

2020 LEETON BIDGEE CLASSIC FISHING COMPETITION

Citizen Science Category

The 2020 Leeton Bidgee Classic includes a Citizen Science Category.

What is Citizen Science?

Citizen Science can be defined as “*the collection and analysis of data relating to the natural world by members of the general public, typically as part of a collaborative project with professional scientists*”.

How does this apply to the Bidgee Classic?

The application of Citizen Science will involve measuring, photographing and recording undersize Murray Cod (less than 55cm) and undersize Golden Perch (less than 30cm) that are **bycatch** from targeting legal size Murray Cod (55cm to 75cm) and Golden Perch (30cm and above). It will also involve recording your actual fishing hours each day irrespective of whether you catch a fish or not.

Who needs this information?

The Bidgee Classic is working collaboratively with NSW Fisheries, namely Dr Nathan Miles, Fisheries Scientist from the Narrandera Fisheries Centre. The collected data will be used in conjunction with other collected data to determine the status and health of our native fish populations above Gogeldrie Weir and will also form part of a state wide project.

What do I need to do?

Firstly, each day you need to record the total hours of your actual fishing time by sending a text message to **0419 904733**. The message is to include your Registration Number and total hours fished. Examples; Rego. No: 268 Friday 3 hours / Rego No: 54 Saturday 9 hours.

Secondly, if you were to catch an undersized Murray Cod or an undersized Golden Perch or any non-target species then you will need to photograph and enter the fish exactly the same way as photographing and entering a legal sized fish. Refer to “Rules for Photographing Fish” and “Registering Your Catch”. Please remember that these fish are prohibited sized fish and must be photographed as quickly as possible and returned immediately to the water.

Why should I participate?

Your involvement, by providing research data, will assist fisheries scientists to determine the current health of our fishery as well as determining strategies for improving fish populations. For example, is restocking making a difference? Do we need to increase fish habitat? When are environmental flows beneficial? How can we get our native fish to breed naturally? What are the triggers?

Citizen Science Categories.

Murray Cod Prizes

Adult: Total length of Murray Cod under 55cm (\$150 Voucher* + a hat)

Junior: Total length of Murray Cod under 55cm (\$150 Voucher* + a hat)

Golden Perch Prizes

Adult: Total length of Golden Perch under 30cm (\$150 Voucher* + a hat)

Junior: Total length of Golden Perch under 30cm (\$150 Voucher* + a hat)

Non-Target Species (No Prizes Awarded - Research Data Only)

Adult & Junior: All other species: Trout Cod, Silver Perch, Redfin, Catfish, River Blackfish.

Daily Draw Prize - From all registered anglers who enter their hours of fishing each day

Friday (\$150 Voucher* + a hat)

Saturday (\$150 Voucher* + a hat)

Sunday (\$150 Voucher* + a hat)

*Fishing Gear to the value of \$150 from the Yenda Producers Stall (On-site at Gogeldrie Weir Holiday Park)