

## LAKE BAROON REVIEW 2025

### INFORMATION RATING



Stocking group: Ewen Maddock Fish Management Inc

Species: Australian Bass, Mary River Cod, Golden Perch, Eeltail Catfish (not stocked)

Stocking timeframe: 2014-2023

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/baroon-pocket>

Ewen Maddock Fish Management Inc: <https://www.facebook.com/p/Ewen-Maddock-Fish-Management-Inc-100064402463065/>

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

LAKE BAROON OVERVIEW

LAKE BAROON LOCATION

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

TYPE OF FISHERY

FISHER ACTIVITY

FISHER EFFORT

FISHER TRAVEL

WHERE RECAPTURE FISHERS LIVE

STOCKED FISH

FISH TAGGED

BASS

EELTAIL CATFISH

MARY RIVER COD



Product of Infotech Australia



Supported by Suntag, Ewen Maddock Fish Management Inc, and FFSAQ

## LAKE BAROON OVERVIEW

### Summary for 2025

- Tagging in Lake Baroon has been ongoing since 2014 and has continued with an additional 443 fish tagged in 2025.
- Fishing in the lake is limited to electric motors however due to the small size of the lake this does not limit the areas fished.

Lake Baroon has been regularly stocked with Australian Bass and Mary River Cod. From 2014-2023 there were 133,120 Bass and 13,450 Mary River Cod stocked. There have been 138 Bass tagged for each 10,000 fingerlings stocked.



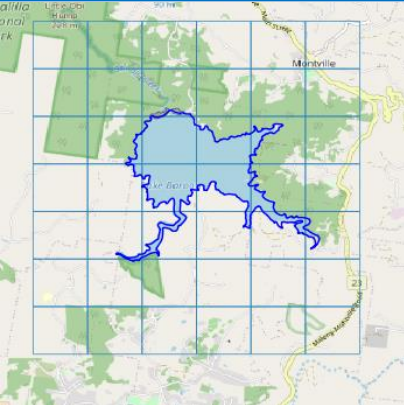
Fishing in the lake occurs year-round however there was more activity in the second half by taggers when conditions are more stable. This is also predominantly a weekend fishery with 44% of fishing days by both taggers and those recapturing fish occurring on weekends.

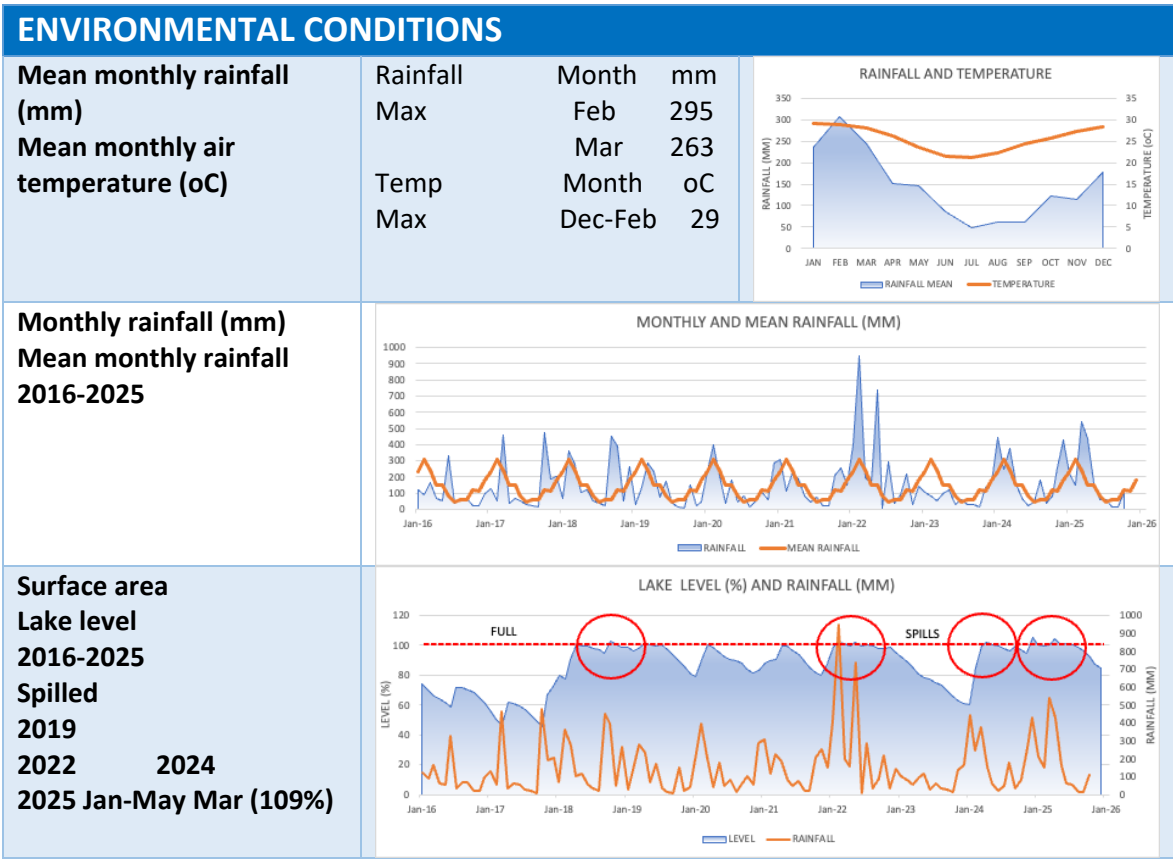
The fishery is mostly experiential with a low harvest rate of 5% for legal Bass being kept by those recapturing fish (ex-taggers) and is mostly a local fishery with fishers from the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane. Fishing effort was boosted last year with the lake being included in the Fish 'n' SIPS competition with one of the competition fish being caught by a young local fisher.

There were insufficient days fished by taggers to provide an annual tag rate from 2016-2019. The overall tag rate from 2020-2025 was 9.9 fish/day however that is influenced by some taggers using bait fishing resulting in large numbers of fish (over 20/day) being tagged. That also contributed to a tag rate of 17.1 fish/day this year.

The lake spilled on several occasions during 2022 making fishing conditions difficult which restricted tagging. The spilling resulted in fish leaving the lake and along with the fishing conditions this resulted in a reduction in recaptures. Last year the lake was closed to boating and fishing for around a month from mid-Mar to mid-Apr due to spilling. However, fishing conditions remained good with increased tagging activity and recaptures. The lake spilled again in Dec last year and from Jan-May this year however no additional fish were recaptured down river from the dam.


Since the spilling of the lake in 2022 fish have been 19 recaptured all the way down the Mary River as far as Maryborough and even in Tinana Creek with the furthest movement being 272km. Fish leaving the lake were mostly larger over 400mm and this has resulted in fewer fish over 400mm being tagged in the lake since then.

LAKE BAROON LOCATION		
	<p>Lake Baroon</p> <p>26.71°S</p> <p>152.87°E</p>	
LAKE		
<p><b>Grid map</b></p> <p><b>Lake Baroon LBN</b></p>	<p>Surface area</p> <p>4km<sup>2</sup></p>	

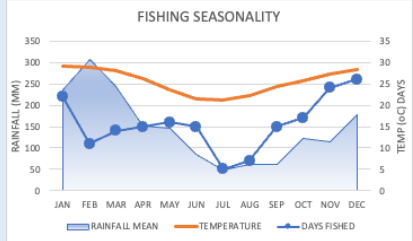


TYPE OF FISHERY		
DATA RELIABILITY		
Sample size (days fished)		
Tag days (blue arrow)		
Recaptures (orange arrow)		
Confidence %		
Error %		
2021-2025		
Seasonality	Days	187
Mean rainfall (mm) and temperature (oC)	Months most effort	Dec
Days fished combined	Fishers combined	Nov
Taggers		Jan
Recapture fishers	Note: Lake was closed in Mar-Apr 2024	
2021-2025		
Harvest or experiential fishery	Bass legal fish kept rate	
Release rate of recaptured legal Bass	Legal fish	103
2021-2025	Kept	5 (5%)
	Released	98 (95%)
Local or visitor fishery	Recapture fishers	116
Where recapture fishers live	Local	106 (91%)
2021-2025	Visitor	10 (9%)
Recapture fishers	Recaptures	110
Gender (ex-taggers)	Male	102 (93%)
2021-2025	Female	8 (7%)

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%		

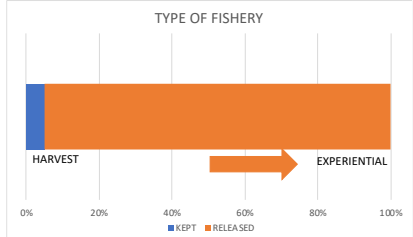


FISHING SEASONALITY



RAINFALL (MM)      TEMPERATURE (oC)      DAYS FISHED

TYPE OF FISHERY

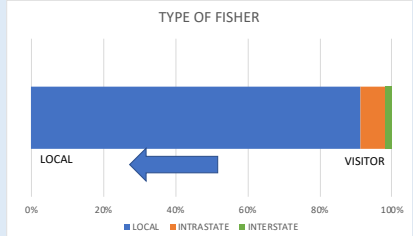


HARVEST      EXPERIENTIAL

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

■ KEPT ■ RELEASED

TYPE OF FISHER

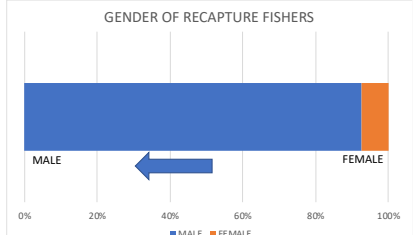


LOCAL      VISITOR

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

■ LOCAL ■ INTRASTATE ■ INTERSTATE

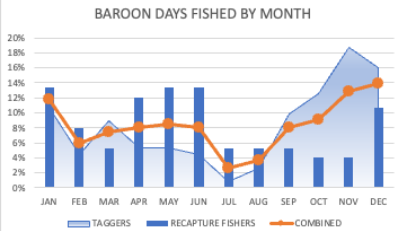
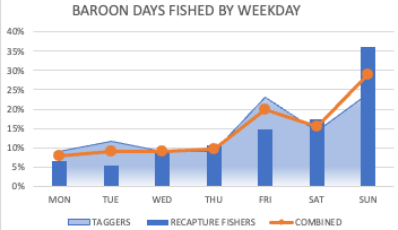
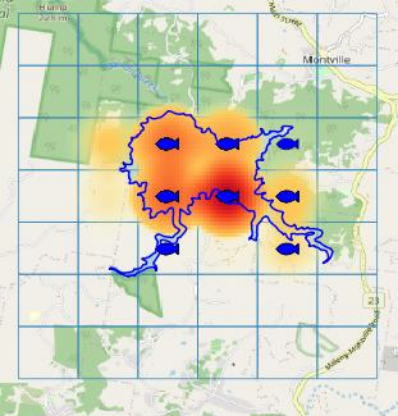
GENDER OF RECAPTURE FISHERS



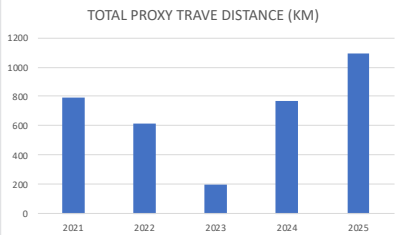
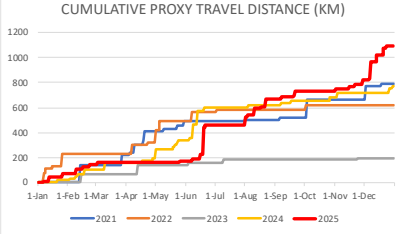
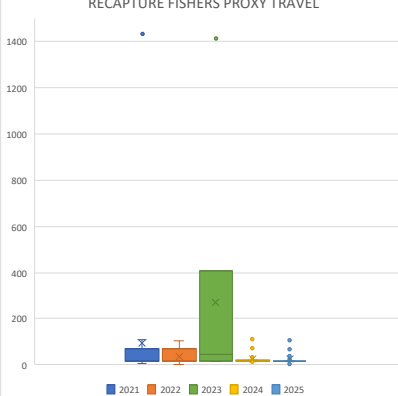
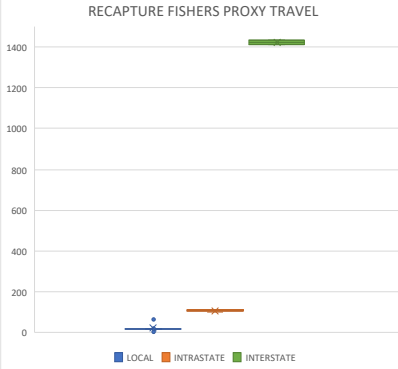
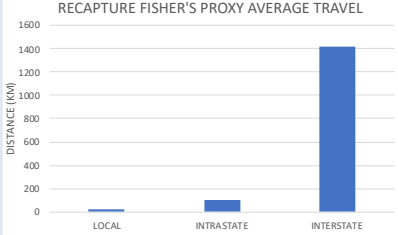
MALE      FEMALE

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

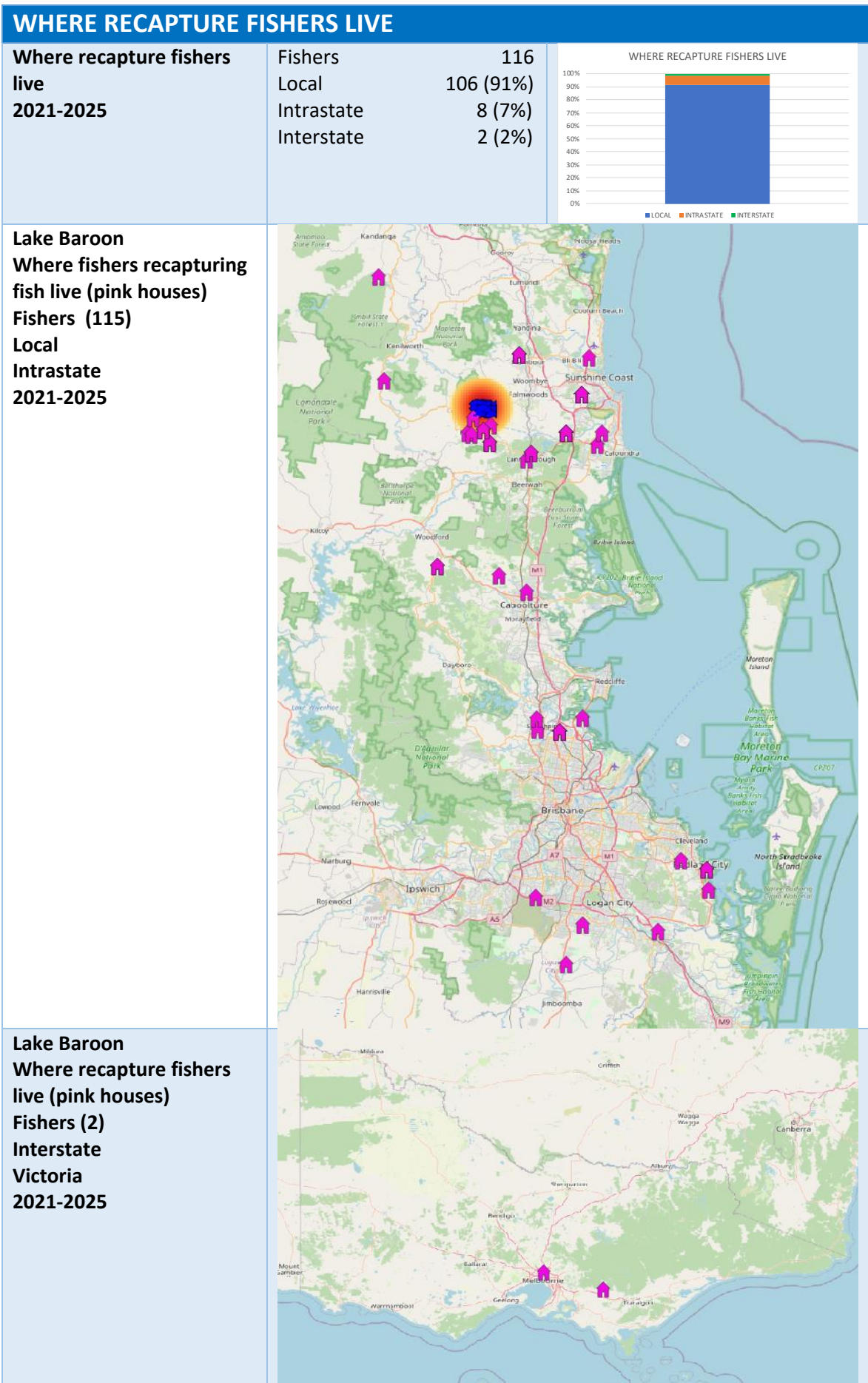
■ MALE ■ FEMALE




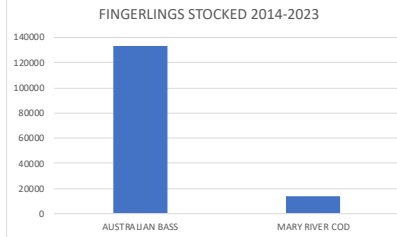

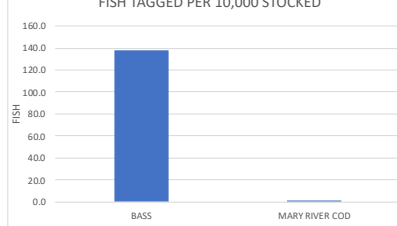
FISHER ACTIVITY			
<b>Monthly activity</b> Days fished combined Taggers (112) Recapture fishers (75) 2021-2025	Combined	Month	%
		Dec	14%
		Nov	13%
			
<b>Weekday activity</b> Days fished combined Taggers (112) Recapture fishers (75) 2021-2025	Combined	Day	%
		Weekend	44%
		Weekdays	56%
			
<b>Location activity</b> Tagged (red-orange heatmap) Recaptured (blue fish) 2021-2025	Tagged Recaptured		1437
			104
			

FISHER EFFORT			
Total recaptures 2021-2025	Year	Recaps	TOTAL RECAPTURES
	2021	23	
	2022	17	
	2023	6	
	2024	28	
	2025	42	
Cumulative recaptures 2021-2025			CUMULATIVE RECAPTURES
Monthly recaptures last 3 years 2023-2025	Baroon was closed from 18/3/2024-16/4/2024 No recaptures		RECAPTURES LAST 3 YEARS
Lake level (%) and days fished taggers and recapture fishers 2021-2025			LAKE LEVEL (%) AND DAYS FISHED
Lake level (%) Fish tagged 2021-2025			LAKE LEVEL (%) AND DAYS FISHED


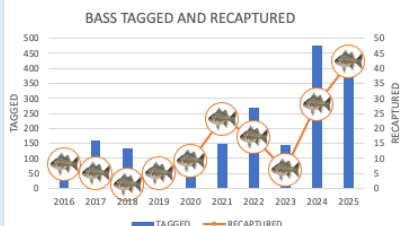
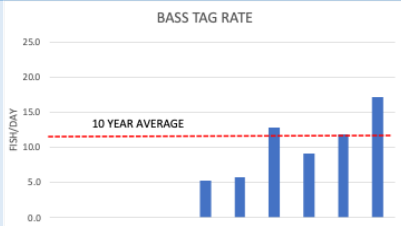
FISHER TRAVEL			
Total distance (km) home to recapture location Local Intrastate 2021-2025	Year	Km	
	2021	793	
	2022	615	
	2023	198	
	2024	772	
	2025	1094	
Cumulative distance (km) home to recapture location Local Intrastate 2021-2025			
Distance (km) home to recapture location by year Local Intrastate Interstate 2021-2025			
Distance (km) home to recapture location Local Intrastate Interstate 2021-2025	Trips	116	
	Range (km)		
	Local	2-70	
	Intrastate	102-114	
	Interstate	1412-1431	
Average distance (km) home to recapture location 2021-2025	Trips	116	
	Average distance (km)		
	Local	25	
	Intrastate	107	
	Interstate	1422	





STOCKED FISH																																			
AUSTRALIAN BASS	MARY RIVER COD	EELTAIL CATFISH																																	
																																			
STOCKING																																			
<b>Fingerlings stocked 2014-2023</b>	<div>Bass133,120</div> <div>Mary River Cod13,450</div> <div>Eeltail Catfish native not stocked</div>	<div>FINGERLINGS STOCKED 2014-2023</div>  <table><caption>FINGERLINGS STOCKED 2014-2023</caption><thead><tr><th>Species</th><th>Fingerlings Stocked</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Australian Bass</td><td>133,120</td></tr><tr><td>Mary River Cod</td><td>13,450</td></tr></tbody></table>	Species	Fingerlings Stocked	Australian Bass	133,120	Mary River Cod	13,450																											
Species	Fingerlings Stocked																																		
Australian Bass	133,120																																		
Mary River Cod	13,450																																		
<b>Fingerlings stocked each year 2014-2023</b>		<div>BAROON STOCKED FISH</div>  <table><caption>BAROON STOCKED FISH</caption><thead><tr><th>Year</th><th>Australian Bass</th><th>Mary River Cod</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2014</td><td>1,000</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>2015</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>2016</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>2017</td><td>12,000</td><td>1,000</td></tr><tr><td>2018</td><td>12,000</td><td>1,000</td></tr><tr><td>2019</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>2020</td><td>28,000</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>2021</td><td>45,000</td><td>1,000</td></tr><tr><td>2022</td><td>30,000</td><td>5,000</td></tr><tr><td>2023</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr></tbody></table>	Year	Australian Bass	Mary River Cod	2014	1,000	0	2015	0	0	2016	0	0	2017	12,000	1,000	2018	12,000	1,000	2019	0	0	2020	28,000	0	2021	45,000	1,000	2022	30,000	5,000	2023	0	0
Year	Australian Bass	Mary River Cod																																	
2014	1,000	0																																	
2015	0	0																																	
2016	0	0																																	
2017	12,000	1,000																																	
2018	12,000	1,000																																	
2019	0	0																																	
2020	28,000	0																																	
2021	45,000	1,000																																	
2022	30,000	5,000																																	
2023	0	0																																	
<b>Fish tagged 2016-2025 per 10,000 fish stocked 2014-2023</b>	<div>Australian Bass138</div> <div>Mary River Cod1</div> <div>(caught not able to be tagged)</div>	<div>FISH TAGGED PER 10,000 STOCKED</div>  <table><caption>FISH TAGGED PER 10,000 STOCKED</caption><thead><tr><th>Species</th><th>Fish Tagged per 10,000 Stocked</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Bass</td><td>138</td></tr><tr><td>Mary River Cod</td><td>1</td></tr></tbody></table>	Species	Fish Tagged per 10,000 Stocked	Bass	138	Mary River Cod	1																											
Species	Fish Tagged per 10,000 Stocked																																		
Bass	138																																		
Mary River Cod	1																																		

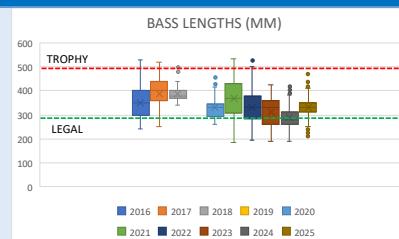
FISH TAGGED					
Tagged Days fished 2016-2025	High	Low	Now		
	Tagged				
	2024	2019	2025		
Tag rate Fish/day 2016-2025 Insufficient days 2016-2019	480	0	443		
	Days				
	2024	2019	2025		
Tagged Recaptured 2016-2025	40	0	25		
Species tagged 2016-2025	High	Low	Now		
	Tagged				
	2024	2019	2025		
	480	0	443		
	Recaptured				
	2024	2018	2025		
	28	1	42		
	Australian Bass		Tagged		
	Eeltail Catfish		1891		
			29		

BASS				
				
DATA RELIABILITY				
Sample size (fish/year)	Reliability level	LOW	MODERATE	MODERATE
Tag days (blue arrow)	Samples	10	41	68
Recaptures (orange arrow)	Confidence	80%	80%	90%
Confidence %	Error	20%	10%	10%
Error %				
2021-2025				
TAGGED AND TAG RATE				
Bass	Tagged	1891		
Tagged	Recaptured	144		
Recaptured	Recapture rate	7.6%		
2016-2025	Tagged 2025	428		
				
Tag and effort taggers	High	Low	Now	
Tagged fish	Tagged		2025	
Days fished	2015	2019	2025	
2016-2025	306	0	428	
	Days			
	2024	2019	2025	
	40	0	25	
Tag rate	High	Low	Now	
Fish/day	Fish/day		2025	
2016-2025	2022	2020	2025	
Insufficient days fished	12.8	5.3	17.1	
2016-2019	10 year average		12.0	
				

## LENGTHS

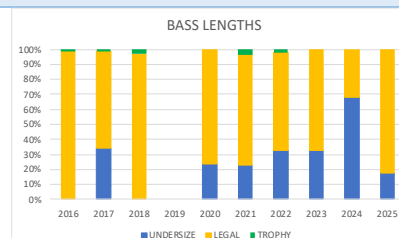
**Average length (mm)**  
**Bars show length range**  
**Dots show outliers**  
**2016-2025**

High	Low	Now
Average length		
2017	2023	2025
389	314	319
Largest		
2021	2023	2025
535	425	450



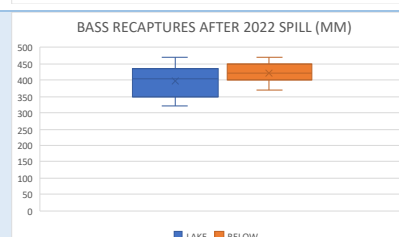
**Fish length percentage (%)**  
**Undersize <300mm**  
**Legal 300-499mm**  
**Trophy 500+mm**  
**2016-2025**

High	Low	Now
Legal		
2016	2017	2025
99%	65%	78%
Trophy		
2015	2023	2025
5%	0%	0%



**Length of fish recaptured in lake and below dam**  
**2022-2024**

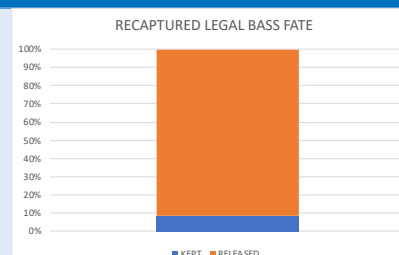
	Lake	Below
Recaptures	22	18
Average	398	422
Min	320	370
Max	470	470



## FATE

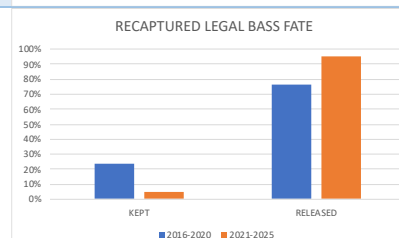
**Legal Bass recaptures kept and released by recfishers (ex-taggers)**  
**Legal length 300mm**  
**2016-2025**

Recaptures	128
Kept	11 (9%)
Released	117 (91%)



**Legal Bass recaptures kept and released by recfishers (ex-taggers)**  
**2016-2020**  
**2021-2025**

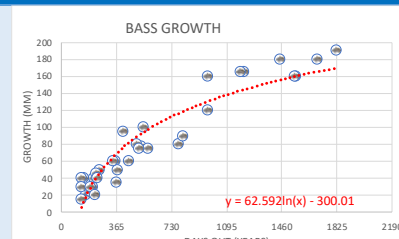
Recaptured	117
Released	
2016-2020	19 (76%)
2021-2025	87 (95%)



## GROWTH

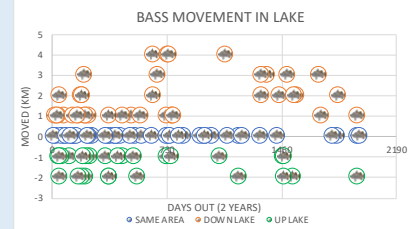
**Bass growth at the end of each year based on recaptures of tagged fish <300mm**  
**2016-2025**

Recaptures	42
Annual growth (mm)	
Year 1	69
Year 2	111
Year 3	136
Year 4	153
Year 5	167



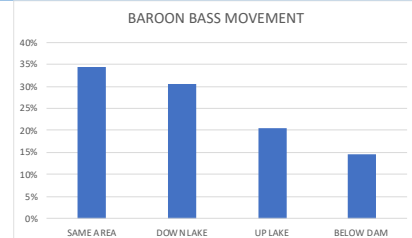
## MOVEMENT

**Movement of tagged fish  
recaptured in lake  
2016-2025**



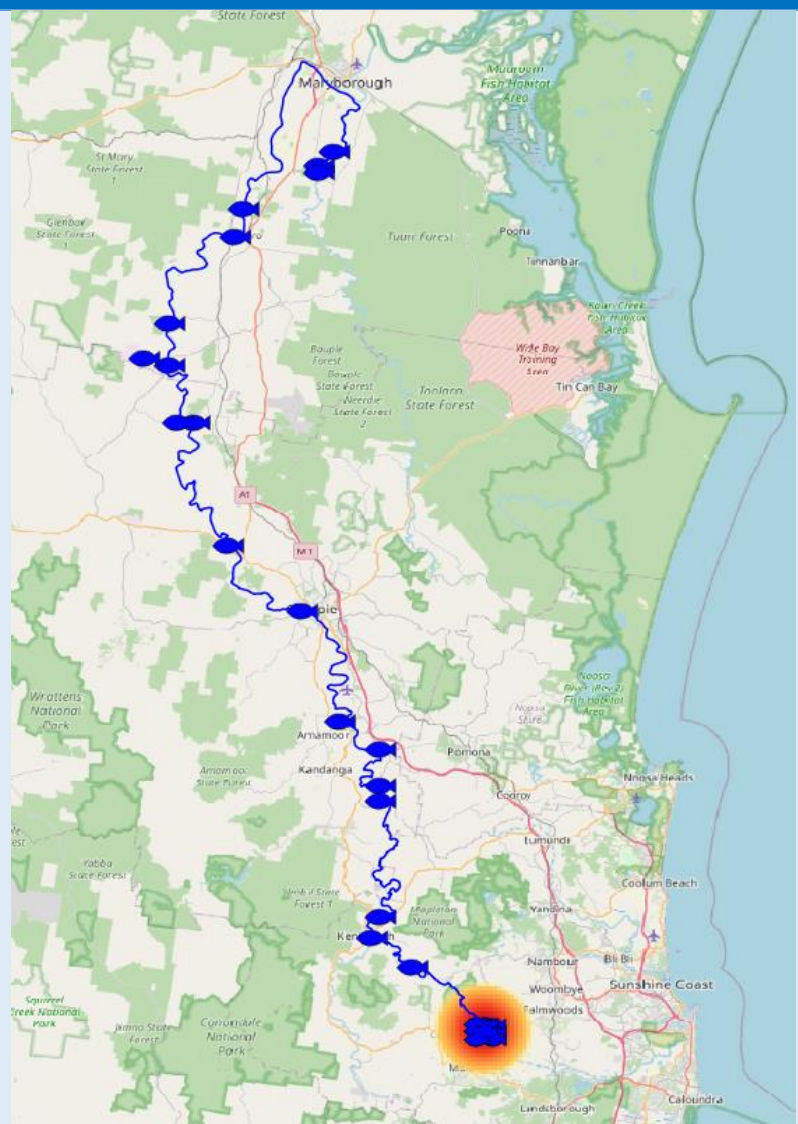
**Movement of tagged fish  
Recaptured  
2016-2025**

Recaptures	131
Same area	45 (34%)
Down lake	40 (31%)
Up lake	27 (21%)
Below lake	19 (15%)

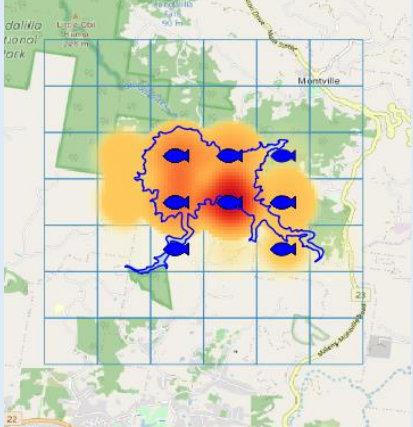



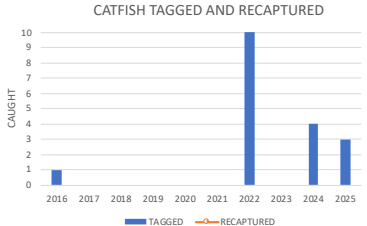
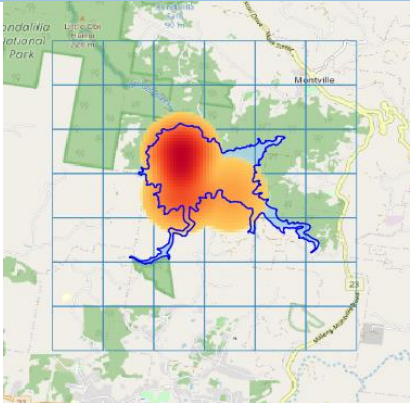
## RECAPTURES BELOW DAM


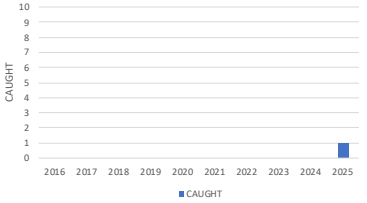
**Recaptures below dam  
Mary River  
Tinana Creek  
After 2022 spill (blue fish)  
Bass 19  
Furthest distance 272km**





TAG LOCATIONS			
<b>Bass</b> <b>Tagged fish</b> <b>(red-orange heat map)</b> <b>Recaptures</b> <b>(blue fish)</b> <b>2016-2025</b>	Tagged	1891	
	Recaptures	144	

EELTAIL CATFISH		
		
TAGGED		
<b>Fish tagged 2016-2025</b>	Tagged 29 Recaptured 0	
<b>Tagged fish locations 2016-2025</b>	Tagged 29	

MARY RIVER COD		
		
CAUGHT		
<b>All measures 2016-2025</b>	Fish recorded 1 Length (mm) 480  Mary River Cod are not able to be tagged in Lake Baroon	



## Data sources

Data used in the Lake Baroon Crystal Bowl are:

- Tag records and recapture records for the impoundment at <http://crystalbowl.infofishaustralia.com.au/>.
- Dam level data from SEQwater at <https://www.seqwater.com.au/historic-dam-levels>.
- Stocked fish records from Ewen Maddock Fish Management Inc.
- Rainfall and temperature records for Station 040695 Palmwoods from <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data>.

## 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/day for taggers with a minimum of 12 fisher days to provide a reliable catch rate.
- For Bass undersized fish 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 LBN for the impoundment and other grid maps where fish were recaptured outside the impoundment.
- Travel proxy distance is the distance between where the fisher lives (address, suburb, town or postcode) and the recapture location. Local <60km, intrastate Qld elsewhere, interstate other than Qld.