



# NEWS BULLETIN 4

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## What is known about Releasing Fish and what do we need to know?

How much is known about the survival of released line caught fish and where should we invest our future research effort?

Well, thanks to Keith Jones, Lachie Macleay and Tim Ward of SARDI we now know what research has been undertaken into the subject and what areas future research should focus on. Keith received funding from FRDC to undertake Project 2001/101 "National Strategy for the Survival of Line Caught Fish – a review of research and fishery information" and the final report for that project has just been released.

The report provides the first comprehensive synthesis of information, covering both recreational and commercial fishing, on the survival of line caught fish produced in Australia. As well as reviewing Australian research the report also refers to relevant overseas studies, particularly from the USA. The report also deals with establishing future priorities for research into the subject.

The first part of the report provides a comprehensive analysis of:

- why fish are released and influencing factors,
- sources of data on catch and release in Australian line fisheries,
- the effects of catch and release on fish,
- factors that influence post release survival of fish,
- measuring the effects of catch and release on fish,
- harm minimisation procedures.

The second part of the report determines gaps in current knowledge and prioritises future research options.

The report assesses the key species requiring research and the most important survival factors that need to be assessed. Priorities have been identified at the national and state level. Future research needs have been identified for species or groups of species based on the temperate and tropical regions of Australia.

For more information contact Keith Jones at [jones.keith@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:jones.keith@saugov.sa.gov.au). Copies of the report can be obtained from the FRDC and will be available in early 2003 from the Released Fish Survival website [www.info-fish.net/releasefish](http://www.info-fish.net/releasefish).

## Tracking barramundi

29 barramundi in a Daly River billabong are currently revealing the secrets of their daily movement. Roland Griffin, Paul LeStrang and Quentin Allsop from Northern Territory Fisheries are being kept busy following the angler caught barramundi, fitted with radio tracking tags, around. The fish are being tracked over 5-7 days.

This work is all part of a FRDC funded project to provide an estimate of fish mortality from catch and release and examine the levels of stress in barramundi under a range of capture conditions.

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