



Title: Southern Brisbane Sport Fishing Club Australian Bass (Macquaria Novemaculeata) Information Project

Q1: What do you intend to monitor?

Australian Bass (Macquaria Novemaculeata)

<https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/fisheries/species-identification/inshore-estuarine-species/australian-bass>

Q2: Where will you monitor?

The Logan River and Albert River Systems from the headwaters to the Mouth of the Logan River, To the vicinity locally know as “The Power Lines”.

Logan River Areas between Grid Sites V39 (18,13,14,9,10 and 5). V38 (25 and 20). W38 (16,11,12,7,8,13 and 9) and Albert River Grid Sites within W39 and W38.

It is acknowledged most activities will occur in 6-8 target areas where access to the Logan and Albert Rivers have/can be arranged with property owners and via public access areas.

Q3: Why is this species and area a priority for monitoring?

Australian Bass occur naturally in the Logan & Albert system, but man-made structures have impeded their migratory paths. Logan & Albert Fish Management Association have been stocking Australian Bass in the upper reaches of the Logan & Albert since 1998.

Luscombe Weir on the Albert prevents upstream migration (no fish ladder) once Bass have spawned in the lower reaches of the Logan. Observations by club members indicate that the Bass suffer from a lot of fishing pressure in the lower Albert.

Monitoring of Bass in the system would give a true picture of the fishing pressure and indicate if Bass tagged in the Albert migrate up the Logan because of blocked passage by Luscombe weir.

Q4: Who will use your data?

1. Southern Brisbane Sportfish Club
2. ANSA QLD
3. Government Bodies
4. Third Party Researchers
5. Regional Councils
6. Stocking Groups
7. Special Interest Groups
8. General Public

Q5: How will the data be used?

This project will provide information that will give better understanding on fish movements within the Logan and Albert River catchments, growth rates, catch effort, recruitment, seasonal catch

Recreational Fishery Monitoring Plan



variations, locality and fishing methods to help organisations and individuals with the goal of a well promoted and sustainable fishery.

Data will be quality checked, collated and archived to be available for ANSA members and third parties upon request.

SBSFC will also use the activity and data to promote sustainable fishing and best practice fishing methods and habitat protection for Australian Bass.

Q6: What data quality do you require?

The primary objective of this project is to allow anglers opportunity to collect fishery data as a means of citizen science participation. The idea is to value add to the fishing experience and in doing so, create greater awareness of the study species (population, growth & movement patterns)

Although the primary focus of the program is citizen science based, data collection methods will be as robust as possible to ensure data quality is as high as possible to allow for as many potential end uses as possible. Data Quality will be set at a level where the complexity of collection and data entry methods does not greatly inhibit participation.

The quality of data is likely to be of indicative quality (better than demonstrative but not analytical)

The data will be collected by SBSFC members and other interested ANSAQ members. Instruction will be made available to all persons involved in collecting and handling any data. The data collection and reporting procedure will be standardised in line with the ANSA database requirements.

Q7: What is the proposed period of monitoring? When and how often will you monitor?

The intent is to commence monitoring in the Logan and Albert River Catchments from the end of the 2016 Australian Bass Closed Season.

SBSFC will review the effort and results of the monitoring program on an annual basis with a view to learning and improvement, and assessment of whether resources could be better allocated to another priority.

Monitoring will primarily be opportunistic in nature (when members are fishing).

SBSFC members are known to regularly fish areas of the Logan and Albert Rivers. SBSFC also conducts 2x club trips annually to different areas of the catchment with the aim of gathering data via a larger sample of fish over a short period of time.

Club activities usually occur on the weekend.

Members will be encouraged to participate in monitoring outside of scheduled club activities. Members fish a great deal more often than the average recreational angler, and usually with greater effectiveness.

Q8: What methods will you use?

It is envisaged that the majority of fish will be captured with as little stress as possible, before careful measurement, tagging, and quick release.

- As part of normal recreational fishing activities, fish capture information as outlined in field of form: <http://www.ansaqld.com.au/awards/entry-form/> will be collected for captured Australian Bass.

Recreational Fishery Monitoring Plan



- Members will fish according to the ANSA QLD code of Ethics (<http://www.ansaqld.com.au/code-of-ethics/>) and the National Code of Practice (http://www.ansaqld.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/recfish_australia_ncop_brochure.pdf) adopted by ANSA QLD.
- Fish destined for release will be released according to the ANSA Code of Practice for Releasing Fish (<http://www.ansaqld.com.au/code-of-practice-for-releasing-fish/>)
- Tagging will be conducted according to the AUSTAG Manual (<http://www.ansaqld.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Austag-Manual-Complete-with-Work-Instructions.pdf>) noting that the manual will be updated during 2016-17. Tagging data is added directly by members who tag a part of the fish capture form. Any field sheets used reflect fields in this web-form.
- Location of fish will be recorded using Queensland Government Logbook Maps (<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/fisheries/commercial-fishing/monitoring-and-reporting/reporting-commercial-fishers/queensland-logbook-maps>)
- Fishes of Australia (<http://fishesofaustralia.net.au/>) is used to identify fish species

Q9: Who will be involved and how?

Monitoring will be conducted by Southern Brisbane Sportfish Club members and other ANSA QLD members who visit the area of interest. Reporting of recaptures will be open to the general public.

ANSA QLD will provide fish capture database facility, tags and support to Southern Brisbane Sportfish Club members.

Fisheries Queensland or third party researchers will be involved as interested or required to achieve the other objectives of the monitoring program.

Q10: How will the data be managed and reported?

- Data is added directly by members into the fish capture form and checked by the SBSFC Tagging Co-ordinator before submitting to ANSA.
- When submitted this is logged in the ANSA QLD MySQL database.
- Results will be reported online using a series of codes that query the database and then visualise this data. Data will also be provided to Fisheries Queensland and third party researchers to report.
- Records are maintained on ANSA QLD server using MySQL database. Database is regularly backed up.

Recreational Fishery Monitoring Plan



Version

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Author/s:

Kevin Ford, SBSFC Tagging Co-ordinator.

Lloyd Willmann, SBSFC ANSA Representative

Southern Brisbane Sportfishing Club

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/176495542392600/>

Website: <http://www.sbsfc.org/>

Contact

Southern Brisbane Sport Fish Club

P O Box 5057

Eagleby 4207



Background

Why do we need a plan like this?

ANSA Qld and our members have limited resources (money and time) to contribute to monitoring, so we need to make sure we are doing it for good reasons.

The plan is simply to help you think about why and where you want to direct your efforts. We should make sure that we are contributing to highest priority issues, not just tagging as many fish as we can. For this reason the ANSA Qld executive committee will seek input from Fisheries Queensland and other research institutions into highest priority species and locations to help refine monitoring effort.

It also demonstrates to others that we are professional in our approach to monitoring.

How is the revised ANSA Qld tagging program different to what we have previously done under Suntag?

Tagging will be conducted according to the AUSTAG Manual (<http://www.ansaqld.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Austag-Manual-Complete-with-Work-Instructions.pdf>) noting that the manual will be updated during 2016-17. Specific revisions include:

- ANSA QLD Tagging is now the name of our state program for Queensland
- Tagging data is added directly by members who tag as part of the fish capture form. Any field sheets used reflect fields in this web-form.
- Tags use the web address www.ansaqld.org.au instead of a phone number for submission of recaptured fish information.
- Tag and recapture information is generated online at www.ansaqld.org.au and replaces letters and certificates. Recapture certificates will be emailed to anglers in the future when an automated facility for this function is developed
- Records are maintained on ANSA QLD server using MySQL database. Database is regularly backed up.
- Recreational Fishery Monitoring Plans are required for all ANSA QLD Research and Tagging projects. These documents provide detail on target species and other project related matters
- Tag purchase is currently through Floytag. ANSA QLD reserves the right to select any supplier based on access, price and customer service.
- Tag Register and Audit will be maintained on ANSA QLD server using MySQL database. Database is regularly backed up.
- Location of fish will be recorded using Queensland Government Logbook Maps (<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/fisheries/commercial-fishing/monitoring-and-reporting/reporting-commercial-fishers/queensland-logbook-maps>)
- Fishes of Australia (<http://fishesofaustralia.net.au/>) is used to identify fish species