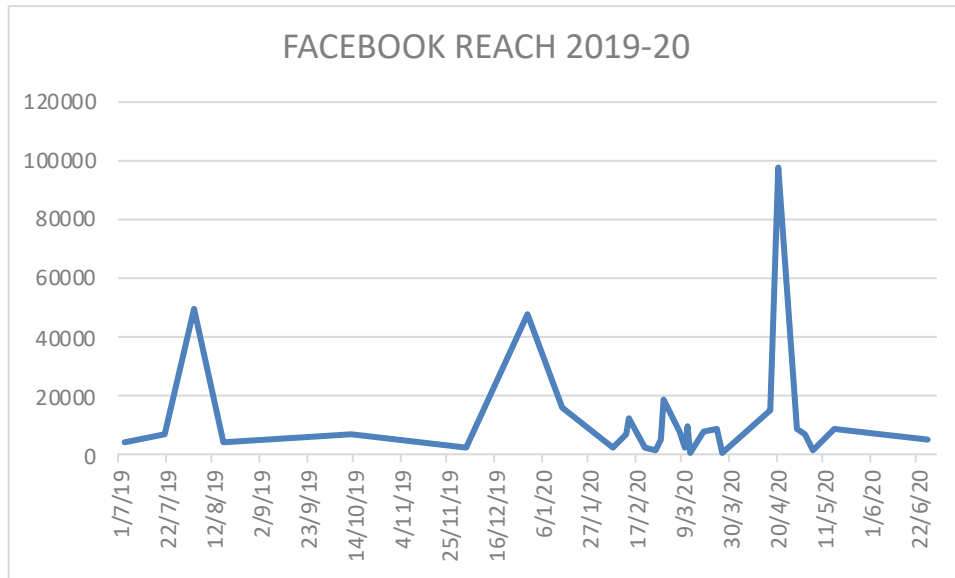
Suntag Social Media Q4

Suntag Facebook posts increased in Q4 with a significant increase in the number of posts. Statistics for the current year and previous years are shown in the accompanying table. The Suntag Instagram account was reactivated in Feb with 25 posts for 2,028 likes.

The average Facebook reach per post for Q4 was 20,777 with an average for the year of 12,988. Total reach for the 29 posts for the year was 376,653.

Q4 saw the post with the highest reach ever with 98,247 for a Barramundi that moved over 1,000km from Bedford Weir down the Fitzroy River then north along the coast to the Proserpine River.

Period	Posts 2019-20	Average reach 2019-20	Average reach 2018-19	Average reach 2017-18
Q1	4	16,469	29,455	16,815
Q2	3	19,467	5,526	14,870
Q3	15	7,129	11,996	6,490
Q4	7	20,777	11,515	6,785
Year	29	12,988	13,101	11,565



The Suntag Instagram account was reactivated in Q3. There are now over 3,000 followers on Instagram.

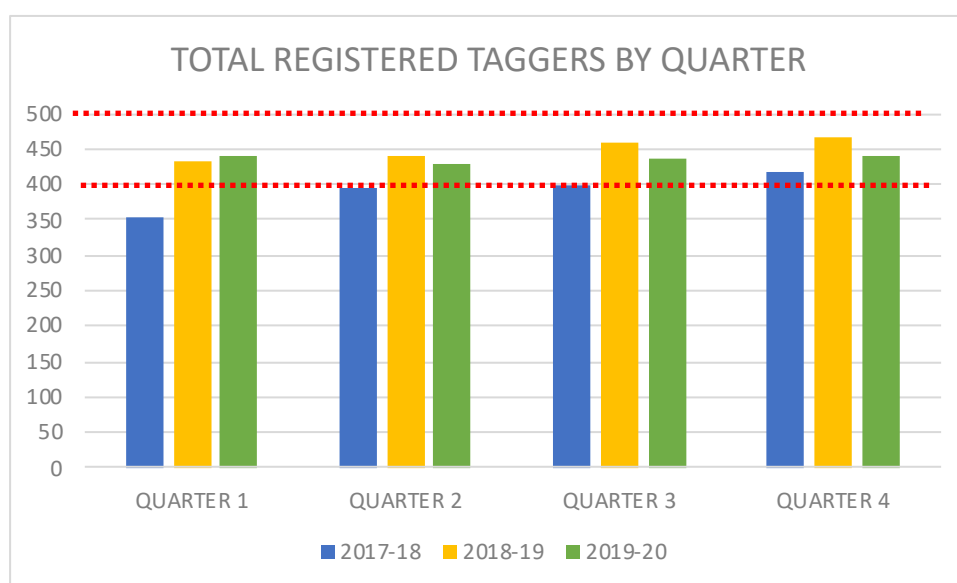
Period	Posts 2019-20	Likes
Q1	0	0
Q2	0	0
Q3	25	2,028
Q4	30	3,466
Year	25	2,028

SUNTAG - REPORTING MILESTONE REQUIREMENT 1

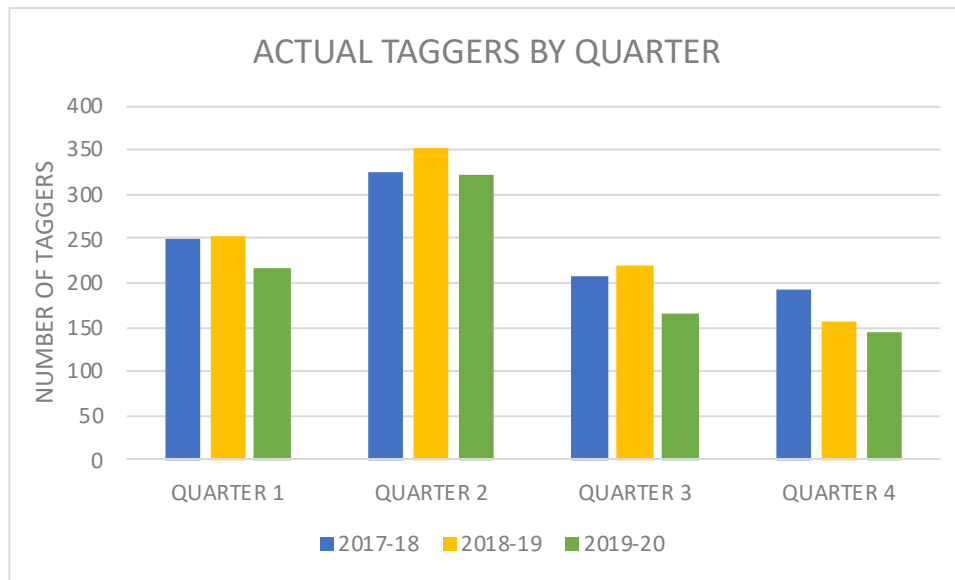
The number of registered taggers in the Queensland program

The following are the numbers of taggers registered at the end of each quarter and the number of fishers that actually tagged fish each quarter. Target range for registered taggers is 400-500 (red dotted lines on graph). Taggers are now registered on an annual basis for 1 year from date of joining. Registered tagger numbers have remained steady for the year with new taggers being offset by taggers not re-registering. Covid-19 has had an impact on some members not re-registering.

Period	Registered taggers 2019-20	Registered taggers 2018-19	Registered taggers 2017-18
Q1	439	430	352
Q2	430	441	396
Q3	436	459	399
Q4	441	467	419
Year	441	467	419



Period	Actual taggers 2019-20	Actual taggers 2018-19	Actual taggers 2017-18
Q1	217	244	249
Q2	321	330	324
Q3	166	221	207
Q4	143	156	193
Year	504	689	589

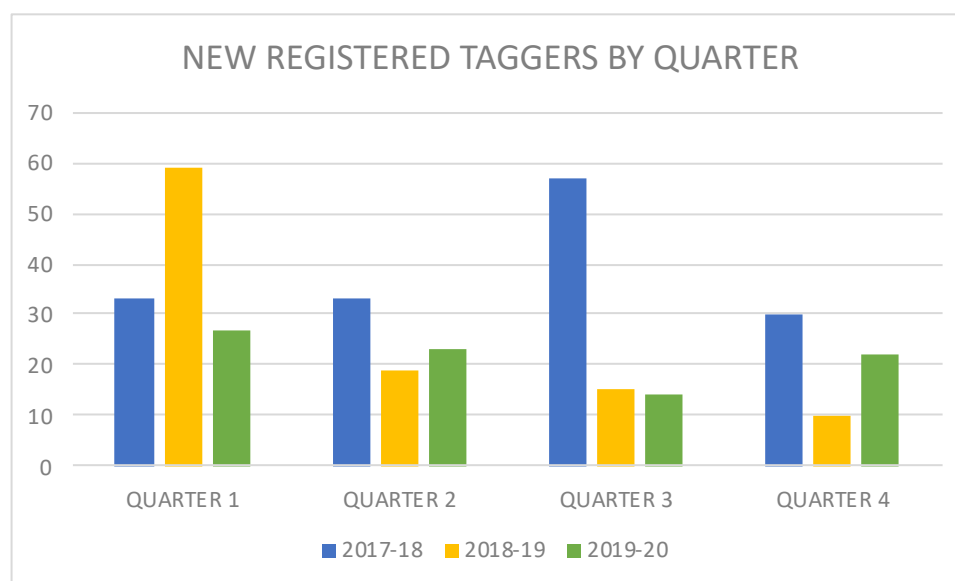


SUNTAG - REPORTING MILESTONE REQUIREMENT 2

Number of new taggers in the program

The following are the numbers of new taggers registered each quarter compared with the numbers in the previous years. Taggers are now registered on an annual basis for 1 year from date of joining. Numbers fluctuate with new members joining being offset by some members not renewing.

Period	New taggers 2019-20	New taggers 2018-19	New taggers 2017-18
Q1	27	59	33
Q2	23	19	33
Q3	14	15	57
Q4	22	10	30
Year	64	103	153



The following 54 clubs (some members), stocking groups, fishing businesses and others are registered with Suntag or have used the services of Suntag for tagging and monitoring in 2019-2020.

- Suntaggers (individual members)
- Capricorn Tag and Release Sportfishing Club (Captag)
- Gladstone Sportfishing Club
- Brisbane Valley Anglers
- Ipswich United Sportfishing Club
- Southern Brisbane Sportfishing Club
- Bundaberg Sportfishing Club
- Mossman Sportfishing Club
- Endeavour Sportfishing Club
- Townsville Saltwater Fisherman's Club
- Townsville Sportfishing Club
- Hinchinbrook Sportfishing Club
- Pine Rivers Fish Management Association
- SEQ Water
- Fitzroy River Fish Stocking Association
- Mackay Area Fish Stocking Association
- Mackay Recreational Fishing Alliance
- Catchment Solutions
- Emerald Fish Stocking Association
- Gladstone Area Water Board
- Bond University
- Rockhampton Regional Council
- Gladstone Ports Corporation
- Mackenzie River Fish Stocking Association
- Monduran Anglers and Stocking Association
- Twin Cities Fish Stocking Association
- Lake Moondarra Fish Stocking Association
- Cairns Area Fish Stocking Association
- Tablelands Fish Stocking Association
- Lake Borumba Fish Stocking Association
- Cungulla Fishing Club
- Holloways Beach Environmental Education Centre
- Lively Lures
- Fishing Monthly
- Stones Corner Marine
- Rocky Barra Bounty
- Boyne Tannum Hookup
- Women That Fish
- Extreme Fishing Solutions
- CQ Fishing Adventures
- Copperlode Fish and Kayak
- ABT fishing tournaments
- Bait Tackle Store
- Hooked Fishing Charters
- Gladstone Fly and Sportfishing
- Fish that Snag
- Hard Yakka Kayaker
- Crazy Tail Twisted Leaders
- Twin River Lures
- Ingham Rod and Reel Fishing Club
- Casting Cowboys
- Barra World
- Rustys Barra Charters
- Weipa Bluewater Charters
- Sunshine Coast Fishing

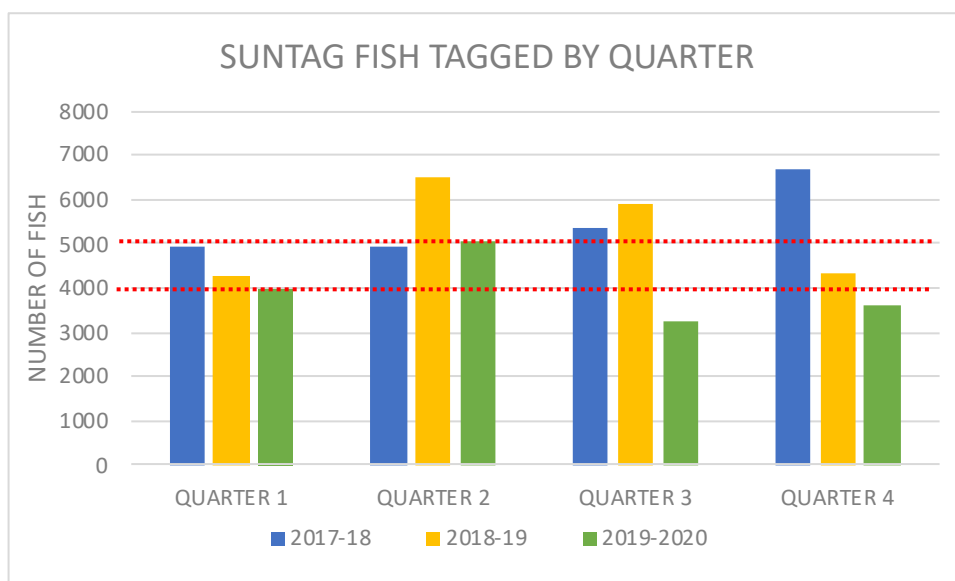
SUNTAG - REPORTING MILESTONE REQUIREMENT 3

Number of fish tagged each quarter by species

The numbers of fish tagged each quarter and the numbers of fish tagged by species are shown below. The numbers in some quarters will continue to increase as late records are submitted, particularly for Q4. Numbers in Q3 and Q4 were impacted by restrictions and uncertainties resulting from COVID-19.

Dotted lines on the graph show the target range for fish tagged each quarter. The initial target was 5,000 however this was revised down to 4,000 for Q3 and Q4 due to the restrictions imposed. The initial target for tagged fish was 20,000 however this was revised down to 15,000.

Period	Fish tagged 2019-20	Fish tagged 2018-19	Fish tagged 2017-18
Q1	3,968	4,292	4,928
Q2	5,034	6,529	4,950
Q3	3,277	5,892	5,366
Q4	3,580	4,314	6,672
Year	15,859	21,027	21,916



FISH TAGGED BY SPECIES

SPECIES	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
BARRAMUNDI	1014	1206	623	503	3346
AUSTRALIAN BASS	571	920	330	531	2352
DUSKY FLATHEAD	572	280	169	392	1413
BARRED JAVELIN	109	362	546	373	1390
MANGROVE JACK	168	621	378	65	1232
YELLOWFIN BREAM	256	177	122	366	921
PIKEY BREAM	109	194	125	279	707
GOLDSPOTTED ROCKCOD	114	213	193	145	665
BLACKSPOTTED ROCKCOD	135	154	40	36	365
GIANT TREVALLY	69	66	62	108	305
BLUE THREADFIN	120	53	12	77	262
SPECKLED JAVELIN	7	59	119	73	258
GOLDEN SNAPPER	73	56	78	38	245
GOLDEN PERCH	6	159	46	19	230
KING THREADFIN	62	105	16	46	229
SNAPPER	75	29	47	67	218
PEARL PERCH	45	32	48	41	166
RED EMPEROR	60	25	26	55	166
GRASS EMPEROR	35	15	76	18	144
MULLOWAY	23	21	25	66	135
SOOTY GRUNTER	67	22	9	2	100
REDTHROAT EMPEROR	34	11	3	36	84
SOUTHERN SARATOGA	8	41	14	8	71
BARCHEEK CORAL TROUT	27	12	12	17	68
BLACK JEWFISH	7	23	24	11	65
SPANGLED EMPEROR	26	2	5	6	39
MURRAY COD	19	7	6	1	33
COMMON CORAL TROUT	11	10	8	3	32
SWALLOWTAIL DART	19	0	8	1	28
OTHER SPECIES	127	159	107	197	590
TOTAL	3968	5034	3277	3580	15859

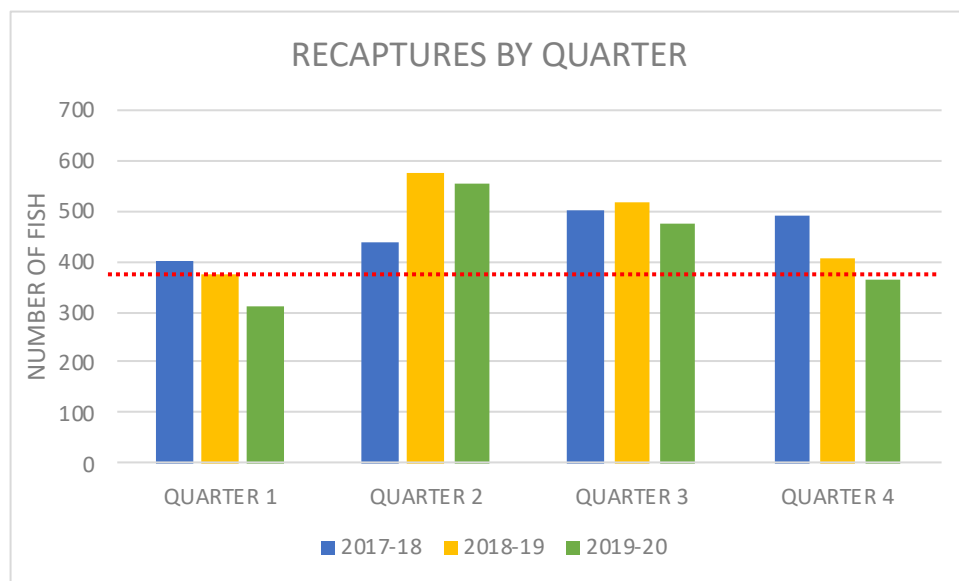
SUNTAG - REPORTING MILESTONE REQUIREMENT 4

Number of tag recaptures

The following are the numbers of recaptures for each quarter and the numbers of recaptures for each species. The numbers in some quarters will increase with late reporting of recaptures. Numbers of recaptures in Q3 and Q4 were impacted by COVID-19.

The target for recaptures for the year was 1,500 or 375 for each quarter. This was not revised as this target was met. Dotted line on the graph shows the target number of recaptures for each quarter.

Period	Fish recaptured 2019-20	Fish recaptured 2018-19	Fish recaptured 2017-18
Q1	312	374	398
Q2	552	576	435
Q3	472	518	498
Q4	362	406	492
Year	1,698	1,874	1,823



FISH RECAPTURED BY SPECIES

SPECIES	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
BARRAMUNDI	91	203	187	67	548
AUSTRALIAN BASS	102	133	74	122	431
MANGROVE JACK	13	62	49	14	138
GOLDSPOTTED ROCKCOD	8	21	49	26	104
DUSKY FLATHEAD	26	14	19	33	92
PIKEY BREAM	9	15	14	18	56
KING THREADFIN	14	20	11	8	53
BARRED JAVELIN	4	11	15	11	41
BLACKSPOTTED ROCKCOD	5	14	5	10	34
YELLOWFIN BREAM	3	5	3	12	23
GOLDEN SNAPPER	1	5	9	2	17
GOLDEN PERCH	4	10	0	1	15
RED EMPEROR	8	3	0	3	14
MULLOWAY	3	2	2	3	10
GRASS EMPEROR	1	1	5	3	10
GIANT TREVALLY	3	4	0	0	7
REDTHROAT EMPEROR	4	0	0	2	6
SNAPPER	2	1	0	2	5
SADDLETAIL SNAPPER	2	1	0	0	3
OTHER SPECIES	9	27	30	25	91
TOTALS	312	552	472	362	1698