



LAKE CALLIDE REVIEW 2025

INFORMATION RATING



Stocking group: Callide Valley Native Fish Stocking Association

Species stocked: Barramundi, Golden Perch, Southern Saratoga, Sleepy Cod, Silver Perch

Stocking timeframe: 2012-2024

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/callide>

CVNFSAs link: <http://www.cvnfsa.org.au/stocking.html>

CVNFSAs Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cvnfsa/>

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LAKE CALLIDE OVERVIEW

Highlights for 2025

- There has been a low level of tagging in Lake Callide focused on Barramundi.
- This year there were 37 Barramundi tagged of which 35 were trophy fish over 1m so that should provide some useful data on large tagged fish.

The data reliability for Lake Callide is low and should be treated with caution. However, there are still some useful indicators on the status of fish and its use by fishers. While the data on fishers is low it suggests that Lake Callide is popular with visiting fishers, likely attracted by the high proportion of trophy Barramundi.

There is a lull in fisher activity over winter with low water temperatures that make Barramundi much harder to catch. Lake Callide can get to temperatures as low as 14°C making it susceptible to fish kills. In the winter of 2007, with the water level at 8% the temperature dropped to 10°C, resulting in a total fish kill of Barramundi. See <https://infofishaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Fish-Kill-report-2007.pdf>

A further fish kill occurred in Sep 2022, and it was estimated that there were over 1,000 dead Barramundi, mostly large fish from 800-1200mm. However, this was only a partial kill and there may have other causes as the water temperature was not low enough to be the cause.

The lake is mostly an experiential fishery as all large Barramundi that were recaptured were released again. However, there is likely a level of harvest of mid-sized Barramundi.

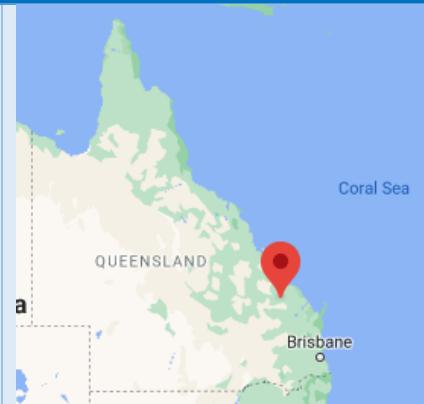
Fish tagged in 2021-2022 up to Sep 2022 were mostly large fish of a similar size to those in the fish kill. No Barramundi were tagged in 2023 and 2024 however there were 37 fish tagged this year. There were also 11 recaptures taking the recapture rate to 10.5% which is comparable with other stocked lakes.

Lake Callide was included in the Fish and SIPS fish competition in 2023 and 2024 and there have been 3 recaptures of competition fish since.

LAKE CALLIDE LOCATION



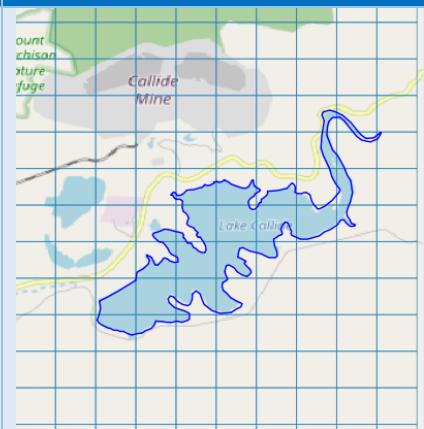
Lake Callide
24.36°S
150.36°E



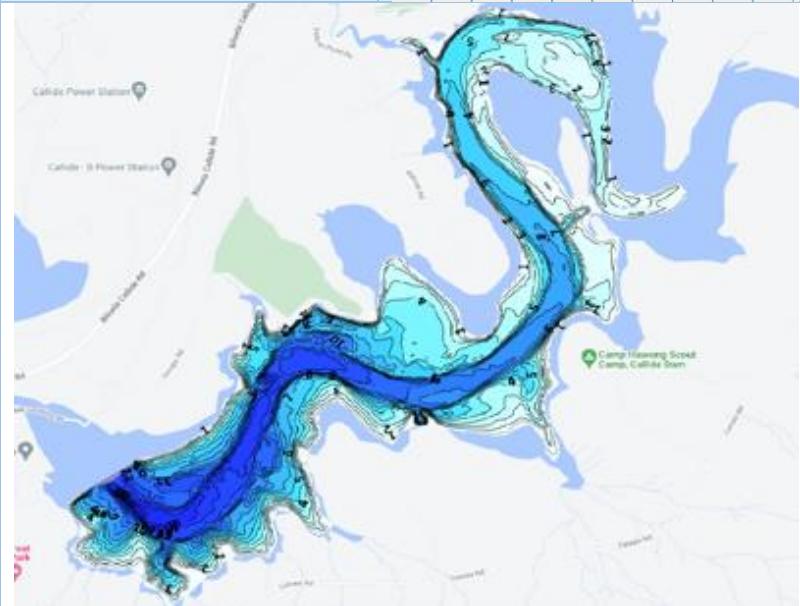
LAKE

Lake Callide
Grid map
Lake Callide LCD

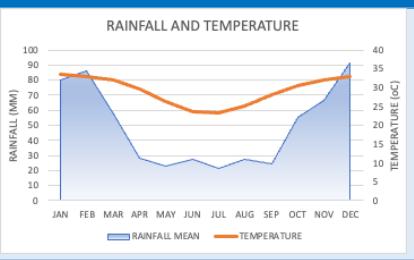
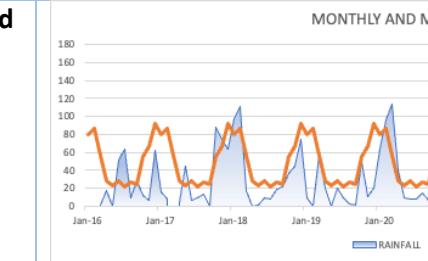
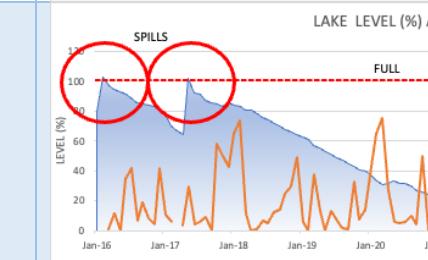
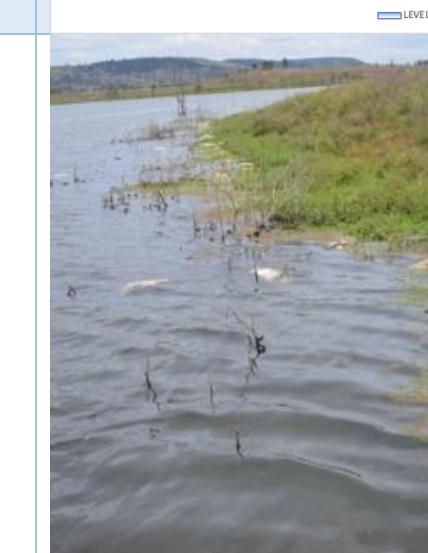
Surface area 11.6km² at Full Surface Level



Bathymetry



ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Mean monthly rainfall (mm) Mean monthly air temperature (°C)	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Rainfall</th> <th>Month</th> <th>mm</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Max</td> <td>Dec</td> <td>92</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Feb</td> <td>87</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Temp</th> <th>Month</th> <th>°C</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Max</td> <td>Jan</td> <td>34</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Feb</td> <td>33</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Dec</td> <td>33</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Rainfall	Month	mm	Max	Dec	92		Feb	87	Temp	Month	°C	Max	Jan	34		Feb	33		Dec	33	 <p>RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURE</p> <p>This dual-axis line graph shows monthly rainfall and temperature from January 2016 to December 2025. The left y-axis represents rainfall in mm (0-100), and the right y-axis represents temperature in °C (0-40). The blue line represents mean rainfall, and the orange line represents mean temperature. The temperature peaks in January (34°C) and is lowest in July (15°C). Rainfall is highest in December (92mm) and lowest in July (20mm).</p>
Rainfall	Month	mm																					
Max	Dec	92																					
	Feb	87																					
Temp	Month	°C																					
Max	Jan	34																					
	Feb	33																					
	Dec	33																					
Monthly rainfall (mm) and monthly mean 2016-2025	 <p>MONTHLY AND MEAN RAINFALL (MM)</p> <p>This line graph shows monthly rainfall (blue line) and mean rainfall (orange line) from January 2016 to January 2026. The y-axis ranges from 0 to 180 mm. The rainfall line shows significant seasonal variation, with peaks in December and January and troughs in July and August. The mean rainfall line remains relatively stable around 30-40 mm.</p>																						
Lake level 2016-2025 Spilled 2016 2017	 <p>LAKE LEVEL (%) AND RAINFALL (MM)</p> <p>This dual-axis line graph shows lake level (blue line) and rainfall (orange line) from January 2016 to January 2026. The left y-axis represents lake level in % (0-100), and the right y-axis represents rainfall in mm (0-180). A horizontal dashed red line at 100% is labeled 'FULL'. Two red circles on the lake level line are labeled 'SPILLS' and 'FISH KILL'. The lake level drops significantly during the 'SPILLS' period (2016-2017) and again during the 'FISH KILL' period (2022).</p>																						
Fish kill Sep 2022 Estimated >1,000 fish Size range 800-1200mm	 <p>A photograph showing a body of water with numerous dead fish floating on the surface. The water is dark and reflects the surrounding green vegetation.</p>																						

TYPE OF FISHERY

DATA RELIABILITY

Sample size (days fished)

Days (blue arrow)

Confidence %

Error %

2021-2025

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



Months fished

Temperature

Monthly days fished (taggers and recapture fishers combined)

2021-2025

Days fished (low numbers)

51
Month
Oct
Sep

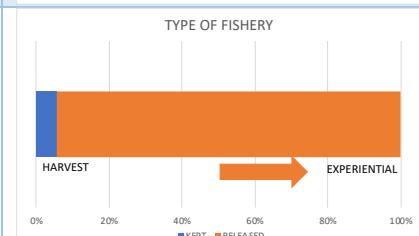


Harvest or experiential fishery

Release rate of recaptured legal Barramundi 2021-2025

Barramundi legal fish kept rate

18
Kept
1 (6%)
Released
17 (94%)

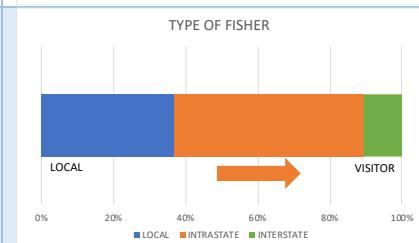


Local or visitor fishery

Where recapture fishers live 2021-2025

Recapture fishers

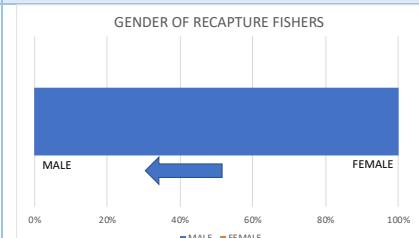
19
Local
7 (37%)
Visitor
12 (63%)



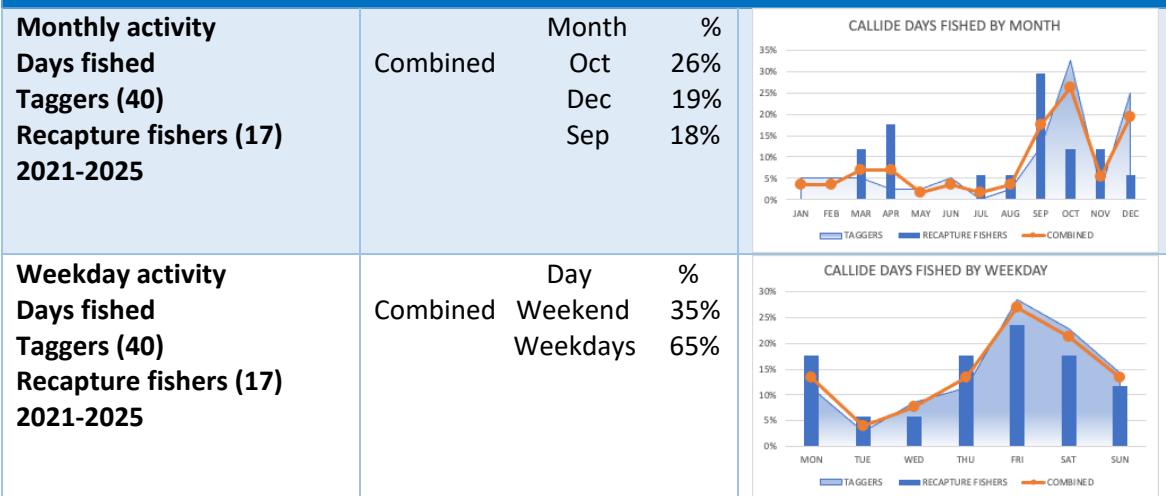
Gender of recapture fishers 2021-2025

Fishers
Female
Male

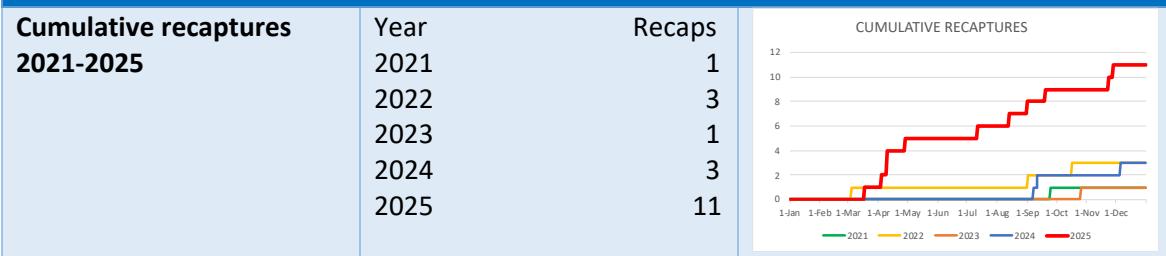
18
0 (0%)
18 (100%)



FISHER ACTIVITY

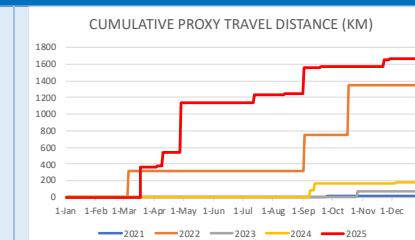


FISHER EFFORT



FISHER TRAVEL

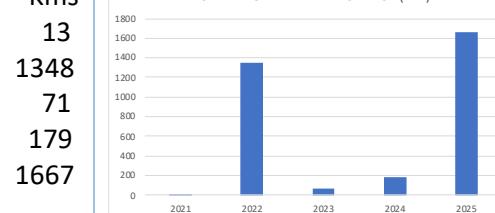
Cumulative proxy travel distance (km) home to recapture location 2021-2025



Total proxy travel distance (km) home to recapture location 2021-2025

Year	Kms
2021	13
2022	1348
2023	71
2024	179
2025	1667

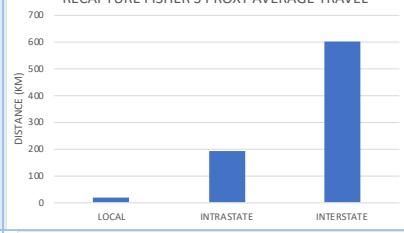
TOTAL PROXY TRAVEL DISTANCE (KM)



Proxy average travel distance (km) home to recapture location 2021-2025

Trips	19
Local	19
Intrastate	194
Interstate	601

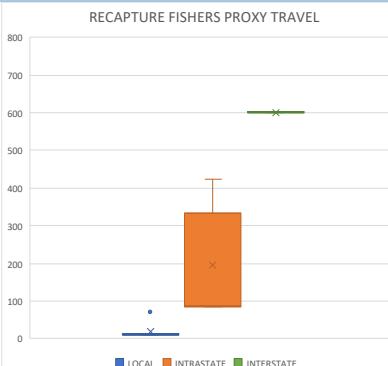
RECAPTURE FISHER'S PROXY AVERAGE TRAVEL



Proxy travel distance (km) home to recapture location 2021-2025

Trips	19
Local	9-71
Intrastate	85-423
Interstate	600-602

Range (km)

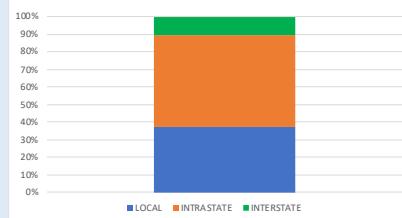


WHERE RECAPTURE FISHERS LIVE

Where recapture fishers live
2021-2025

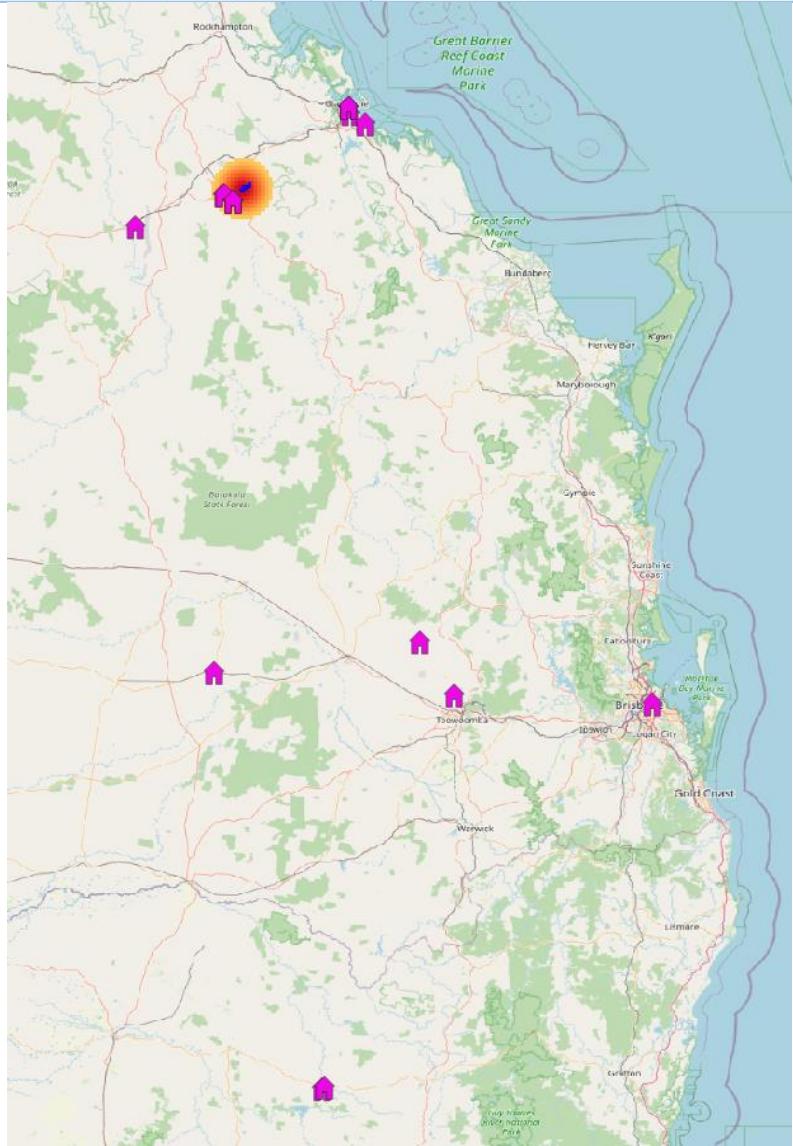
Fishers	19
Local	7 (37%)
Intrastate	10 (53%)
Interstate	2 (10%)

WHERE RECAPTURE FISHERS LIVE



Where fishers recapturing fish live (pink houses)

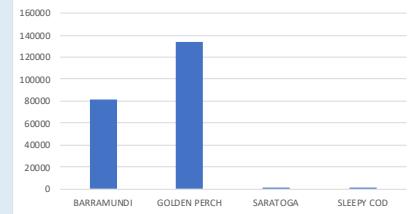
Local
Intrastate
Interstate
2021-2025



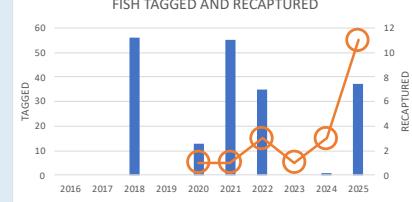
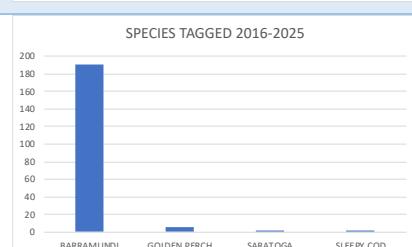
KEY SPECIES

BARRAMUNDI	GOLDEN PERCH	SARATOGA
		
SLEEPY COD		
Sleepy Cod <i>Oxyeleotris lineolata</i>		

STOCKING

Barramundi fingerlings stocked from SIPS -2020	Barramundi	Golden Perch	Saratoga	Sleepy Cod	Fingerlings	FINGERLINGS STOCKED 2014-2023
	170,768	320,290	301	1,268		

TAGGED

Fish tagged Recaptured 2016-2025	High	Low	Now	FISH TAGGED AND RECAPTURED
	Tagged			
	2018	2023	2025	
	56	0	37	
	Recaptured			
	2024	2019	2025	
	3	0	11	
Species tagged 2016-2025	Tagged			SPECIES TAGGED 2016-2025
	Barramundi	190		
	Golden Perch	5		
	Saratoga	1		
	Sleepy Cod	1		

BARRAMUNDI



DATA RELIABILITY

Sample size (av fish/year)

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

Tagged (blue arrow)



Recaptures (orange arrow)



Confidence %

Error %

2021-2025

TAGGED

Barramundi

Tagged 190

Tagged

Recaptured 20

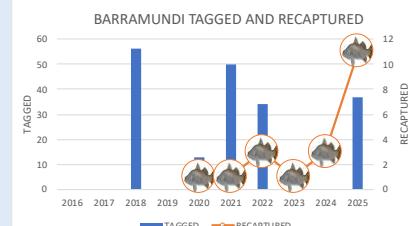
Recaptured

Recapture rate 10.5%

2016-2025

Tagged 2025 37

Recaptured 2025 11



LENGTHS

Average length (mm)

High Low Now

Bars show length range

Average length

2016-2025

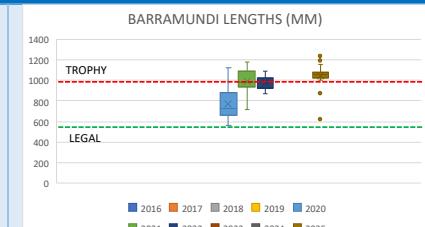
2021 2020 2025

997 776 1053

Max

2021 2022 2025

1180 1090 1240



Fish length percentage (%)

High Low Now

Undersize <580mm

Legal-trophy

Legal 580-1000mm

2020 2021 2025

Trophy 1000+mm

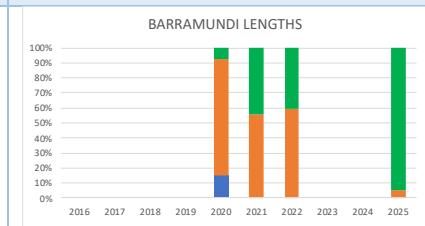
77% 56% 5%

2016-2025

Trophy

2021 2020 2025

44% 8% 95%

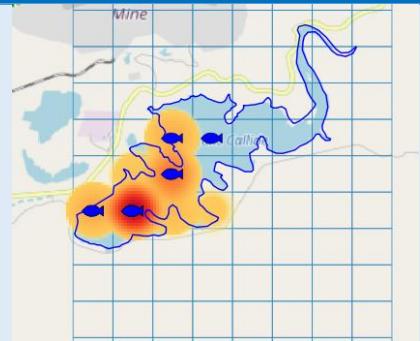


LOCATIONS

**Barramundi locations
2016-2025**

Tagged
Recaptured

190
20



GOLDEN PERCH

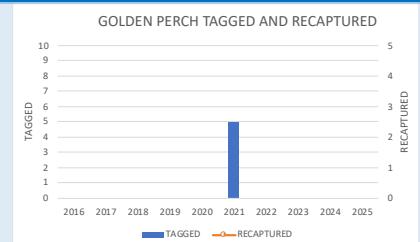


TAGGED

Golden Perch
Tagged
Recaptured
2016-2025

Tagged
Recaptured
Tagged 2025

5
0
0



SARATOGA

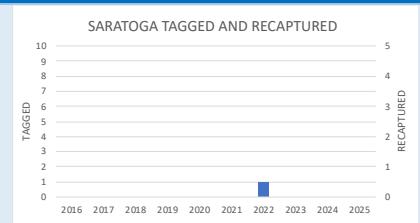


TAGGED

Southern Saratoga
Tagged
Recaptured
2016-2025

Tagged
Recaptured
Tagged 2025

1
0
0



SLEEPY COD

Sleepy Cod
Oxyeleotris lineolata

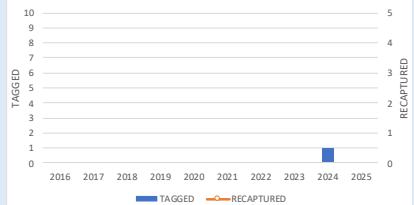
TAGGED

Sleepy Cod
Tagged
Recaptured
2016-2025

Tagged
Recaptured
Tagged 2025

1
0
0

SLEEPY COD TAGGED AND RECAPTURED



Data sources

Data used in the Lake Callide Crystal Bowl are:

- Tag records and recapture records for the impoundment at <http://crystalbowl.infofishaustralia.com.au/>.
- Dam level data from Sunwater at <https://www.sunwater.com.au/water-data/historical-dam-capacity/>.
- Stocked fish records and Lake Callide Family Fishing Classic competition from Callide Valley Native Fish Stocking Association.
- Rainfall records for station 039290 Biloela Valbona and temperature records for Station 039089 Thangool Airport from <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data>.

Basis for analysis

- Data reliability for fishers based on the sample size over the past 5 years for days fished by taggers and by fishers recapturing fish.
- Data reliability for fish based on average number of fish tagged and recaptured per year over the past 5 years.
- Undersized Barramundi are <580mm, legal-trophy fish are >=580 and <1000mm and trophy fish are >=1000mm. Legal fish are 580-1200mm.
- Locations based on Infofish grid map LCD 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 <80km, intrastate Qld elsewhere, interstate other than Qld.