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Bulletin 88

Rocky Barra Bounty



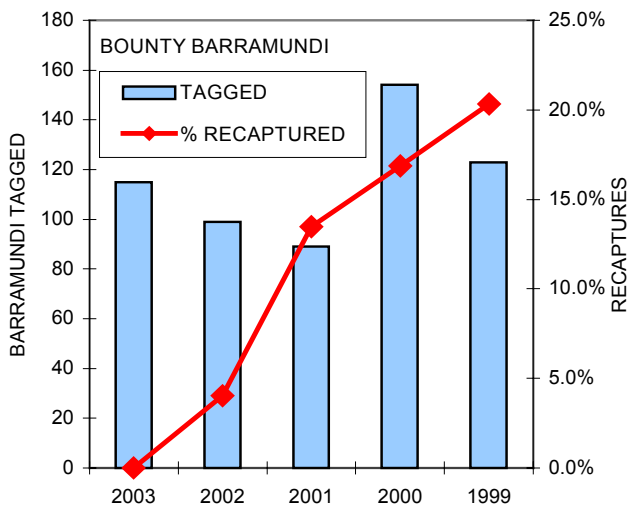
Suntag Recognises Bounty Tourism Award

The Rocky Barra Bounty has recently won recognition from the State's peak tourism bodies. It won a judge's Award for Tourism Product Marketing at the Queensland Tourism Awards. This is one of the few times a fishing event has received such recognition in relation to tourism.

The Bounty is a tag and release fishing event held each year in October on the Fitzroy River in Central Queensland and run under Suntag requirements. The inaugural event was held in 1999 and it has now been going for 5 years.

Its primary focus is tagging barramundi but includes other species. Entry is limited to a total of 60 fishing teams comprising 2 taggers and it has been fully booked for the past 2 years. The event has some unique features in the use of cameras to photo fish tagged and details of fish caught rung in by mobile phone so that progressive updates of results are available. Most prizes are draw prizes with the major prize being a Yamaha outboard donated by local tackle store Bluefin Sports.

Captag, a local ANSA tagging club, are the event promoters but receive considerable administrative support from the local tourism body Rockhampton Tourist and Business Information. This combination of fishing, business and tourist interests has ensured a different but attractive event. Proceeds from the event go to fish stocking of Fitzroy River and included \$3,000 towards a recent release of barramundi fingerlings.



The photographs are of barramundi caught during the event. Fish are tagged, measured and photographed before release. The fisher then phones through the details by mobile phone within 15 minutes.

The graph shows the number of barramundi tagged in each Bounty with the percentage of recaptures of fish from each year. Over 20% of the fish tagged in the 1999 Bounty have now been recaptured.

