



## Recreational Fishing in the ACT

Issued: 13 September 2006

The following provides information on recreational fishing in the waterways of the ACT. The *Fisheries Act 2000* came into force in September 2000. This legislation removed many of the inconsistencies between the ACT and NSW fisheries legislation and provides enhanced protection of native fish species.

The main angling species in the ACT are Murray Cod, Golden Perch, Trout, Redfin and Carp. The public waters of the ACT are divided into three categories:

- Open Waters;
- Prohibited Waters; and
- Trout Waters.

Penalties of up to \$5,000 apply for contravention of the *Fisheries Act 2000*.

### OPEN WATERS

The following areas are classified as open fishing waters:

- Murrumbidgee River that lies within the borders of the ACT downstream from the junction with the Gudgenby River;
- Molonglo River below Scrivener Dam; and
- Urban lakes (including Lake Burley Griffin, Lake Ginninderra, Lake Tuggeranong, Molonglo River upstream of East Basin of Lake Burley Griffin, Gungahlin Pond, Yerrabi Pond etc).

You may fish in open fishing waters all year round. If you catch Murray Cod or trout in these waters out of season, they must be returned to the water unharmed (see information under Closed Season below).

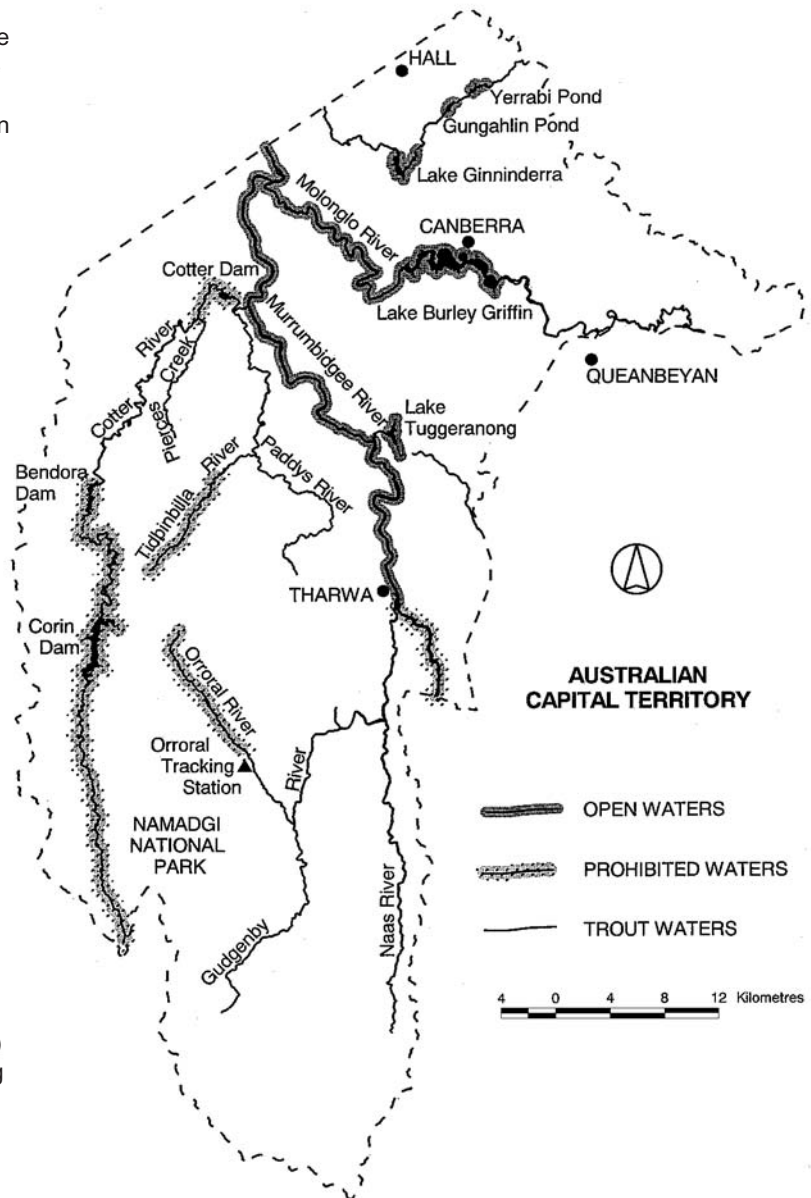
Fish may be taken with either two attended fishing rods, two attended hand lines, or one of each, with no more than two hooks on each line, supplemented by a landing net. Artificial, live or natural bait can be used, excluding finfish (fish with fins) and frogs which must not be used as live bait. It is illegal to dig for worms along river banks or in nature reserves.

### PROHIBITED WATERS

Fishing is prohibited in just a few locations in the ACT. These permanently closed waters are:

- Tidbinbilla River within the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve;
- Orroral River upstream of the Honeysuckle to Orroral management trail bridge west of the site of the former Orroral Space Tracking Station;
- Cotter River catchment upstream of Bendora Dam wall, including Bendora and Corin reservoirs;

- Cotter River and reservoir above the Cotter Dam wall up to the junction with Pierces Creek; and
- Murrumbidgee River downstream of Angle Crossing to the junction with the Gudgenby River (to protect threatened Trout Cod and Macquarie Perch).



## TROUT WATERS

Trout fishing waters include all public waters in the ACT that are not designated open fishing waters or prohibited waters.

Trout fishing waters are subject to a closed season which extends from the end of the long weekend in June to the beginning of the long weekend in October. Fishing for trout may only be undertaken with one attended fishing rod, with no more than two hooks per line, supplemented by a landing net. Only artificial fly and lure fishing is permitted in trout waters.

## PROTECTED FISH

There are five species of fish that are protected in the ACT: Trout Cod, Macquarie Perch, Silver Perch, Two-spined Blackfish and Murray River Crayfish. If you catch any of these species, you must immediately return them to the water unharmed. If the hook cannot be easily extracted, cut the line near the hook before releasing the fish. A fish has a better chance of surviving with a hook in its mouth than with a damaged mouth.

## BAG LIMITS AND MINIMUM LENGTHS

The bag limit is the maximum number of each species that can be caught per day or in your possession adjacent to fishing waters. Minimum lengths are measured from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail.

Species	Bag Limit	Minimum Length
Murray Cod	2	50 cm
Golden Perch	5	30 cm
Trout (either species)	5	25 cm

## CLOSED SEASONS

There are closed seasons for Murray Cod and trout to allow fish the chance to spawn undisturbed. The closed season for Murray Cod is September, October and November. The closed season for trout extends from the long weekend in June to the long weekend in October. If you catch Murray Cod or trout during their closed seasons, you must return them to the water with as little injury as possible.

## YABBY TRAPS, HOOP NETS AND BAITED LINES

Enclosed traps such as bait traps, minnow traps and yabby traps (wire mesh, folding frame or 'opera house' type nets) are prohibited in public waters in the ACT. They kill Platypus, Water Rats and Tortoises. You can use these traps in private waters (farm dams) but you should seek the landholder's permission first. There is a much lower likelihood of encountering Platypus and Water Rats in farm dams.

You can use up to 10 baited lines or five hoop nets for catching yabbies in open waters excluding the four nature reserves along the Murrumbidgee River. However, if you catch a Murray River Crayfish, you must return it to the water immediately. You cannot use baited lines or hoop nets in trout waters.

## RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENCES

You do not require a fishing licence for recreational fishing in the ACT.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

- Return all protected species to the water.
- It is illegal for recreational anglers to sell their catch.
- Do not use gaffs, spears, spearguns, bows and arrows, poisons, explosives or firearms to catch fish in the ACT.
- Do not use fish eggs or frogs as bait.
- Do not use live finfish as bait.
- Do not leave behind litter, dead fish, discarded line, glass or other rubbish.
- Do not move plants or animals from one water body to another.
- Do not transfer water, animals or plants from an aquarium to a water body.
- Do not remove the heads or fillet fish whilst adjacent to streams or lakes.

## FISHING FROM BOATS

On Canberra's urban lakes you are not permitted to use any type of powered boat without a permit. You may apply for a permit to use an electric powered boat on Lake Burley Griffin by calling the National Capital Authority on 02 6271 2888. To apply for a permit to use an electric powered boat on other Canberra urban lakes, contact Environment ACT by calling Canberra Connect on 13 22 81.

To use the Molonglo Reach Water Ski Area you must first obtain a booking by calling Canberra Connect on 13 22 81.

## FISHING AT GOOGONG FORESHORES

Fishing in Googong Reservoir is governed by the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Fisheries legislation and you will need a general recreational fishing fee receipt (licence) to fish there. A fee receipt (licence) is available from most tackle shops or you can contact Yass DPI (Fisheries) on 02 6226 3867.

Report any illegal fishing activity to Environment ACT by calling Canberra Connect on 13 22 81.

If you catch a protected fish, release it. Then, please report the capture to Natural Environment Policy and Research, Environment ACT, by calling Canberra Connect on 13 22 81, as it will assist in monitoring the status of these threatened species.

Macquarie Perch



Trout Cod



Two-spined Blackfish



Murray River Crayfish

