



MEDIA

release

Community Engagement Unit

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CLOSED SEASON FOR TROUT

Environment Protection and Heritage Director, Mr Robert Neil today reminded Canberra anglers that at midnight on Monday 9 June 2008, the Queen's Birthday long weekend, all Trout waters in the ACT will be closed to fishing.

"During this time it is also prohibited to take Rainbow and Brown Trout from all other waters in the ACT. The Closed Season will remain in affect until midnight Friday 3 October 2008," said Mr Neil.

"Anglers in the ACT are still permitted to fish the Murrumbidgee River (downstream from the junction with the Gudgenby River); the Molonglo River downstream from Scrivener Dam; and Canberra's urban lakes which remain open to fishing all year round. However, if you catch a rainbow or brown trout, you must return it to the water with the least amount of injury possible.

"By observing these simple rules, fishing enthusiasts will help look after a valuable recreational resource for future generations and maintain the ACT's reputation as a great place to catch a variety of freshwater fish," said Mr Neil.

The Closed Season is in accordance with the *Fisheries Act 2000*. This legislation is designed to conserve fish species and their habitat and promote sustainable, high quality and viable recreational fishing in the ACT.

The closed season provides additional protection to trout during their spawning season, when the fish are more aggressive and easier to catch. Protection of spawning fish is essential if trout are to be managed in a sustainable way.

The closed season in the ACT is the same as those in force in NSW and Victorian waters.

Call Canberra Connect on 13 22 81 during business hours for more information or visit www.tams.act.gov.au to obtain a copy of the information sheet "Recreational Fishing in the ACT".

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