



26 March 2010

Bulletin 162

| Tag details | | Recapture details |
|-------------|--|-------------------|
| Tag | U05945 | |
| Species | Barramundi (<i>Lates calcarifer</i>) | |
| Date | 12/11/2009 | 22/3/2010 |
| Length | 400mm | 450mm |
| Location | Frogmore Lagoon | Burnett River |
| Fisher | Daniel Powell | Colin Wedel |
| Days Out | 130 | |
| Growth | 50mm (140mm/year) | |
| Movement | 305km south along coast | |
| Released | Yes | |

This fish was unable to leave the lagoon until late 2009 so would have had to travel over 3km/day to cover the distance. Also the small size of the fish is interesting as it was still an immature fish.

In February 2008 the Fitzroy River flooded and allowed juvenile Barramundi to enter floodplain lagoons that were previously dry. One of those lagoons was Frogmore Lagoon. After the flood the connection between the river and lagoon dried up isolating the fish. In 2008 and 2009 over 1,000 juvenile Barramundi were tagged in that lagoon.

Towards the end of 2009 conditions were very dry and the lagoon was drying up. CapReef mounted a fish rescue with the aid of an electrofisher (see photo) and moved 570 fish back to the river. Within 2 weeks it rained enough to connect the lagoon back to the river and it has remained connected for most of the time since then.

Since the opening of the Barramundi season fish from the lagoon (including those rescued) have been recaptured in the river and now 1 has been recaptured in the Burnett River. This fish was 1 of 7 caught during monitoring by Fisheries in the Burnett River. All fish were in the same size range and the same size range as the fish that left the lagoon.

The intriguing unanswered question is did these fish travel in a school together from the same lagoon?

