

# THERE'S SOMETHING FISHY ABOUT THE WARREN RESERVOIR

Story by Kate Willson

The Warren Reservoir has been open for recreational fishing by permit for some time and a number of reservoirs around the state are set to follow suit. But the recent commencement of stocking the Warren with native fish is a major step forward in RecFish SA's long-running project which aims to promote recreational fishing with the added benefits of boosting local tourism and improving water quality in South Australian reservoirs.

The native fish being introduced include Murray Cod, Golden Perch and Silver Perch fingerling obtained from New South Wales hatcheries. TAFE SA aquaculture students have been involved in the cultivation of the Silver Perch up to thirty centimetres in size.

'It's been a long time coming,' says RecFish SA's Project Manager, Danny Simpson. 'This provides broader opportunities to South Australian fishermen to experience something akin to lake fishing. It is a safe alternative to ocean fishing and provides opportunities that school groups

don't currently have outside of West Lakes. It may draw interstate fishermen here. Certainly the east coast of Australia has seen good development around the industry with the use of impoundment fisheries. Interstate, the fishing of Murray Cod alone is worth millions of dollars.'

It is good news for towns in surrounding areas as there is strong potential to boost tourism with increased numbers of people coming to fish in the Warren. RecFish SA's recent survey of five hundred recreational fishermen showed that 71% rate the Warren as the reservoir they would like to visit to go fishing. 86% of those fishermen said they would be likely to visit the local town for food and drinks during their fishing expeditions and 58% indicated they would sometimes stay overnight in local accommodation.

There is also the flow-on effect that environmentalists and indeed anyone concerned with South Australia's water quality can look forward to, being the reduction of noxious

pests currently present in local waters, namely Redfin, Carp, Gambusia (Mosquitofish) and Goldfish, which could result in the added benefit of reducing algae blooms, thereby improving water quality across the state, as Dr Michael Sierp, a RecFish SA board member and an expert in marine and freshwater issues, explains.

'Currently the techniques used to control algae blooms in Australia rely on flushing large volumes of water, using copper sulphate, chlorine or hydrogen peroxide to kill a bloom or using costly engineering solutions which by and large haven't worked in South Australia. Research conducted here shows that our Australian native fish are significantly better at promoting good water quality than introduced noxious species. So increasing their prevalence and decreasing known blue-green algae fish catalysts is a very good thing. Native Australian fish are also better than Gambusia at controlling mosquitos which is important with respect to the current mosquito-borne viruses present in Australia,' says Dr Sierp.

Less mozzies, better fishing, increased tourism and improved water quality - sounds like it's time to dust off the rods, defrost the bait and put up the 'Gone Fishing' sign as the

popular Warren Reservoir kicks off the project.

Updates on the project and fishing permits can be accessed on RecFish SA's website, [www.recfishsa.com.au](http://www.recfishsa.com.au).



*An Adelaide Hills caught Golden Perch.  
Image courtesy of David Ciaravolo.*