

Lake Monduran Advisory Management Committee Newsletter

October 2011

Sponsor a Baby Barra - barramundi fingerlings campaign to assist with the restocking program for Lake Monduran.

A scheme spearheaded by Rob Howell to raise money to assist the Lake Monduran Restocking with barramundi fingerlings has been setup for a 5 year duration, which by that time barramundi stocks in Lake Monduran should be back to normal. To date the promotion program has raised approx \$12,000 for the barramundi fingerlings. The Gin Gin Hotel is running raffles, posters have been put up in regional businesses, and ATPM have contributed to the scheme via promotion and a donation.



The photographs above are what Rob Howell's sponsor/buy a barramundi fingerling scheme is trying to achieve buy raising funds to purchase good healthy barramundi fingerlings to be stocked into Lake Monduran to enhance the nationally acknowledged barramundi fishery and tourist destination.

Parking areas for vehicles and trailers at current water levels.

Committee members attended a boat ramp site meeting with Council officers on the Wednesday 13 April to discuss the issue. Some of the ideas and suggestions that arose from that meeting include:

- Designated car parks should be marked out and no parking signage placed around the ramp.
- The boat ramp behind the Holiday Park cabins is not approved by the Department of Transport and is on Sunwater land.
- Consideration should be given to the possibility of putting another boat ramp in another location in order to alleviate some of the current ramp congestion and parking problems. Need to identify sites for a potential new boat ramp.

- Floating boat staging areas (pontoons) would be useful but impractical because of fluctuations in the dams storage levels.
- Council's design team to further investigate expanding the vehicle and trailer parking areas adjacent to the existing main boat ramp.

Qld Boating and Fisheries Patrol update

Geoff Fergusson explained that several patrols had been undertaken since the last meeting in February and that most anglers and boaties had been compliant with most regulations. He also pointed out that some anglers either forget or don't carry their Stocked Impoundment Permit (SIP) with them when they are on the water. Unfortunately, it is an offence not to carry the Permit with you and it can cost you a \$200 fine and if you haven't purchased a Stocked Impoundment Permit for fishing on Lake Monduran, this offence will set you back \$400.

Concerns about barramundi being trapped below the dam wall and possibly perishing when water levels start dropping.

Further trapped barramundi concerns have been raised by local anglers and are currently being looked at by a Technical Working Group and Sunwater Prior to the LMAMC meeting, Sunwater representatives and members from the LMAMC collaboratively explored and discussed the possible options for the management of stranded fish in spillway rock pools and a water release pool adjacent to Sunwater infrastructure.

Issues concerning public members accessing spillway infrastructure particularly during flood events .

There were many good ideas and suggestions put forward by LMAMC members about this potential public safety issue.

- Better dialogue and co-ordinated actions between ATPM, Bundaberg Regional Council and Sunwater over solving these public safety issues.
- Put a permanent fence around the Sunwater infrastructure; need to define Sunwater's boundaries around infrastructure. It was generally accepted by the LMAMC that by blocking public access along the dam wall would have negative impacts on future tourism.
- Greater use of appropriate signage, combined with ATPM staff advice to new campers.
- A camp ground map could include no trespassing and out of bounds fishing areas.
- As neither Sunwater, Fisheries Queensland or Bundaberg Regional Council staff have any powers to deal with trespassing issues, the matter should be further discussed with the local police for advice.

Review of the Lake Monduran Recreational Development Plan (May 1999)

- A scoping study to update and accelerate the completion of a new Recreational Development Plan has been suggested. This scoping study would identify what land is available and appropriate for future activities and what activities, services and infrastructure ATPM is going to supply once they have a lease.
- LMAMC Secretary tabled a copy of the recently completed *Recreational Master Plan for Wyaralong Dam Project*. This recreational plan included a large number of potential stakeholders who were not included in the Lake Monduran 1999 Recreational Plan.
- Qld Parks and Wildlife Service would be a major stakeholder in the updated Lake Monduran Recreational Plan and thus it was suggested that this organization be invited to become a member of the LMAMC.

Media exposure and tourism outlets to paint a positive picture with barramundi fishing in Lake Monduran.

There are still large numbers of big barramundi in Lake Monduran, with the public/anglers need to be reassured. Jamie Bein gave a comprehensive and positive update on the current fishing situation in Lake Monduran. There are still large numbers of barramundi located around the dam, but the fish are not biting well at the moment due to persistent low water temperatures. Media coverage on the current abundance and diversity of birds around Lake Monduran would be a positive story.

Queensland Stocked Impoundment Scheme Survey;

Central Queensland University and Queensland Fisheries are carrying out an survey of visitors to Queensland dams where fish stocking occurs. This survey will provide dam managers and government with a better understanding of the economic benefits which the stocked impoundment scheme creates for state and local communities and for visitors alike.

Following meetings in mid-July with fisheries officers, fish stocking association members and dam/dam kiosk managers a DRAFT final survey structure has been developed and is outlined below.

Briefly, the survey involves the following:

- One on-site questionnaire
- One web-based questionnaire
- Use of bi-monthly interviews to allow quality collection of on-site survey information using community organisations (e.g. Lions clubs) and fish stocking association members. We expect more than 200 surveys to be completed for each of the 8 dams using this approach

- Engagement of kiosk owners/managers to invite campers/day trippers to the 8 survey dams to complete questionnaires on their own outside of structured survey dates
- Engagement of SIP permit sellers to invite purchasers of SIP permits to visit the online survey website using small, business card sized, survey information notes
- Running of the survey from approximately the end of August 2011 to the end of February 2012 (6 months)

The remainder of this document outlines the details of the survey including proposed dates for structured survey interviews. Appendix A details an interview guidelines section to guide interviewers in their interactions with survey respondents.

1. On-site survey

Eight dams have been chosen to be included in the survey of SIP dam visitation in this research:

Glen Lyon Dam	Somerset Dam
Boondooma Dam	Lake Monduran
Lake Moondarra	Tinaroo Dam
MACKAY	Callide Dam

The on-site survey will be carried out in two ways: (1) using a structured interview approach utilising community organisations (e.g. Lions club) and fish stocking associations, and; (2) Allowing for self-completion by respondents at the 8 dams outside of structured interview periods.

1.1. Structured survey

The structured approach will involve community and fish stocking organisations travelling to dams for one day twice a month for six months. They will approach visitors at the boat ramps, and at the campground in order to obtain survey responses. Discussions with fish stocking association members and fisheries officers indicated that a Saturday afternoon will most likely be the busiest time and hence the best for surveying. Although we recommend that all groups survey on the same dates, we understand the need for flexibility. If any survey group needs or wants to change the time or date of surveying they may do so but we request they email Daniel Gregg to inform him of the change (d.gregg@cqu.edu.au).

Table 1: Proposed schedule for survey effort

Month	Survey effort	
	First	Second
August	27th	NA
September	10th	24th
October	8th	29th
November	12th	26th
December	3rd	17th
January	6th	27th
February	11th	25th

1.2. Self-complete survey

Copies of the same questionnaire used for the structured survey will be left at dam kiosks outside of structured survey periods. Visitors will be invited by kiosk managers to fill out the questionnaires and return them to the kiosk in their own time.

Fisheries officers will be asked to make regular calls to their respective kiosk to ensure that they have enough copies of the survey questionnaire available.

2. Web-based survey

The web-based survey is designed to capture people purchasing SIP permits online and asks them more general questions about travel to SIP dams. Whereas the on-site survey deals with a single trip to the dam in which it is answered, the web-based survey deals with all trips to all SIP dams over a given year.

In addition to internet purchases of SIP permits, we hope to use the web-based survey to capture information from some of the people who purchase SIP permits from tackle stores and from dam kiosks. In order to do this we will develop a business card-sized printout which provides the internet address which SIP purchaser's may visit if they wish to complete the internet survey.

The current plan is to send a parcel of business cards to participating businesses which sell SIP permits.

Any enquiries to the Secretary of LMAMC.

Contact Details:

- **Postal address – P O Box 1143 Bundaberg Qld 4670.**
- **E-mail – chris.lupton@deedi.qld.gov.au**