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Only another month until the bass season!! The years seem to go so fast to me, yet the closed season seems to go so slow. Maybe its because I've had a very ordinary blackfish season so far - the seas have either been unfriendly, its blowing a gale or the fish small or absent. My thoughts are currently alternating between the imminent arrival of our first grandchild and dreaming of the warm bass season ahead. I look forward to having a good year of bassin' after the last couple of years of La Nina. These years of high rainfall and enhanced fish passage should see us get at least a summer or two of great river conditions and hopefully, good fishing. C'MON September 1 !!

July marked the First Anniversary of our work site at Emu Plains. Since July 2011, we have made it to work there every month except for a couple early this year during the floods. Hats off to the (small) core of people that turn up almost every month. Kudos also to new Committee members Shayne Alexander and Daniel Flood that have attended frequently in spite of their young families. I encourage all members to show up on our work days when they can. Don't forget - only people that attend Russell Street work days are eligible to buy tickets for the Miller Rod raffle!

Bass Sydney presented at the Fishers for Fish Habitat mini-forums at Taren Point and Berowra. These were the 2 Sydney-based forums. There were 9 throughout NSW. We presented our history of working for fish passage and fish habitat and why we do what we do. Keep hammering out the message to all those who will listen!! Alan Izzard and Ashley Thamm also spoke to landholders at Ourimbah Ck on the Central Coast. Alan also has the honour of being invited to speak at the National Recreational Fishing Conference on the Gold Coast mid-August. Bass Sydney member, founding member of Native Fish Australia and long-term advocate of recreational fishing, Graham Pike will also be speaking at the Conference.

Happy fishing!

HS Tham

Sensational Sydney

With the doldrums of winter setting in, it was a matter of if you can't beat the weather, than take advantage of it.

In recent years I have been unable to fish as much as I would like, therefore it has been a while since I have caught some fish that can really pull some string. With repeated poor bass seasons. I have become quite preoccupied with targeting things that can pull some string. I also needed a bit of adventure in my life and after coming back from Cape York peninsula life has been a bit boring, therefore it was time to get out into the wild rough water off Sydney. Fishing around headlands might not be everyone's cup of tea. It is what you need to do to target big Sydney pelagic, like salmon and king fish. I spend a few days researching winds and swells and dusted of my hobie which has been gathering dust for 12 months. I was up at 4am getting dressed in the freezing cold; It was so cold I left my pyjamas on and put at least 5 layers of clothing on top. I arrived at the boat ramp near Manly and to my surprise it was packed. My adrenalin started pumping as I hastily setup the yak to get on the water before everyone else. For those who do any open water fishing know how much crap you need to carry and the time it takes, to set up.

Once on the water I forgot all about the cold and the thrill of the chase took over. The water was pretty flat initially, but once I rounded quarantine bay the conditions became quite rough. I pushed on as far as I dared before I started fishing. I started fishing throwing a little 3 gram metal lure halco lure around to tempt a salmon. My theory is they feed on small baitfish and the smaller the presentation you can throw the better. The water was becoming quite unpleasant as the swell made the horizon appear and disappear I felt a little out of my comfort zone so I moved a little closer to shore. Once in the lee of the heads I started throwing my metal lure at the stones, and BANG. My 3-5kg Shimano t-cure was buckled over at unprecedented levels. None the less I was quite disrespectful to the power of this fish as I began go apply maximum pain to the silver bullet. It did not like that and began pulling even harder, there was no way my rod could sustain much more of this type of pressure so I paddled into some open water and got to work pumping and winding. I was using 10lb fire line with a 20lb leader. I needed every bit of it too as this thing really went to town on stitching me up



Nice brace of open water fish

Day break

Sloppy seas

After 10 minutes a hansom Australian salmon was along my yak and my little environet made quick work in securing him. Once I secured the fish safe for the table (*I quite like eating them despite what people say*) My other rod went off. At this point I should mention that in recent times I have gone a bit nuts on E-Bay and am now the proud owner of a 15kg jig stick. Manufactured by the highly acclaimed and very reputable Saratoga Company of China! And it was the grand total of \$15.00!. Well I grabbed this bad boy and smashed the crap out of this poor fish who grabbed a gulp 5 inch plastic off the bottom. In quick time a really good flathead came yak side and was soon dispatched to join the pot. I headed around the bend and again my 15kg game rod began to go off. This time it played up a little more than the last time. I gave this thing as much curry as i could, my theory is if you have it you may as well use it. Therefore I cranked this thing up as hard as I could. I laughed as I wound in this pelagic brute. I eventually had a very nice tailor which on any other gear would have been a handful but with my new brute buster it was light work.

August 2012

I head back by 9:30 and was sitting in a salubrious northern beaches cafe admiring the great ocean view sipping my late and enjoying my poached eggs with hollandaise sauce. I savoured the monet before I faced the traffic of Sydney for the drive home.

- Chris Ghosn

Cape York sojourns Chapter 1



It hardly seems like we were there but back in May Anthony, Neville, Dave and myself made the pilgrimage to Cape York Peninsula in search of behemoths of the north. Over 12 months of planning came and went and as usual it wasn't enough time. There just wasn't enough time in the day to deal with work commitments family as well as pack as thoroughly as possible. None the less the day arrived and we all met up at the airport as keen as mustard to get there. We had to stay overnight in Cairns before making our way to Bamaga the following day. We arrived at Bamaga under heavy sky's and thick tropical humidity.

Environmental news

- Streamwatch water quality testing is still one of Bass Sydney's long standing environmental tasks. The Lane Cove, Nepean and Georges rivers are tested monthly to ensure the water quality remains within recommended guidelines.
Recently the overall responsibility and management tasks of Streamwatch have been taken over by the Australian Museum from the originator Sydney Water.
- In April this year Bass Sydney members attended a weeding and ballon vine removal morning on the Banks of the Lane Cove River. This was followed up by a planting morning in July where 400 tubes were planted to regenerate a section of the bank on the Great North Walk near Fiddens Wharf Oval.

NEWS

Sydney CFA Meeting 18-08-2012

The next Council of freshwater anglers meeting will be held at the Penrith regatta centre on the 18-08-2012. It would be great to get some bass Sydney members to come along.

Guest speaker August general meeting

Rebecca Mooy from the Hawkesbury Nepean CMA



The five NSW Coastal Catchment Management Authorities are partnering with the NSW Boating Industry Association, Boat Owners Association of NSW, Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW, NSW Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries) and NSW Maritime to undertake an 'Environmental Education Strategy for Boaters and Fishers' project.

The project involves delivering educational presentations to boating and fishing community groups across coastal NSW. A community group presentation titled '**HEALTHY WATERWAYS = better boating, more fish**' has been developed in conjunction with the project partners. This comprehensive presentation reinforces the values and good practices to assist in maintaining access and a sustainable environment to continue to enjoy boating and fishing.

The presentation addresses what recreational boaters and fishers can do to assist regarding the following aquatic environmental issues:

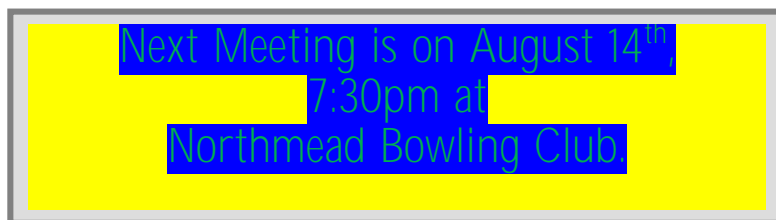
- Minimising impacts to aquatic habitat
- Stopping the spread of aquatic pests
- How to become involved in protecting and enhancing the aquatic environment

The project partners recommend the presentation to boaters, fishers, clubs or groups. For more information or to arrange a presentation to your club or group, please contact:

August 2012

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