

NEWS BULLETIN 19

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Flathead survival rates are high

The assessment of survival of Sand Flathead in Tasmania and Dusky Flathead in Queensland has been completed and the final FRDC report is now available. The survival of Dusky Flathead in NSW has also been assessed in a NSW Trust Fund project.

In the FRDC project the short term survival for Sand Flathead was 96% with almost 100% survival of shallow hooked fish and 64% for deep hooked fish. For Dusky Flathead in Qld the overall survival rate was 95% with 96% survival for shallow hooked fish and 73% for deep hooked fish. For Sand Flathead it was found that the use of circle hooks reduced deep hooking without affecting the catch rate. For Dusky Flathead the incidence of deep hooking was low for lure caught fish.

In the NSW project the survival rate of released weigh-in fish was 96%, while 81% of fish that were immediately released survived. Nearly all deaths occurred within 24 hours.

For more details on how the survival rates were arrived at you can access the FRDC report on the released fish survival website www.info-fish.net/releasfish. For more information on the NSW project you can visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.



National Strategy winding up

The National Strategy for the Survival of Released Line Caught Fish commenced in 2001 and is due to wind up in June 2007. However the work of the strategy will continue through Recfishing Research. The new program will look at a much broader range of recreational fishing research issues with continuing the work on released fish survival remaining a high priority.



In the next few months a number of additional products will be made available on released fish survival. Information will be made available on the survival of tropical reef fish species and Bream and Snapper in Victoria. The popular Gently Does It pamphlet is currently being updated and will be available shortly, a new DVD is being produced with funding from the Recreational Fishing Community Grants program and fact sheets on the website are being updated.

This email bulletin is to keep stakeholders up to date with what is happening in the National Strategy. Anyone with an interest in the subject can subscribe just by sending an email with "subscribe to Released Fish Survival News" to infofish@zbc.com.net or subscribe through the website at www.info-fish.net/releasfish.

