LAKE ADVANCETOWN REVIEW 2025

INFORMATION RATING ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐

Stocking group: Hinze Dam Stocking Committee
Species: Australian Bass, Golden Perch, Mary River Cod, Southern Saratoga, Eeltail Catfish (native not stocked)
Stocking timeframe: 2012-2022
Fish timeframe: 2016-2025
Fisher timeframe: 2021-2025
DPI link: https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/activities/boating-fishing/rec-fishing/dams/stocked-impoundment-permits/locations?dam=hinze-dam

Scroll through the dashboard to cover all subjects or for information on a specific subject go to:

LAKE ADVANCETOWN OVERVIEW
LAKE ADVANCETOWN LOCATION
TYPE OF FISHERY
FISHER ACTIVITY
FISHER EFFORT
FISHER TRAVEL
WHERE RECAPTURE FISHERS LIVE
SPECIES STOCKED
FISH TAGGED
BASS
GOLDEN PERCH
SILVER PERCH
SARATOGA
MARY RIVER COD
EELTAIL CATFISH

LAKE ADVANCETOWN OVERVIEW

Summary for 2025

- Tagging in Lake Advancetown continues to provide a 5-star rating providing reliable data on the fishery in the lake.
- The lake spilled again in 2025 with a further 6 fish recaptured below the dam in the Nerang River.

Lake Advancetown has been stocked with Australian Bass, Golden Perch, Silver Perch, Southern Saratoga and Mary River Cod. From 2014-2023 there were 577,7880 Bass, 75,207 Golden Perch, 1,500 Mary River Cod and 33,636 Silver Perch fingerlings stocked. These fish were a size that could be tagged from 2016-2025.
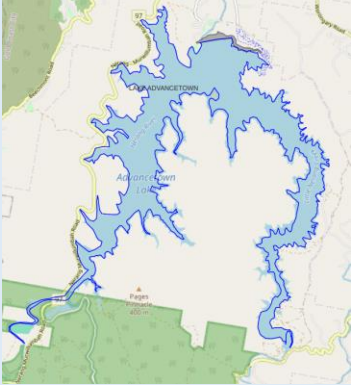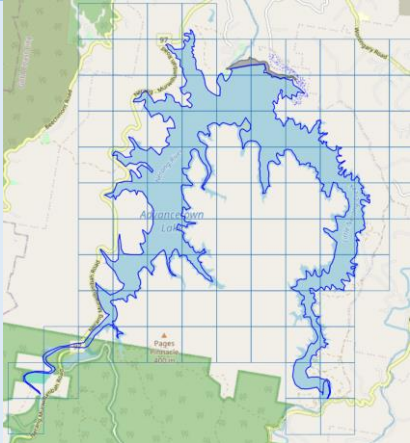
For every 10,000 fingerlings stocked there have been 164 Bass and 4 Golden Perch tagged. Eeltail Catfish are not stocked and are a self-sustaining native species. They have been tagged since 2020 as little is known about them in stocked lakes.

The lake is primarily an experiential fishery mostly fished by locals making up 93% of those recapturing tagged fish. Of those locals 67% live within the City of Gold Coast Local Government Area. Apart from locals, fishers recapturing fish are mostly from Ipswich, Brisbane, and northern NSW, with one fisher from Townsville and another from Victoria.

Fishing in the lake is limited to electric motors only resulting in lower effort and lower recapture rates than other similar lakes. Tag rates are high with a 10-year average of 14.0 fish/day however this is strongly influenced by some taggers using bait since 2020.

Tagging effort was reduced from Oct 2023-Jun 2024 due to a shortage of tags so tag rates over that time were lower than the actual catch rates. Tagging effort was again limited from Oct-Dec 2025 due to tag shortages. At over 9,000 fish tagged in the lake in the last 10 years this provides an adequate base for assessing the fishery.

Bass spilled from the lake during 2022 and 20 were recaptured below the dam in the Nerang River and 1 well upstream in the Coomera River from Apr 2022-2024. The lake spilled again at the end of 2024 and from Jan-May 2025. Follow that spill there have been a further 6 recaptured down from the dam with the furthest movement being 30km for a fish recaptured in Clear Water Lake.

LAKE ADVANCETOWN LOCATION

Lake Advancetown
28.06ºS
153.28ºE

LAKE

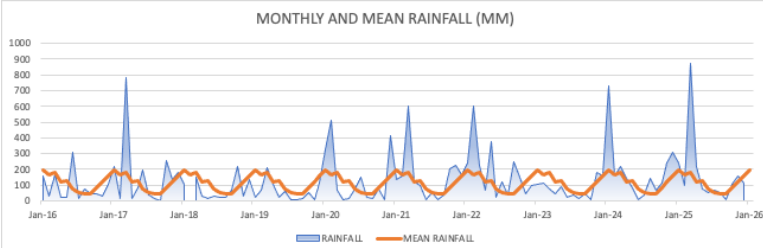**Grid map**
Lake Advancetown ADV
Surface area

Surface area
18.0km^2

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

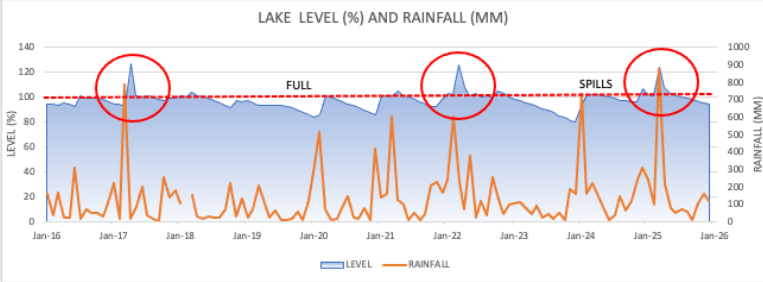| Gold Coast **Mean monthly rainfall (mm)** **Mean monthly temperature (oC)**	Rainfall	Month	mm
	High	Mar	218
	Low	Sep	41
	Temp	Month	oC
	High	Jan	29
	Low	Jul	21

RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURE
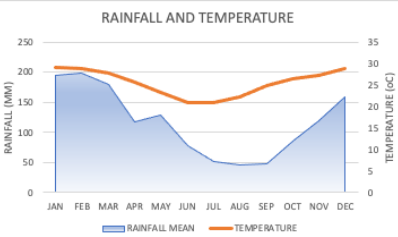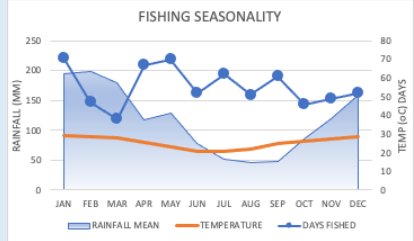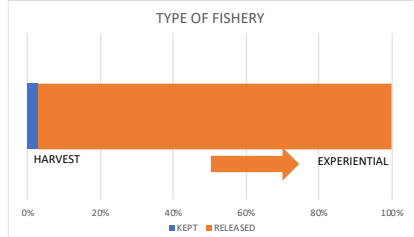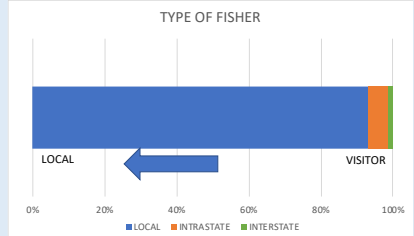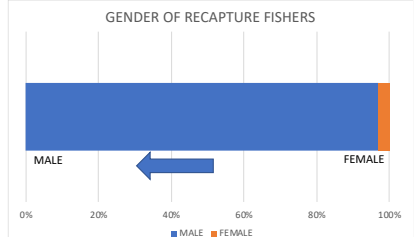
Gold Coast
Monthly rainfall (mm)
Mean monthly rainfall (mm)
2016-2025

MONTHLY AND MEAN RAINFALL (MM)

Lake level
2016-2025
Spilled
2017
2022
2024 Jan-May, Dec
2025 Jan-May

LAKE LEVEL (%) AND RAINFALL (MM)

TYPE OF FISHERY

DATA RELIABILITY

Reliability level	LOW			MODERATE	MODERATE	HIGH
Samples	10	41	68	271	384	664
Confidence	80%	80%	90%	90%	95%	99%
Error	20%	10%	10%	5%	5%	5%

Sample size (days fished)
Tag days (blue arrow)
Recaptures (orange arrow)
Confidence %
Error %
2021-2025

Seasonality
Mean rainfall (mm) and temperature (oC)
Days combined (639)
Taggers
Recapture fishers
2021-2025

Months most fished
Fishers combined   Jan
                Apr
                May

FISHING SEASONALITY

Harvest or experiential
Release rate of recaptured legal Bass by recfishers (ex-taggers)
2021-2025

Bass legal fish harvest rate
Legal fish   214
 Kept   6 (3%)
Released   208 (97%)

TYPE OF FISHERY

Local or visitor fishery
Where recapture fishers live
2021-2025

Recapture fishers   431
Local   402 (93%)
Visitor   29 (7%)

TYPE OF FISHER

Gender of recapture fishers (ex-taggers)
2021-2025

Recapture fishers   267
Male   259 (97%)
Female   8 (3%)

GENDER OF RECAPTURE FISHERS

FISHER ACTIVITY

Monthly activity (days fished) **Taggers (423)** **Recapture fishers (243)** **2021-2025**	Combined	Month May Jan Apr	% 11% 11% 10%

ADVANCETOWN DAYS FISHED BY MONTH

Weekday activity (days fished) **Taggers (423)** **Recapture fishers (243)** **2021-2025**	Combined	Days Weekend Weekdays	% 44% 56%

ADVANCETOWN DAYS FISHED BY WEEKDAY

Location activity **Fish tagged** **(red-orange heat map)** **Recaptured** **(blue fish)** **2021-2025** **Tagged** 6990 **Recaptured** 436	

FISHER EFFORT

Lake level (% full) **Days fished** **Taggers** **Recapture fishers** **2021-2025**	 LAKE LEVEL (%) AND DAYS FISHED
Lake level (% full) **Fish tagged** **2021-2025**	 LAKE LEVEL (%) AND FISH TAGGED
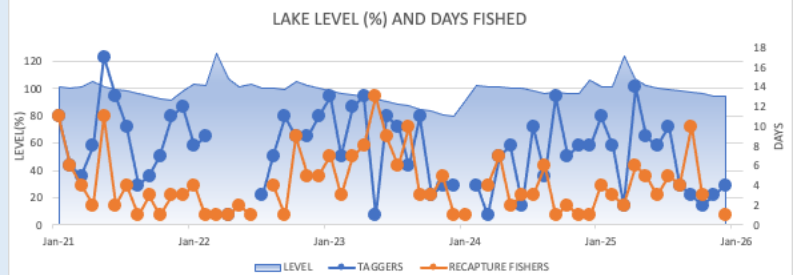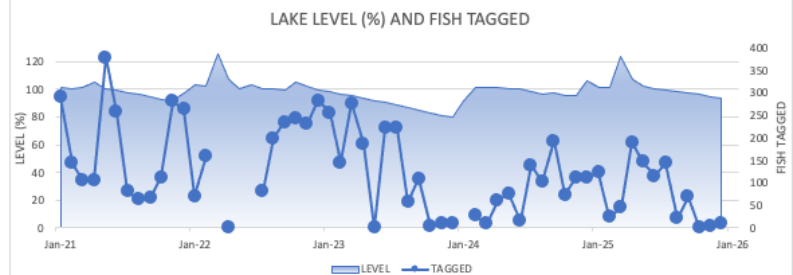
Cumulative recaptures 2021-2025	Year	Recaps	
	2021	80	
	2022	81	CUMULATIVE RECAPTURES
	2023	155	
	2024	44	
	2025	68	
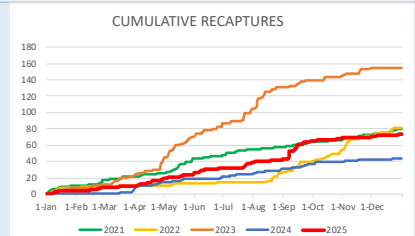
Monthly recaptures last 3 years **2023-2025**	 RECAPTURES LAST 3 YEARS
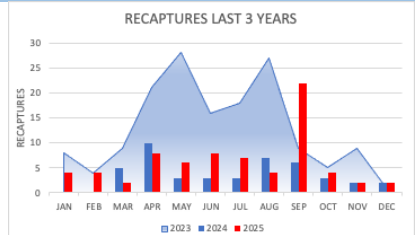
FISHER TRAVEL

Cumulative distance (km) home to recapture location 2021-2025		

Total distance (km) home to recapture location 2021-2025	Year Kms 2021 1838 2022 1874 2023 5072 2024 2674 2025 4848	

Distance (km) home to recapture location Local Intrastate Bars show distance range Dots show outliers 2021-2025		

Proxy travel (km) home to recapture location Local (<80km) Intrastate (>=80 Qld) Interstate (not Qld) 2021-2025	Trips 431 Range (km) Local 2-75 Intrastate 88-1180 Interstate 80-1303	

Proxy travel average distance (km) home to recapture location 2021-2025	Trips 431 Average distance (km) Local 27 Intrastate 242 Interstate 814	

WHERE RECAPTURE FISHERS LIVE

Where recapture fishers live 2021-2025	Recapture fishers 431 Local 402 (93%) Intrastate 24 (6%) Interstate 5 (1%)	WHERE RECAPTURE FISHERS LIVE
Where fishers recapturing fish live **Local <80km (398)** **(pink-brown houses)** **Local LGA (267 – 67%)** **(brown houses)** **2021-2025**		
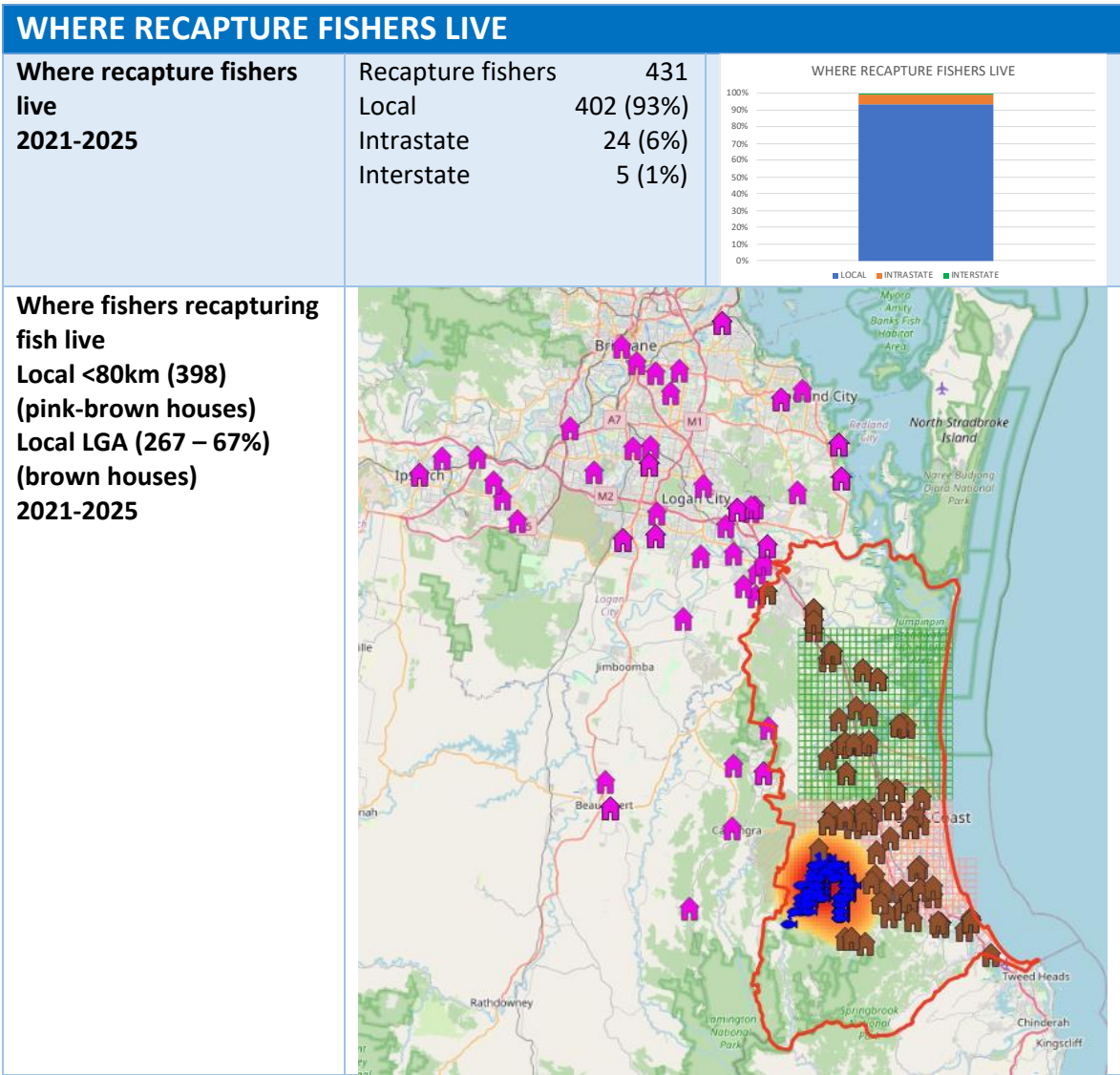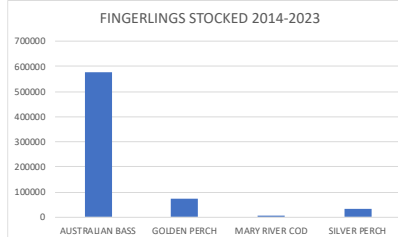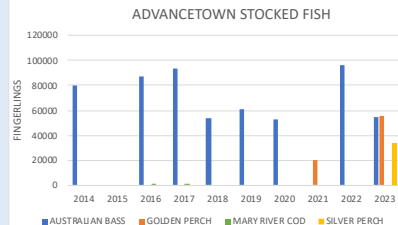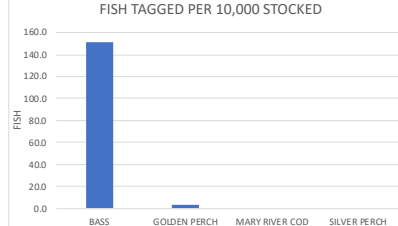
Where fishers recapturing fish live
Intrastate
Interstate
2021-2025

SPECIES STOCKED		
AUSTRALIAN BASS	**GOLDEN PERCH**	**MARY RIVER COD**
EELTAIL CATFISH	**SILVER PERCH**	**SOUTHERN SARATOGA**

STOCKED		
Fingerlings stocked 2014-2023	Fingerlings Bass 577,788 Golden Perch 75,207 Mary River Cod 1,500 Silver Perch 33,636 Eeltail Catfish (native not stocked)	FINGERLINGS STOCKED 2014-2023
Fingerlings stocked 2014-2023		ADVANCETOWN STOCKED FISH
Fish tagged 2016-2025 per 10,000 fish stocked 2014-2025	Tagged/10,000 fingerlings Bass 151 Golden Perch 4 Mary River Cod 0 Silver Perch 0	FISH TAGGED PER 10,000 STOCKED

FISH TAGGED

Tagged fish
Days fished
2016-2025

	High	Low	Now
Tagged			
	2021	2019	2025
	2152	147	907
Days			
	2021	2018	2025
	109	16	78
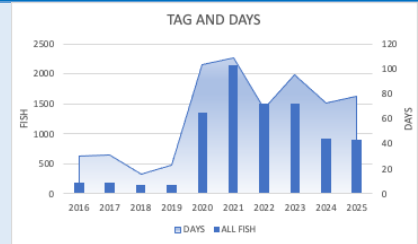
Tag rate
2016-2025

	High	Low	Now
Tagged			
	2022	2017	2025
	22.2	5.8	11.6
10 year average			14.4
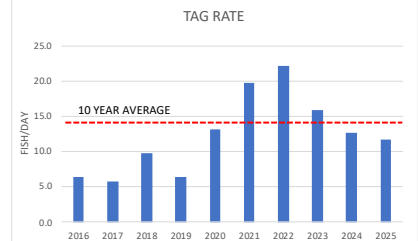
Fish tagged
2016-2025

	High	Low	Now
Tagged			
	2021	2019	2025
	2152	147	907
Recaptured			
	2023	2018	2025
	155	6	73
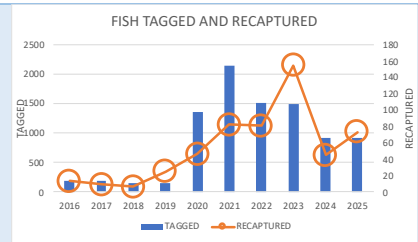
Species tagged
2016-2025

	Tagged
Bass	8757
Golden Perch	32
Catfish	190
Silver Perch	2
Mary River Cod	0
Saratoga	18
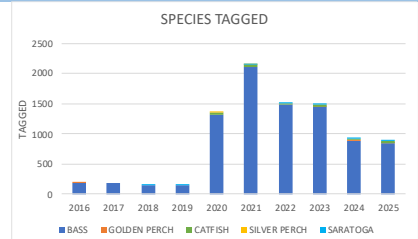
Recapture rates
2016-2025

	Rate
All fish	5.9%
Bass	5.9%
Golden Perch	3.7%
Catfish	6.9%
Mary River Cod	0%
Saratoga	16.7%

Tag and recapture locations
Tagged
(red-orange heat map)
Recaptures
(blue fish)

Tagged   9027
Recaptured   535
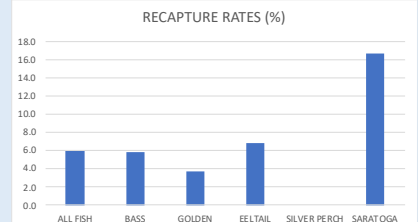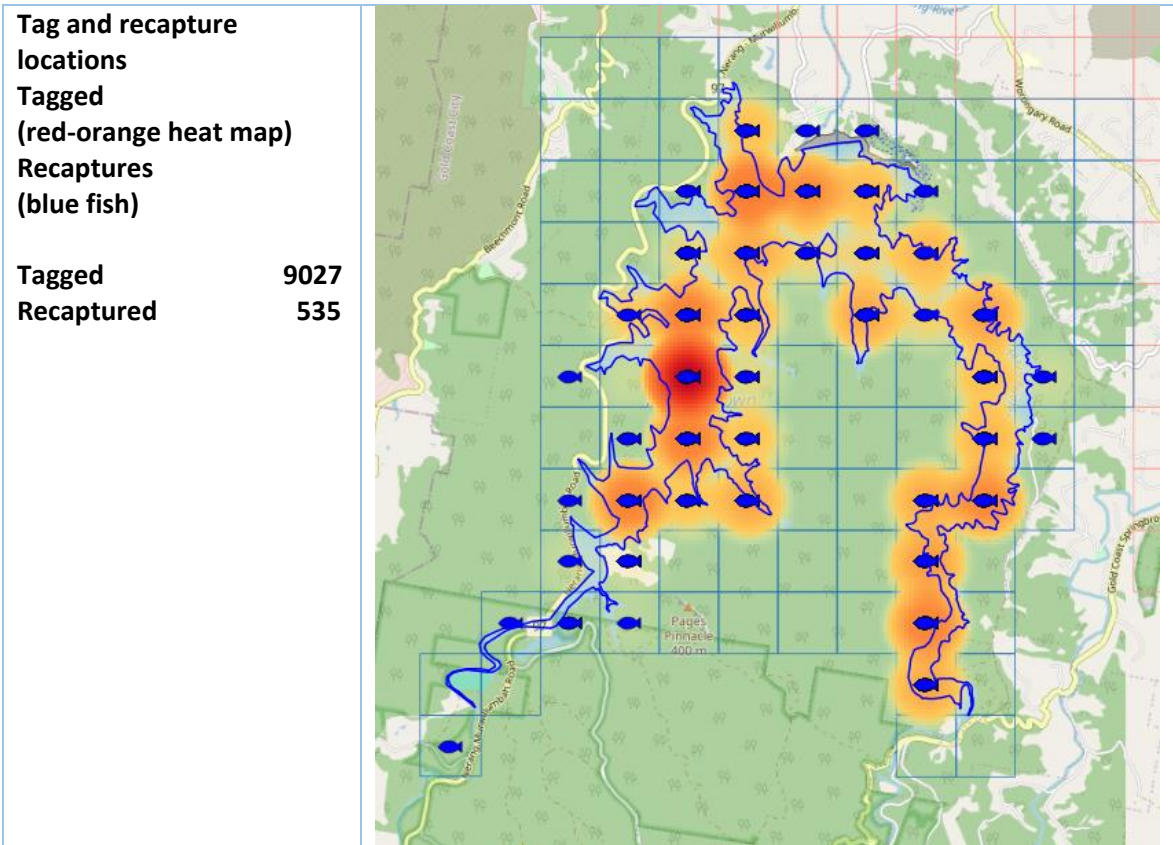
BASS

DATA RELIABILITY

Sample size (fish/year)
Tagged (blue arrow)
Recaptures (orange arrow)
Confidence %
Error %
2021-2025

Reliability level	LOW		MODERATE	MODERATE		HIGH
Samples	10	41	68	271	384	664
Confidence	80%	80%	90%	90%	95%	99%
Error	20%	10%	10%	5%	5%	5%

TAGGED AND TAG RATE

Bass	Tagged	8757
Tagged	Recaptured	514
Recaptured	Recapture rate	5.9%
2016-2025	Tagged 2025	841

	High	Low	Now
Catch and effort taggers	Catch		
number of fish	2021	2019	2025
fisher days	2098	146	841
2016-2025	Days		
	2021	2018	2025
	109	16	78
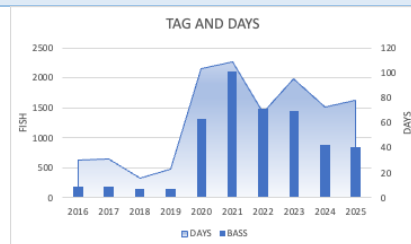
	High	Low	Now
Tag rate	2022	2017	2025
Fish/day	22.0	5.8	10.4
2016-2025			
Tag rate boosted by bait	10 year average		14.0
fishing			
2020-2025			
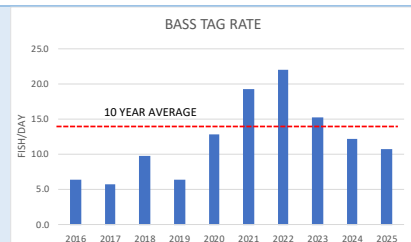
LENGTHS

Average length (mm) Bars show length range Dots show outliers 2016-2025	High	Low	Now	
	Average length			
	2016	2023	2025	
	367	302	310	
	Largest			
	2023	2018	2025	
	590	480	540	
Fish length percentage (%) **Undersize <300mm** **Legal 300-499mm** **Trophy 500+mm** **2016-2025**	High	Low	Now	
	Legal-trophy			
	2016	2023	2025	
	92%	52%	53%	
	Trophy			
	2020	2024	2025	
	3%	0%	0.5%	
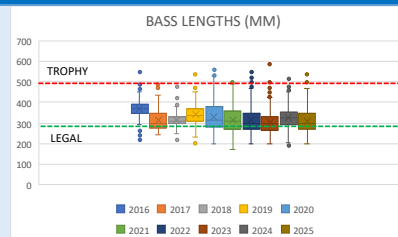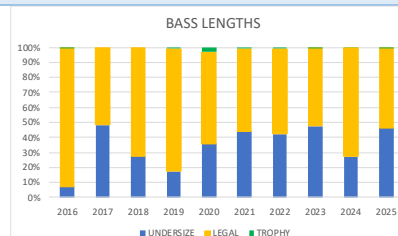
FATE

Legal Bass recaptures kept and released by recfishers (ex-taggers) Legal length 300mm 2016-2025	Recaptures	294	
	Kept	10 (3%)	
	Released	284 (97%)	
Legal Bass recaptures kept and released by recfishers (ex-taggers) **2016-2020** **2021-2025**		Released	
	2016-2020	95%	
	2021-2025	97%	
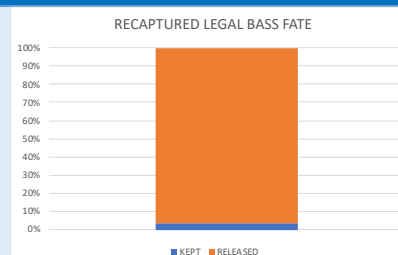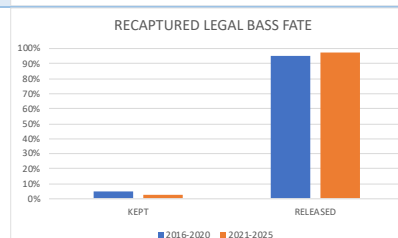
GROWTH

Bass growth based on recaptures of fish tagged 200-300mm 2016-2025	Recaptures	165	
	Annual growth (mm)		
	Year 1	51	
	Year 2	84	
	Year 3	102	
	Year 4	116	
	Year 5	126	
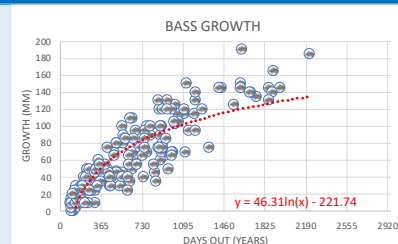
SURVIVAL

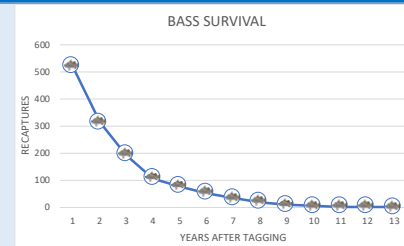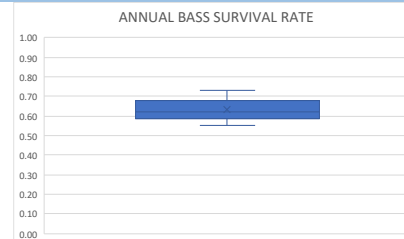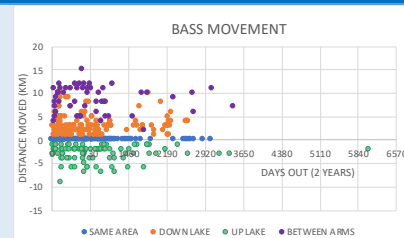| Bass survival based on recaptures by years out after tagging **All years**	Survival rate by years out	
	Year Recaptures 1 521 5 78 10 4 Longest time out (years) 16.6	 BASS SURVIVAL
Survival rates each year based on recaptures by years out after tagging	Average annual survival Rate 0.63 (63%) Range 0.55-073	 ANNUAL BASS SURVIVAL RATE

MOVEMENT

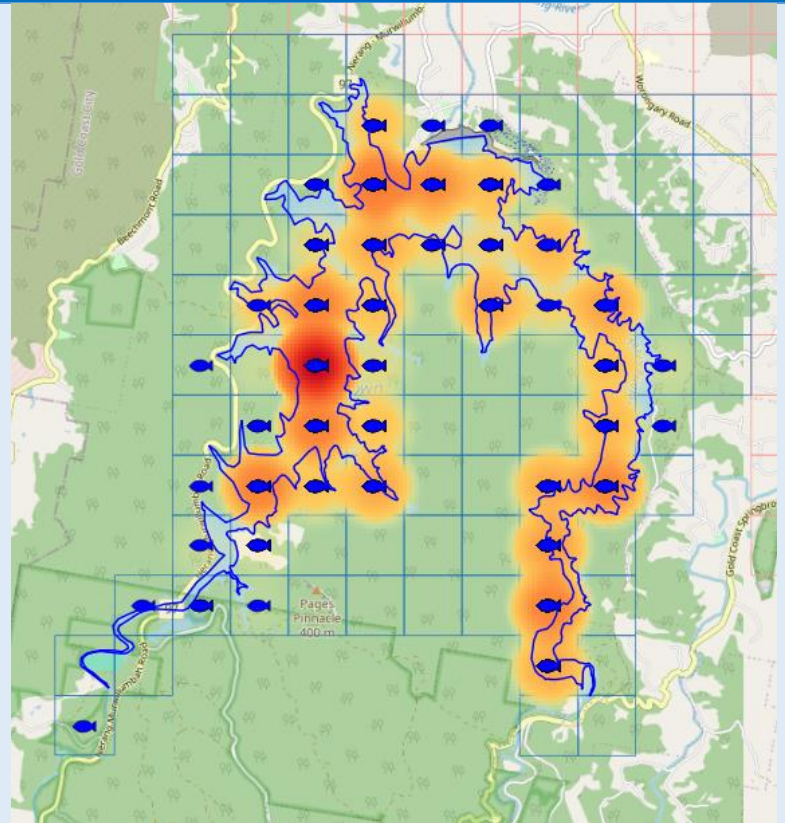| **Movement in lake Fish tagged Recaptured 2016-2025**		 BASS MOVEMENT
Movement in lake 2016-2025	Recaptures 456 Same area 158 (35%) Up lake 95 (21%) Down lake 150 (33%) Between arms 53 (12%)	 BASS MOVEMENT
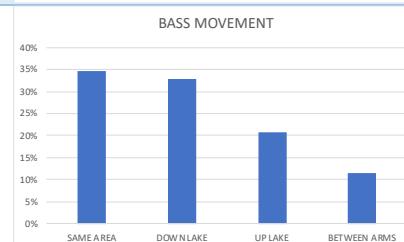
LOCATIONS

Locations
**Tagged fish
(red-orange heat map)
Recaptures
(blue fish)
2016-2025**

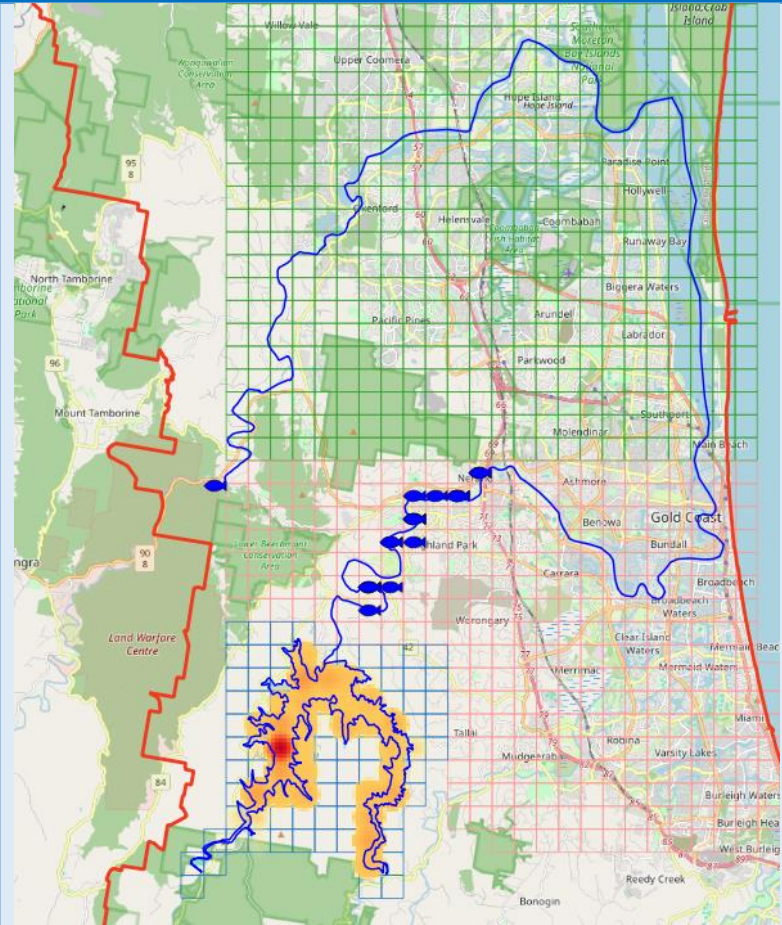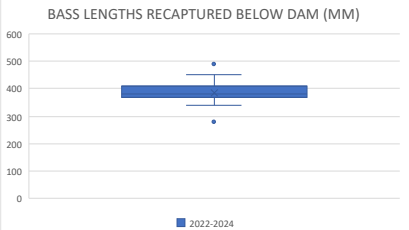|	
Tagged.	**8757**
Recaptured	**514**

RECAPTURES BELOW DAM

Recaptures outside lake after 2022 spill
Bass (blue fish) (21)
Furthest distance
Coomera River (90km)
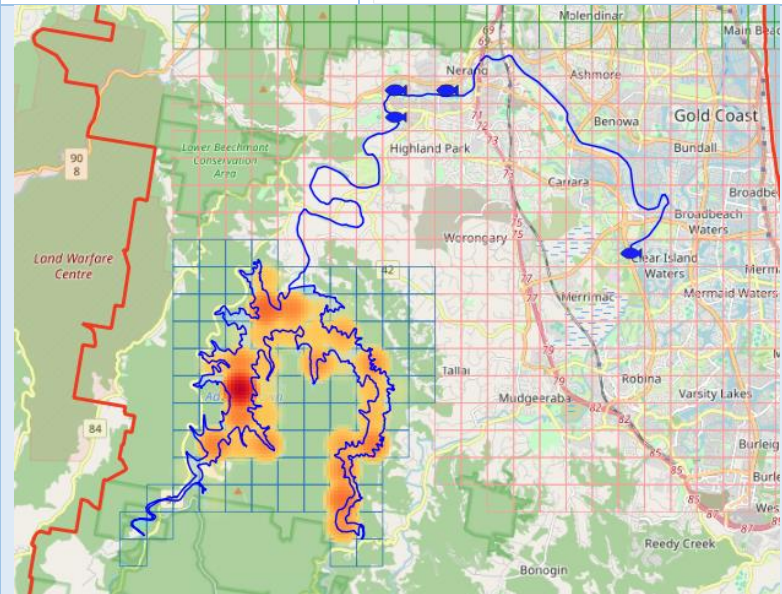**Tagged <1/4/2022**
Recaptured >1/4/2022-2024

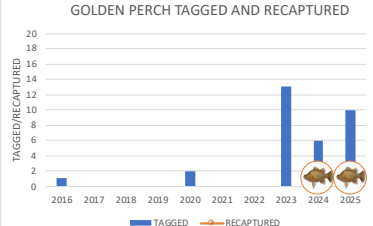**Bass lengths (mm) of fish recaptured below dam 2022-2024**

Recaptures	21
Average length	386
Min	280
Max	490

BASS LENGTHS RECAPTURED BELOW DAM (MM)

■ 2022-2024
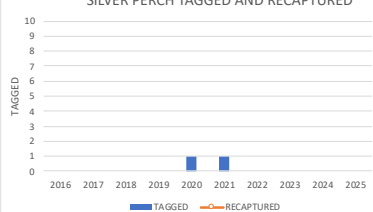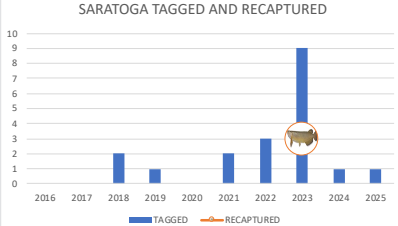
Recaptures outside lake after 2025 spill
Bass (blue fish)
Furthest distance
Clear Island Lake (30km)
Fish tagged > 1/6/2022
Recaptured >1/6/2025

Recaptured   **6**

GOLDEN PERCH

TAGGED

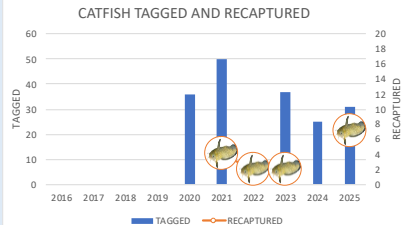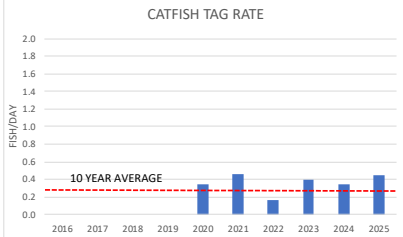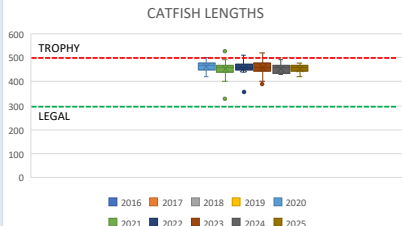|		
Golden Perch tagged and recaptured 2016-2025	Tagged 32 Recaptured 2 Recapture rate 6.3% Tagged 2025 10	

GOLDEN PERCH TAGGED AND RECAPTURED

SILVER PERCH

TAGGED

Silver Perch tagged and recaptured 2016-2025	Tagged 2 Recaptured 0 Recapture rate 0% Tagged 2025 0	

SILVER PERCH TAGGED AND RECAPTURED

SARATOGA

TAGGED

Southern Saratoga tagged and recaptured 2016-2025

Tagged	18
Recaptured	3
Recapture rate	16.7%
Tagged 2025	1

SARATOGA TAGGED AND RECAPTURED

MARY RIVER COD

TAGGED

Mary River Cod 2021-2025

Mary River Cod able to be tagged from 2023

Recorded	0
Tagged	0

MARY RIVER COD RECORDED

EELTAIL CATFISH

	Native fish not stocked

TAGGED AND TAG RATE

Eeltail Catfish tagged and recaptured Only tagged since 2020 2020-2025	Tagged		190
	Recaptured		15
	Recapture rate		7.9%
	Tagged 2025		31

CATFISH TAGGED AND RECAPTURED

Tag rate Fish/day 2020-2025	High	Low	Now
	Tag rate		
	2021	2022	2025
	0.5	0.2	0.4
	6 year average		0.3

CATFISH TAG RATE

LENGTH

Average length (mm) Bars show length range Dots show outliers 2020-2025	High	Low	Now
	Average length		
	2020	2021	2025
	464	453	456
	Largest		
	2021	2020	2025
	530	500	480

CATFISH LENGTHS

LOCATIONS

Catfish
Fish tagged
(red-orange heat map)
Recaptured
(blue fish)
2020-2025

Tagged	**190**
Recaptured	**15**
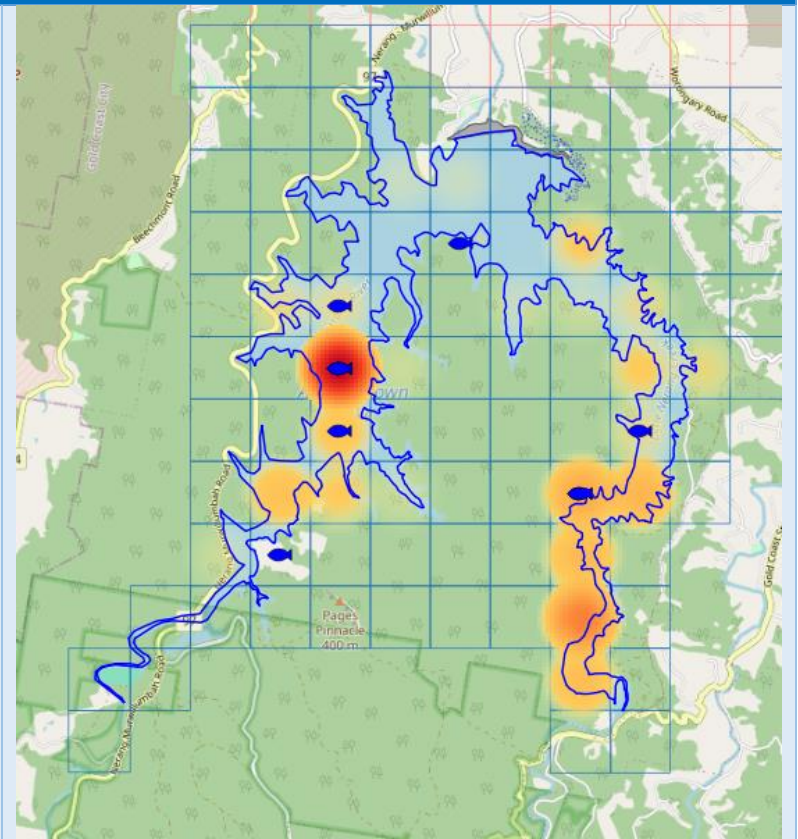
Data sources

Data used in the Lake Advancetown Crystal Bowl are:
- Tag records and recapture records for the lake at http://crystalbowl.infofishaustralia.com.au/.
- Dam level data from SEQwater at https://www.seqwater.com.au/historic-dam-levels.
- Rainfall and temperature records from Station 040584 Hinze Dam and Station 040847 Hinze Dam HW Alert from https://www.bom.gov.au/.
- Stocked fish records from https://www.data.qld.gov.au/dataset/queensland-freshwater-fish-stocking-records/ .

Basis for analysis

- Data reliability based on the sample size over the past 5 years for days fished by taggers, by fishers recapturing fish and fish tagged and recaptured.
- Catch rates calculated as number of fish tagged/fisher/day for T20 fishers (taggers) with a minimum of 12 fisher days (at least 1 per month) to provide a reliable catch rate.
- Undersized Bass are <300mm, legal fish are >=300 and <500mm and trophy fish are >=500mm.
- Growth calculated using logarithmic curve from recaptures where fish were out for 90 days or more and had positive growth.
- Locations based on Infofish grid map ADV for the impoundment and other grid maps where fish were recaptured outside the impoundment.
- Survival rates are calculated based on a model that uses the reduction in the numbers of recaptures each year after tagging.
- Travel proxy distance is the distance between where the fisher lives (address, suburb, town or postcode) and the recapture location. Local <80km, intrastate Qld elsewhere, interstate other than Qld.