



# BAFFLE CREEK 2011-2020 2020 REVIEW

AVAILABLE		AVAILABLE	
Tagged fish	V	Recaptures	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$
Postcodes	$\checkmark$	Competitions	
Species	Mangrove Jack		
Tag rates	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$	Fish sizes	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$
Growth	V	Tag locations	$\overline{V}$
Fish movement	$\checkmark$		
Species		Dusky Flathead	
Tag rates	$\checkmark$	Fish sizes	
Growth		Tag locations	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$
Fish movement	$\checkmark$		
Species	Species Barred Javelin		
Tag rates	$\overline{V}$	Fish sizes	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$
Growth		Tag locations	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$
Fish movement			

## **Summary**

- From 2011-2020 there were 1,447 fish tagged in Baffle Creek for 60 recaptures (4.1%)
- Key species tagged were Mangrove 765 (52.9%) for 34 (4.4%) recaptures, Dusky Flathead 226 (15.6%) for 8 (3.5%) recaptures and Barred Javelin 149 (10.3%) for 2 (1.3%) recaptures accounting for 81.0% of all fish tagged
- The tag rate was calculated as the number of fish tagged/fisher day and the rate in 2020 was 1.8 which was below the 10 year average historic catch rate of 3.4 fish/fisher day
- The tag rate in 2020 for Mangrove Jack was 1.7 fish/fisher day compared to the 10 year average of 1.8 while there were only 2 Flathead and 0 Barred Javelin tagged
- This is more of a reflection of the targeting of Mangrove Jack by taggers rather than any change in the other species
- Of the 72 recaptures with the postcode of the fisher recorded 36 (50%) were local from Bundaberg and 15 (21%) were locals from the Baffle Creek and surrounding areas and 4 (5%) from Gladstone
- The average length of Mangrove Jack in 2020 was 338mm with 54% over legal size
- Most of the Barred Javelin tagged were undersized suggesting that the river is mainly used by juvenile fish and/or taggers are mostly keeping legal fish
- Just 2 Mangrove Jack were recapture outside the creek with both moving offshore to adult habitats

Infofish Australia March 2021



#### **BAFFLE CREEK BARRED JAVELIN MANGROVE JACK DUSKY FLATHEAD MEASURE ACTUAL GRAPH or MAP Baffle Creek lengths** Baffle Creek 36km Euleilah Creek 22km **Bottle Creek** 11km Grid map **BFF** Tag effort HIGHEST LOWEST NOW BAFFLE CREEK TAG AND EFFORT number of tagged fish TAGGED FISH fisher tag days 2018 2016 2020 Taggers 217 66 90 2011-2020 **EFFORT** 2018 2016 2020 84 27 50 Fish tagged and TAGGED RECAPTURED BAFFLE FISH TAGGED AND RECAPTURED recaptured 1447 60 2011-2020 RECAPTURE RATE 4.1% Tag rate HIGHEST LOWEST NOW BAFFLE CREEK TAG RATE All tagged fish TAG RATE Fish/fisher day 2020 2012 2016 2011-2020 4.9 2.4 1.8 10 YEAR AVERAGE 3.4 **Species composition** Mangrove Jack BAFFLE CREEK SPECIES TAGGED **Numbers tagged** 765 2011-2020 **Dusky Flathead** 226 Barred Javelin 148

Species composition Percentage tagged 2011-2020	Mangrove Jack 52.9% Dusky Flathead 15.6% Barred Javelin 10.3%		BAFFLE CREEK SPECIES TAGGED  100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 30% 20% 20% 20% 20% 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 ■MIACK ■FLATHEAD ■JAVELN ■OTHER
Key Species tagged Mangrove Jack Dusky Flathead Barred Javelin	2011 2015	tagged 67.6 80.2 98.9	BAFFLE MANGROVE JACK - FLATHEAD - JAVELIN  120.0  G 100.0  W 80.0  W 90.0  2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020
Postcodes of recapture fishers 2011-2020	Fishers with posto 72 Region Bundaberg Baffle local Gladstone	Fishers 50% 21% 5%	RECAPTURE FISHERS POSTCODES BRISBANE SE QLD NSW 3% SUMSHINE SAY COAST 7% MANYBOROUGH 4% GLADSTONE 5% BAFFLE CREEK 21%
Product of Infof	CRYSTALBOWL ish Australia		Supported by Suntag

MEASURE	ACTUAL	GRAPH or MAP
Mangrove Jack		
Mangrove Jack tagged and recaptured 2011-2020	TAGGED RECAPTURED 765 34 RECAPTURE RATE 4.4%	BAFFLE MANGROVE JACK TAGGED AND RECAPTURED  20  150  150  150  150  100  100  100
Tag rate Mangrove Jack Fish/fisher day 2011-2020	HIGHEST LOWEST NOW TAG RATE 2013 2019 2020 0.3 3.2 1.7 10 YEAR AVERAGE 1.8	BAFFLE MANGROVE JACK TAG RATE  3.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0 2.5 3.0
Average length (mm) Bars show smallest to largest fish Dots show outliers 2011-2020	HIGHEST       LOWEST       NOW         Average length       2016       2019       2020         363       298       338         Largest       2015       2020         555       470       500	BAFFLE MANGROVE JACK LENGTHS (MM)  500  TROPHY 500  LEGAL 2001  2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2019 2020
Fish lengths percentage Undersize <350mm Legal 350-500mm Trophy 500+mm 2011-2020	HIGHEST LOWEST NOW Legal 2015 2019 2020 60.8 26.2 54.0 Trophy 2016 2015 2020 7.7 0 1.1	BAFFLE MANGROVE JACK LENGTHS  100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 10% 0% 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020
Mangrove Jack growth at the end of each year based on recaptures since 2011	Recaptures 57 Growth end of year (mm) Year 1 48 Year 2 91 Year 3 134 Year 4 177 Year 5 220	BAFFLE MANGROVE JACK GROWTH  y = 0.1176x + 5.2748  y = 0.1176x + 5.2748  y = 0.1176x + 5.2748  150  0 0 365 730 1095 1460 1825 2190 2555 DAYS OUT (YEARS)
Grid locations of tagged fish (map BND) 2011-2020	Grids where most fish caught GRID FISH N4/N5 983 H16/H17 237 J11/J12 115	Figure  False  Figure  Sharo  Figure  Sharo  Figure  Sharo

Mangrove Jack movements within creeks distance moved (km) recaptures 2011-2020	Recaptures 39 Recaptured same area 21 (53.8%) Longest movement in creeks 30km	BAFFLE MANGROVE JACK MOVEMENT  35 30 (W) 25 09 15 15 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Mangrove Jack Movements outside creek	Outside creek 2	

MEASURE	ACTUAL	GRAPH or MAP
Dusky Flathead		
Flathead tagged and recaptured 2011-2020	TAGGED RECAPTURED 226 8 RECAPTURE RATE 3.5%	BAFFLE FLATHEAD TAGGED AND RECAPTURED  100 90 80 80 87 77 80 80 99 90 90 80 80 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90
Tag rate Flathead	HIGHEST LOWEST NOW TAG RATE	BAFFLE FLATHEAD TAG RATE
Fish/fisher day 2011-2020	2012 2019 2020 1.7 0.1 0	25
	10 YEAR AVERAGE 0.5	0.5 0.0 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020
Average length (mm) Bars show smallest to largest fish Dots show outliers 2011-2020	HIGHEST LOWEST NOW Average length 2011 2012 2020 443 392 NA Largest 2011 2014 2020 760 630 NA	BAFFLE FLATHEAD LENGTHS (MM)  TROPHY  TROPHY
Fish lengths percentage	HIGHEST LOWEST NOW	BAFFLE FLATHEAD LENGTHS
Undersize <400mm Legal 400-700mm Trophy 700+mm 2011-2020	Legal 2011 2012 2020 66.7 38.5 NA Trophy 2011 2014 2020 4.8 0 NA	100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 40% 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020
Grid locations of tagged fish (map BFF) 2011-2020	Grids where most fish caught Grid Fish W14 69 Z14 46 Z13 33	R <sub>wefried</sub>
Flathead movement Distance moved (km) 2011-2020	Recaptures 13 Recaptured same area 7 (52.6%) Longest movement in creek 14km up creek Outside creek 0	BAFFLE FLATHEAD MOVEMENT  20 (W 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 1

MEASURE	ACTUAL	GRAPH or MAP
Barred Javelin		
Javelin tagged and recaptured 2011-2020	TAGGED RECAPTURED 149 2 RECAPTURE RATE 1.3%	BAFFLE JAVELIN TAGGED AND RECAPTURED  10 90 90 97 97 98 98 98 98 98 98 98 98 98 98 98 98 98
Tag rate Javelin Fish/fisher day 2011-2020	HIGHEST LOWEST NOW TAG RATE 2013 2016 2020 1.9 0 0 10 YEAR AVERAGE 0.3	BAFFLE BARRED JAVELIN TAG RATE  2.5  2.0  Wd 1.5  9.5  0.5  0.0  2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020
Average length (mm) Bars show smallest to largest fish 2011-2020	HIGHEST LOWEST NOW Average length 2015 2012 2020 315 260 287 Largest 2018 2017 2020 635 410 420	BAFFLE JAVELIN LENGTHS (MM)  TROPHY  LEGAL  TROPHY  100  100  100  100  100  100  100  1
Fish lengths percentage Undersize <400mm Legal 400-600mm Trophy 600+mm 2011-2020	HIGHEST LOWEST NOW Legal 2012 2014 2020 5.0 0 0 Trophy Nil and just 2 legal fish tagged 2012 and 2013	BAFFLE JAVELIN LENGTHS  100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 10% 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020
Grid locations of tagged fish (map BFF) 2011-2020	Grids where most fish caught Grid Fish X14 34 S13 25 W14 24 Z14 21 U13 19	
Javelin movement Distance moved (km) 2011-2020	Insufficient data Recaptures 2	

### **Data sources**

Data used in the Baffle Creek Crystal Bowl are:

• Tag records and recapture records for the creek at http://crystalbowl.infofishaustralia.com.au/

### **Basis for analysis**

- Catch rates calculated as number of fish tagged/fisher day for taggers with a minimum of 12 fisher days (at least 1 per month) to provide an acceptable catch rate
- For Mangrove Jack undersized fish are <350mm, legal fish are >=350 and <500mm and trophy fish are >500mm
- For Dusky Flathead undersized fish are <400mm, legal fish are >=400 and <700mm and trophy fish are >=700mm
- For Yellowfin Bream undersized fish are <250mm, legal fish are >=250mm and <400mm and trophy fish are >=400mm
- For Barred Javelin undersized fish are >400mm, legal fish are >=400mm and <600 and trophy fish are >=600mm
- Growth calculated using a linear trendline from recaptures where fish were out for 90 days or more and had positive growth
- Locations based on Infofish grid map BFF and other grid maps where fish were recaptured outside the creek
- Movement distance calculated as the shortest distance by water from the tag to the recapture location