



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:

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STOCKED FISH

FISH TAGGED

BASS

EELTAIL CATFISH

MARY RIVER COD



Product of Infofish 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



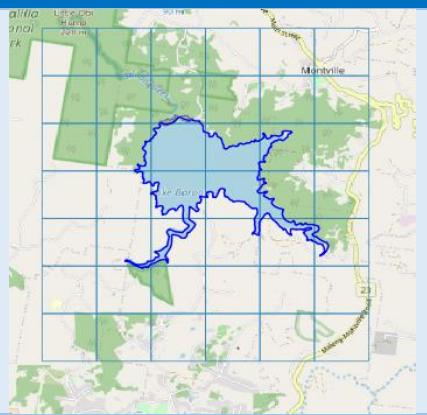
Lake Baroon
26.71°S
152.87°E



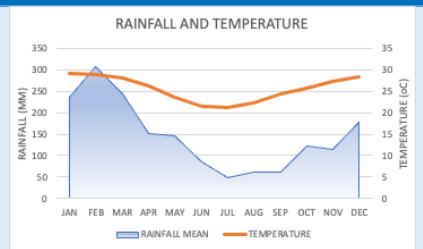
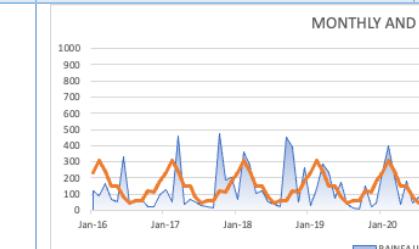
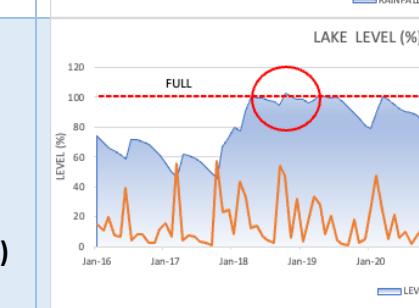
LAKE

Grid map
Lake Baroon LBN

Surface area 4km²



ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Mean monthly rainfall (mm) Mean monthly air temperature (°C)	Rainfall Max Feb 295 Temp Max Month °C Dec-Feb 29	 <p>RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURE</p> <p>This dual-axis line graph shows monthly rainfall and temperature from January to December. The left y-axis represents rainfall in mm (0 to 350), and the right y-axis represents temperature in °C (0 to 35). The blue line represents monthly rainfall, and the orange line represents monthly temperature. The graph shows a peak in rainfall during the winter months (Dec-Feb) and a peak in temperature during the summer months (Jan-Mar).</p>
Monthly rainfall (mm) Mean monthly rainfall 2016-2025	 <p>MONTHLY AND MEAN RAINFALL (MM)</p> <p>This line graph displays monthly rainfall (blue line) and mean rainfall (orange line) from January 2016 to January 2026. The y-axis ranges from 0 to 1000 mm. The graph shows significant seasonal variation in rainfall, with peaks occurring in winter and a notable peak in January 2022 reaching approximately 900 mm.</p>	
Surface area Lake level 2016-2025 Spilled 2019 2022 2024 2025 Jan-May Mar (109%)	 <p>LAKE LEVEL (%) AND RAINFALL (MM)</p> <p>This dual-axis line graph tracks lake level (blue line) and rainfall (orange line) from January 2016 to January 2026. The left y-axis shows lake level in percent (0 to 120), and the right y-axis shows rainfall in mm (0 to 1000). A horizontal dashed red line at 100% level is labeled 'FULL'. Three red circles highlight specific events: 'FULL' in 2018, 'SPILLS' in 2022, and another event in 2025. The lake level shows a general upward trend, particularly after 2020, reaching nearly 100% by 2025.</p>	

TYPE OF FISHERY

DATA RELIABILITY

Sample size (days fished)

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

Tag days (blue arrow)

Recaptures (orange arrow)

Confidence %

Error %

2021-2025



Seasonality

Mean rainfall (mm) and

temperature (oC)

Days fished combined

Taggers

Recapture fishers

2021-2025

Days 187

Months most effort

Fishers combined

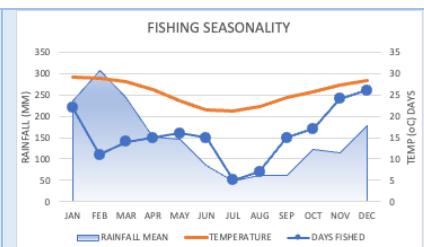
Dec

Nov

Jan

Note: Lake was closed in

Mar-Apr 2024



Harvest or experiential fishery

Release rate of recaptured legal Bass

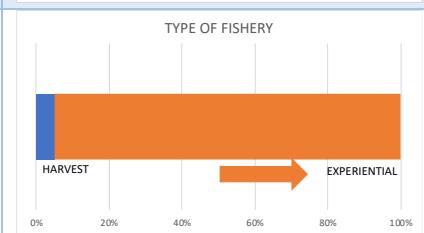
2021-2025

Bass legal fish kept rate

Legal fish 103

Kept 5 (5%)

Released 98 (95%)



Local or visitor fishery

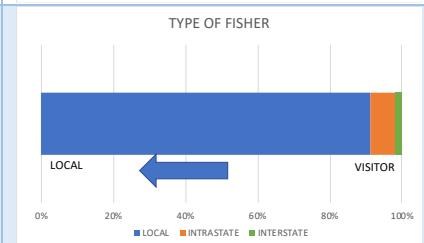
Where recapture fishers live

2021-2025

Recapture fishers 116

Local 106 (91%)

Visitor 10 (9%)



Recapture fishers

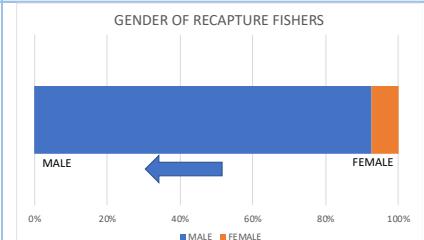
Gender (ex-taggers)

2021-2025

Recaptures 110

Male 102 (93%)

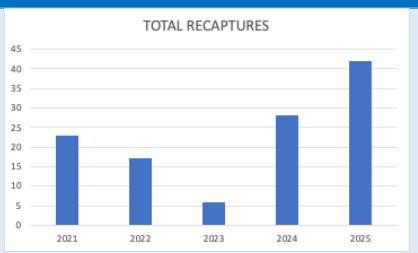
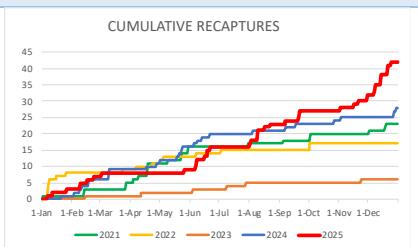
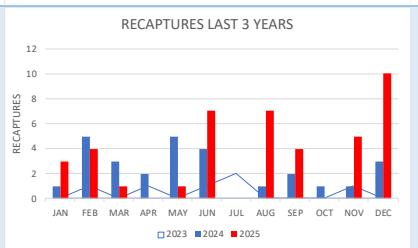
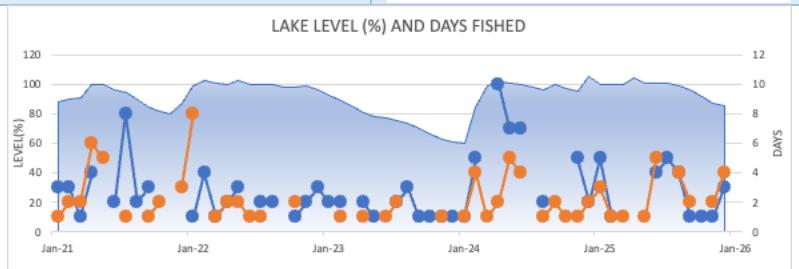
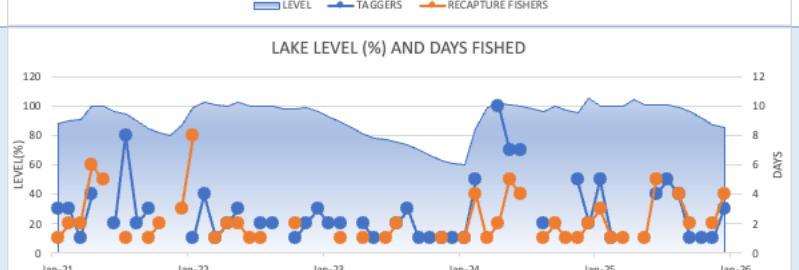
Female 8 (7%)



FISHER ACTIVITY

Monthly activity Days fished combined Taggers (112) Recapture fishers (75) 2021-2025	Combined	Month	%	<table border="1"> <caption>Estimated data for Baroon Days Fished by Month</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>Taggers (%)</th> <th>Recapture Fishers (%)</th> <th>Combined (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>JAN</td><td>12%</td><td>14%</td><td>14%</td></tr> <tr><td>FEB</td><td>8%</td><td>10%</td><td>8%</td></tr> <tr><td>MAR</td><td>10%</td><td>9%</td><td>8%</td></tr> <tr><td>APR</td><td>11%</td><td>10%</td><td>8%</td></tr> <tr><td>MAY</td><td>12%</td><td>11%</td><td>8%</td></tr> <tr><td>JUN</td><td>13%</td><td>12%</td><td>8%</td></tr> <tr><td>JUL</td><td>7%</td><td>6%</td><td>6%</td></tr> <tr><td>AUG</td><td>5%</td><td>4%</td><td>4%</td></tr> <tr><td>SEP</td><td>8%</td><td>7%</td><td>7%</td></tr> <tr><td>OCT</td><td>10%</td><td>8%</td><td>8%</td></tr> <tr><td>NOV</td><td>12%</td><td>11%</td><td>11%</td></tr> <tr><td>DEC</td><td>15%</td><td>14%</td><td>14%</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	Taggers (%)	Recapture Fishers (%)	Combined (%)	JAN	12%	14%	14%	FEB	8%	10%	8%	MAR	10%	9%	8%	APR	11%	10%	8%	MAY	12%	11%	8%	JUN	13%	12%	8%	JUL	7%	6%	6%	AUG	5%	4%	4%	SEP	8%	7%	7%	OCT	10%	8%	8%	NOV	12%	11%	11%	DEC	15%	14%	14%
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Weekend	44%																																																							
Location activity Tagged (red-orange heatmap) Recaptured (blue fish) 2021-2025	Tagged Recaptured	1437																																																						
		104																																																						

FISHER EFFORT

Total recaptures 2021-2025	Year	Recaps	
	2021	23	
	2022	17	
	2023	6	
	2024	28	
Cumulative recaptures 2021-2025			
Monthly recaptures last 3 years 2023-2025	Baroon was closed from 18/3/2024-16/4/2024 No recaptures		
Lake level (%) and days fished taggers and recapture fishers 2021-2025			
Lake level (%) Fish tagged 2021-2025			

FISHER TRAVEL

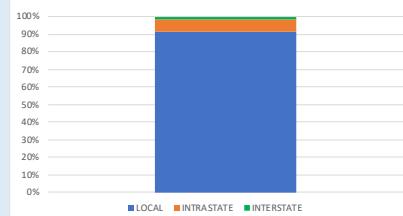
Total distance (km) home to recapture location Local Intrastate 2021-2025	Year	Km	
	2021	793	
	2022	615	
	2023	198	
	2024	772	
	2025	1094	
Cumulative distance (km) home to recapture location Local Intrastate 2021-2025			
Distance (km) home to recapture location by year Local Intrastate Interstate 2021-2025			
Distance (km) home to recapture location Local Intrastate Interstate 2021-2025	Trips	116	
	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	

WHERE RECAPTURE FISHERS LIVE

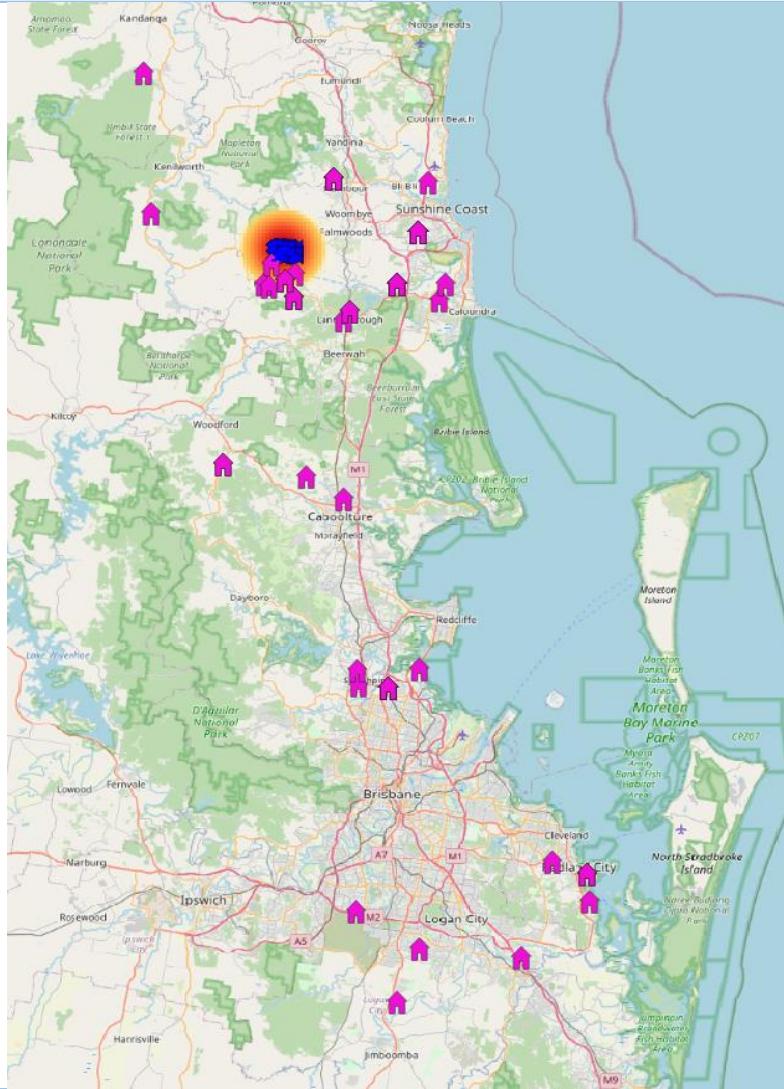
Where recapture fishers live
2021-2025

Fishers	116
Local	106 (91%)
Intrastate	8 (7%)
Interstate	2 (2%)

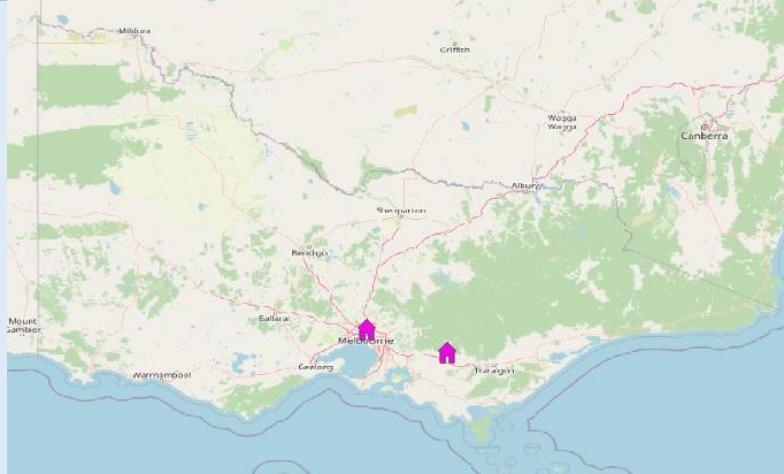
WHERE RECAPTURE FISHERS LIVE

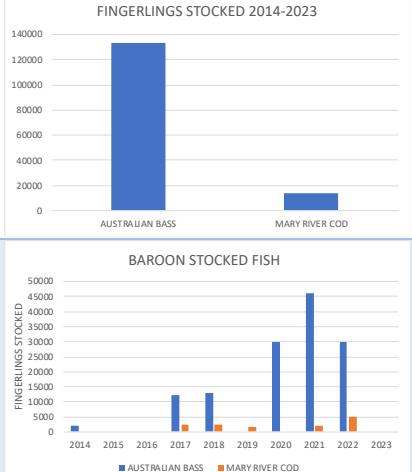
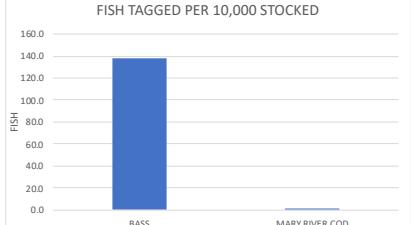


Lake Baroon
Where fishers recapturing fish live (pink houses)
Fishers (115)
Local
Intrastate
2021-2025

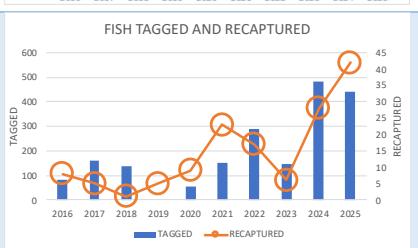
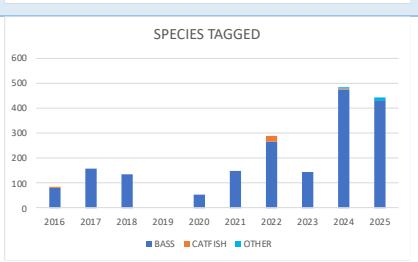


Lake Baroon
Where recapture fishers live (pink houses)
Fishers (2)
Interstate
Victoria
2021-2025



STOCKED FISH		
AUSTRALIAN BASS	MARY RIVER COD	EELTAIL CATFISH
		
STOCKING		
Fingerlings stocked 2014-2023		<p>Bass 133,120 Mary River Cod 13,450</p> <p>Eeltail Catfish native not stocked</p> 
Fingerlings stocked each year 2014-2023		
Fish tagged 2016-2025 per 10,000 fish stocked 2014-2023		<p>Australian Bass 138 Mary River Cod 1 (caught not able to be tagged)</p> 

FISH TAGGED

Tagged Days fished 2016-2025	High Tagged 2024 480 Days 2024 40	Low 2019 0 2019 0	Now 2025 443 2025 25	
Tag rate Fish/day 2016-2025 Insufficient days 2016-2019	High Fish/day 2022 13.8	Low 2020 5.3	Now 2025 17.0	
Tagged Recaptured 2016-2025	High Tagged 2024 480 Recaptured 2024 28	Low 2019 0 2018 1	Now 2025 443 2025 42	
Species tagged 2016-2025	Australian Bass Eeltail Catfish	Tagged 1891 29		

BASS



DATA RELIABILITY

Sample size (fish/year)

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

Tag days (blue arrow)

Recaptures (orange arrow)

Confidence %

Error %

2021-2025



TAGGED AND TAG RATE

Bass

Tagged 1891

Tagged

Recaptured 144

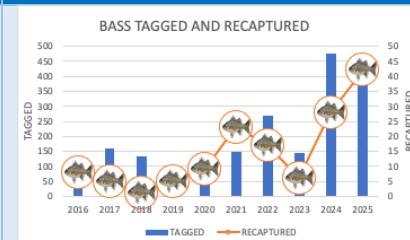
Recaptured

Recapture rate 7.6%

2016-2025

Tagged 2025

428



Tag and effort taggers

High Low Now

Tagged fish

Tagged 2019

Days fished

Days fished 2025

2016-2025

306 0 428

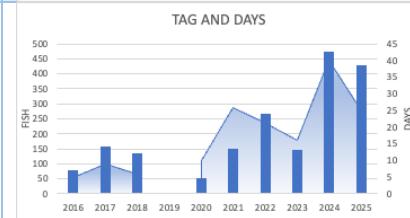
Days

Days 2019

2024

2025

40 0 25



Tag rate

High Low Now

Fish/day

Fish/day 2020

2016-2025

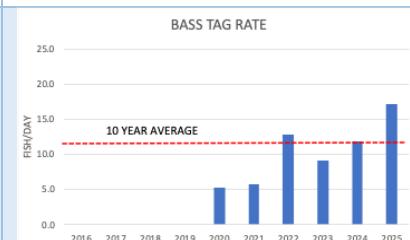
2022 2025

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

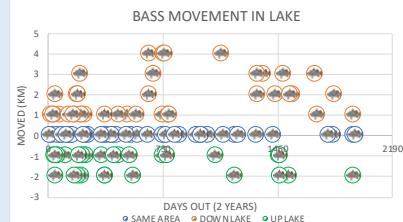
Legal Bass recaptures kept and released by recfishers (ex-taggers) Legal length 300mm 2016-2025	Recaptures	128	
	Kept	11 (9%)	
	Released	117 (91%)	
Legal Bass recaptures kept and released by recfishers (ex-taggers) 2016-2020 2021-2025	Recaptured	117	
	2016-2020	19 (76%)	
	2021-2025	87 (95%)	

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	

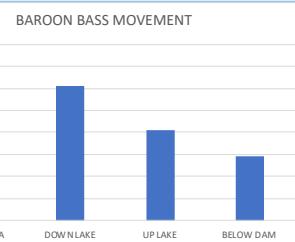
MOVEMENT

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



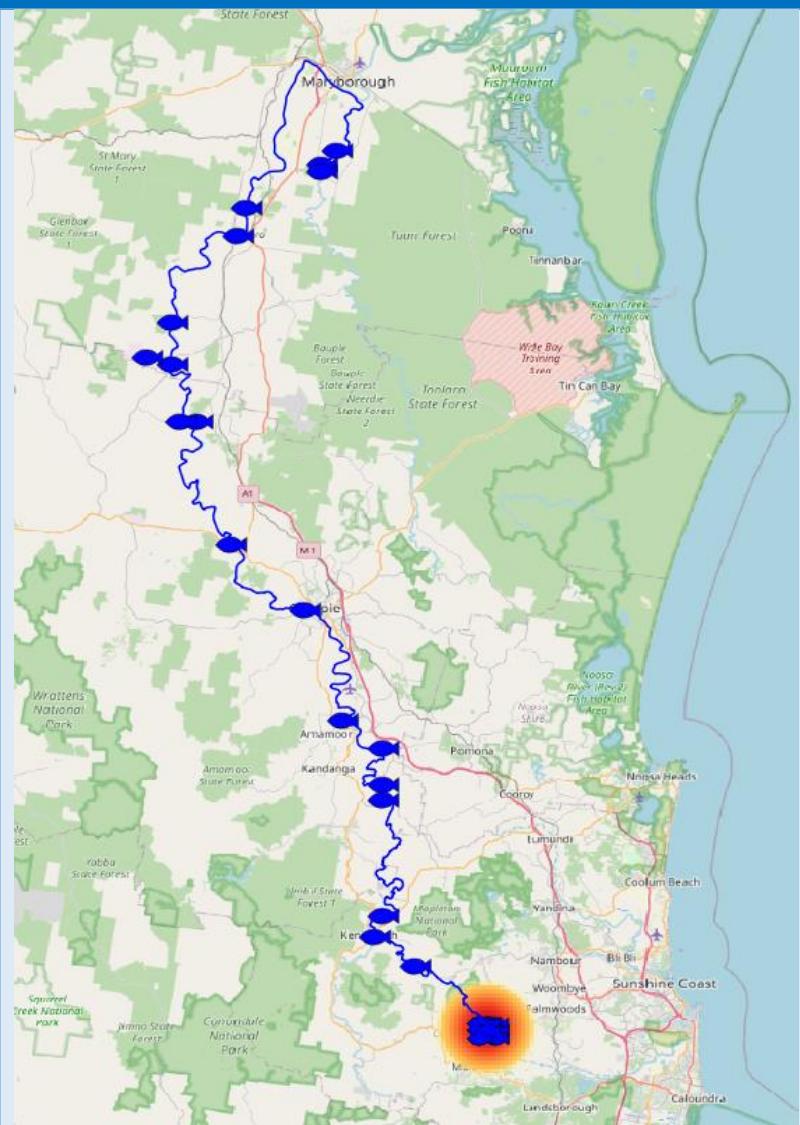
**Movement of tagged fish
Recaptured
2016-2025**

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

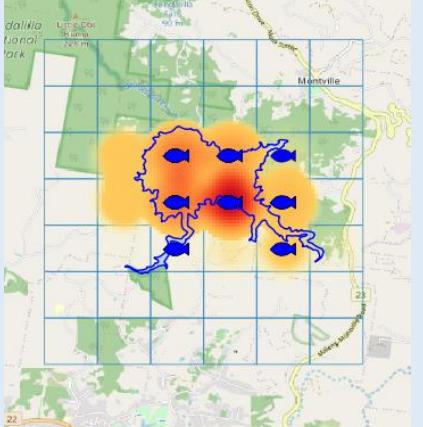


RECAPTURES BELOW DAM

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



TAG LOCATIONS

Bass Tagged fish (red-orange heat map) Recaptures (blue fish) 2016-2025	Tagged Recaptures	1891 144	
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EELTAIL CATFISH

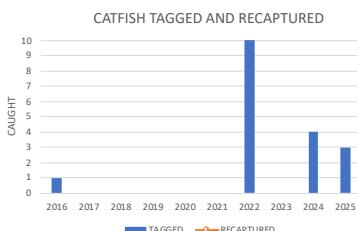


TAGGED

**Fish tagged
2016-2025**

Tagged
Recaptured

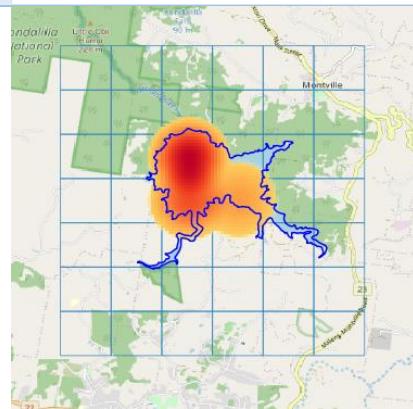
29
0



**Tagged fish locations
2016-2025**

Tagged

29



MARY RIVER COD



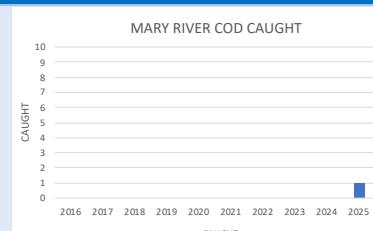
CAUGHT

**All measures
2016-2025**

Fish recorded
Length (mm)

1
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.