

Mr Peter Gibson
President, Council of Freshwater Anglers
PO Box 37
PADDINGTON NSW 2021

By Email: info@freshwateranglers.com.au

Dear Mr Gibson

Minor changes to recreational fishing rules

Some minor changes to recreational fishing rules will come into effect on 30 April 2021 relating to the blue swimmer crab size limit and the use of 'opera house' style yabby traps.

The size limit of blue swimmer crabs will increase from 6cm to 6.5cm to help assist with protecting spawning crabs and to improve the productivity of the stock through time. It will also provide consistency between the recreational and commercial fishing sectors.

The use of 'opera house' style yabby traps by recreational fishers will also be prohibited as this gear type poses a risk to air breathing animals such as platypus, water rats and turtles, which can inadvertently get caught in traps.

In 2003, 'opera house' style yabby traps were prohibited in areas where platypus are mostly found; those waters east of the Newell Highway and in some stretches of the Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers west of the Newell Highway. This rule change will prohibit the use of these traps in the remaining waters of NSW.

These changes are being implemented following consultation with and support from the NSW Recreational Fishing Advisory Council.

Recreational fishers are currently able to use open style pyramid lift nets to target yabbies in all inland waters where hoop nets are permitted. Pyramid lift nets are a more environmentally friendly gear option.

DPI will commence an advisory program to advise about the upcoming rule changes. This will include a giveaway program involving the distribution of pyramid lift nets to help transition anglers to these new nets. 5000 pyramid nets will be distributed using our inland Recreational Fishing Education Officers and Fishcare Volunteers at promotional events, field advisory and fishing competitions, via DPI Fisheries Officers during their patrol duties and social media campaigns.

DPI Fisheries will also be consulting with the commercial yabby sector about the adoption of new trap designs in waters where opera house traps are used, to ensure ongoing protection for native species.

If you require any additional information, please contact Bryan van der Walt, Program Leader Recreational Fisheries on (02) 6691 9675.

Yours sincerely



Sean Sloan
Deputy Director General
DPI Fisheries

3 March 2021