



# VICTORIAN MULLOWAY TAGGING

## Newsletter- January 2018

Welcome to the first edition of the Victorian Mullet Tagging Newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide anglers with a summary of the tag and recapture data collected across the state. This recreational tagging program is funded by the Victorian Fisheries Authority through Recreational Fishing License Fees, and will continue for the next three years. Since the project got under way in November 2017, we have provided tagging kits to 51 anglers. We consider this to be a good starting number but if you know of anyone that would make a valuable member of our tagging team, please let me know. We are particularly keen to hear from anglers that are interested in tagging and releasing mullet from the marine waters and areas around Melbourne.

### Tagged Fish

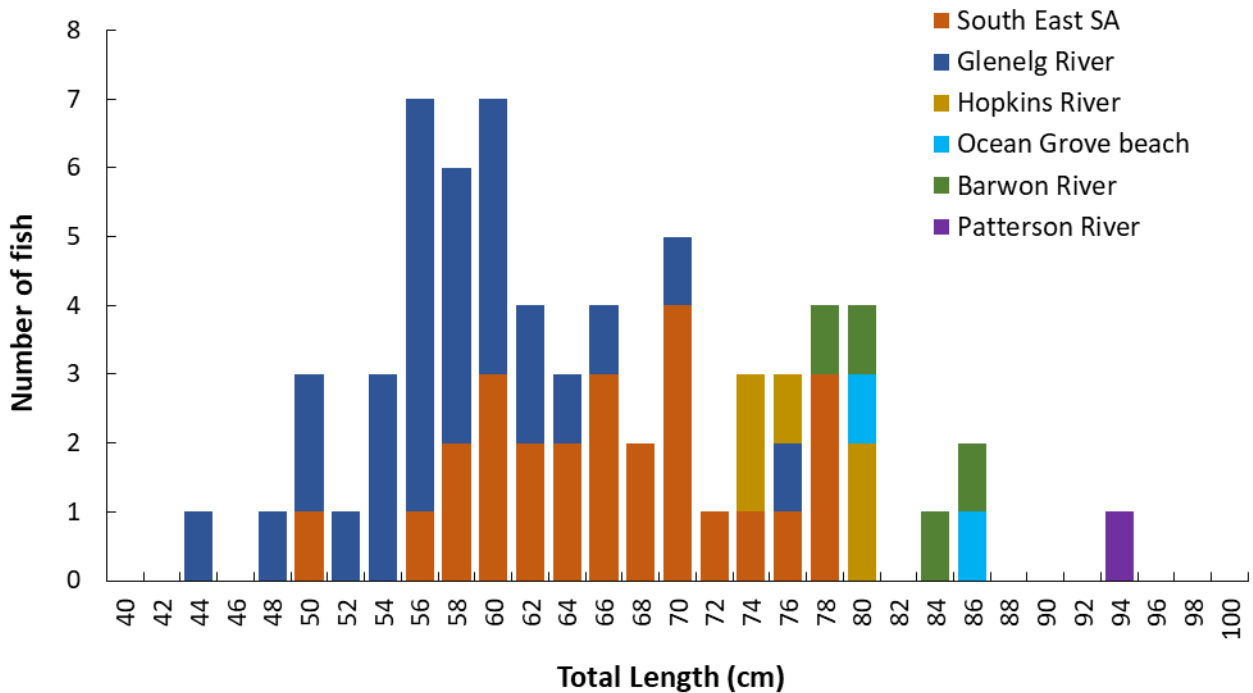
Since the project kicked off, a total of 66 mullet have been tagged which is an impressive start! Most fish have been tagged from the Glenelg River and the nearby beaches around Port MacDonnell

#### Regional break down

River/Area	Fish Tagged
Glenelg River	28
South East SA	26
Hopkins River	5
Barwon River	4
Ocean Grove beach	2
Patterson River	1

in South East South Australia, while a smaller number have also been tagged from the Hopkins, Barwon, Ocean Grove beach and Patterson River. Tagging fish just over the border near Port MacDonnell is considered important, since spawning is likely to take place in these areas and may provide sources of recruitment for western Victorian mullet stocks.

Tagged mullet have ranged in length from 45.5 to 95.5 cm (Figure 1). The majority of fish tagged from Port MacDonnell beach (South East SA) and the Glenelg River have been below 80 cm, while some larger fish have been tagged from Ocean Grove Beach and the Barwon, Hopkins and Patterson rivers.



**Figure 1.** Number of mulloway tagged by anglers from the various regions between November 2017 and January 2018.

### Top Taggers for summer 2017/18

Angler	Fish Tagged
Michael Gordon	24
Nigel Telford	10
Shane Murrell	4
Shane Lowery	4
Jake Simmonds	3
Neil Humphries	3
Ray Bertrum	3

Michael Gordon has put in a great effort over the past few months, tagging a total of 24 fish. Sitting second on the leader board is Nigel Telford, who has tagged an impressive 10 fish from South East SA. Well done to these guys and all the other anglers that are off to a flying start! As a thank you, you'll each receive a certificate once you have cracked double figures.

### Largest Fish Tagged for summer 2017/18

Angler	Location	Total Length (cm)
Shane Swain	Patterson River	95.5
Jarryd McDowall	Ocean Grove Beach	87
Ray Bertrum	Barwon River	86
Al Gladman	Barwon River	84.5
Shane Murphy	Hopkins River	81
Mark Gercovich	Hopkins River	81
Ray Bertrum	Barwon River	81
Jarryd McDowall	Ocean Grove Beach	81



*Shane Swain holds the record for the largest mulloway tagged (#0132) to date at 95.5 cm. The fish was caught from the Patterson River in December.*



*Jarryd McDowall with his 81 cm fish tagged (#0061) from Ocean Grove beach in December.*



*Kobi Rothall tagged (#0251) this 62 cm fish from the Glenelg River on the in December.*



*Shane Lowery with a healthy 65 cm fish tagged (#0447) from the Glenelg River in December.*

## Recaptures

In the very short time the project has been running, we have already recorded four recaptures which is quite amazing! Michael Gordon has been lucky enough to have two of his tagged fish recaptured. Michael tagged a 58 cm fish from the Glenelg River mouth and 42 days later, it was recaptured further up the Glenelg River near Princess Margaret Rose Caves by Kade Faulkner, measuring 59 cm. After travelling 14 km upstream, the fish was released back to the water. While moving only a short distance, it's expected that we'll see greater distances travelled as the project progresses.

Despite having only five fish being tagged in the Hopkins River so far, we have already recorded a recapture. The fish was caught by Shane Lowery at 74 cm and after 7 days, was caught again by Mark Hadden. Finally, we have also seen a recapture in the marine waters. Nigel Telford tagged a 71 cm mulloway at Danger Pt in South East SA and was caught from the same location 18 days later by Jamie Coates.



## Tagged mulloway recaptures for summer 2017/18

Tagging Angler	Total Length (cm)	Tagging Location	Recapture Angler	Total Length (cm)	Recapture Location	Days Out	Distance travelled
Michael Gordon	58	Glenelg River mouth	Kade Faulkner	59	Glenelg River caves	42	14 km
Michael Gordon	77	Glenelg River mouth	Tobias Sicely	79	Glenelg River mouth	35	<1 km
Shane Lowery	74	Hopkins River	Mark Hadden	74	Hopkins River	7	<1 km
Nigel Telford	71	Pt Danger (SE SA)	Jamie Coates	71	Pt Danger (SE SA)	18	<1 km

### Please tell your friends to look out for yellow tags!

If you are fortunate enough to catch a tagged mulloway, please record the tag number and total length of the fish and get in touch with us at Nature Glenelg Trust either by phone (0448 139 690) or email ([mullowaytag@ngt.org.au](mailto:mullowaytag@ngt.org.au)). The tags are yellow, approximately 10 mm in length and should be located along the top of the body, just below the fourth dorsal spine.

Once again, thanks to all anglers that have got on-board with this tagging project. It is only just the beginning with lots of exciting times to come! If you have any comments or questions, feel free to get in touch by email [lauren.veale@ngt.org.au](mailto:lauren.veale@ngt.org.au) or phone 0439 034 390.

