

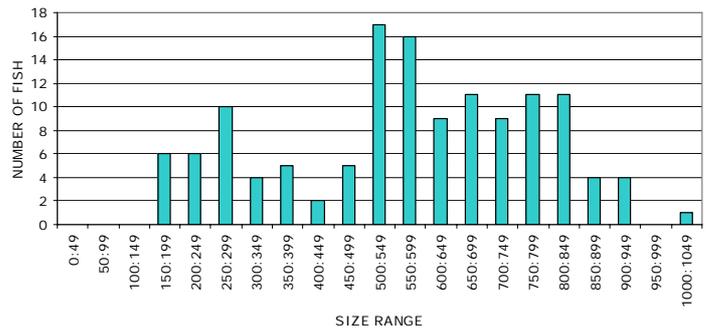
SUN TAG NEWS

15 January 2006

Bulletin 116



12 MILE BARRAMUNDI FISH KILL NOVEMBER 2005



On 26/11/2005 a fish kill was reported in a waterhole on 12 Mile Creek in Central Queensland. A total of over 5,500 fish were killed. This included over 2,000 Mullet, 1,700 Striped Butterfish, 1,400 Bony Bream and 133 Barramundi. The graph above shows the size range of Barramundi that were killed. Of the Barramundi there were 59 (44.4%) that had been tagged since the previous fish kill in May-June 2001. It took the waterhole almost 2 years to recover after that kill.

On 30/11/2005 there was a fresh in the creek following a local storm that flushed all the dead fish out. Thousands of small mullet made their way into the creek on the flow. A week after that there were 26 Barramundi tagged and 1 fish recaptured that had been tagged prior to the fish kill. This time the creek has recovered in about 2 weeks and not all fish had been killed.

The 2001 fish kill occurred at the end of the wet season whereas this one occurred at the beginning. This is an example of how critical timing is in these events.

The Austag Research Report for 2004/05 is now available and can be downloaded from the website. The highlight for the year was the passing of the 500,000 tagged fish mark for all the Austag programs with 517,000 fish tagged. Suntag passed the 400,000 mark with over 420,000 fish tagged. Also Barramundi became the first species to reach over 100,000 fish tagged with the total now over 108,000.



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