

Native fish in the Murray–Darling Basin

Evaluation snapshot



Australian Government



We are working towards a healthy and productive river system. Since European settlement, native fish in the Murray–Darling Basin have dramatically declined.

Five years in to the Basin Plan we are seeing some early results and there is still more to do. There are a range of other factors that affect native fish in the Basin.

In the Basin Plan Evaluation, the MDBA will analyse the trends and recommend ways to improve conditions for native fish. For native fish, we are waiting on the 2016-17 data and will include this in the full evaluation.

46 NATIVE SPECIES in the Basin

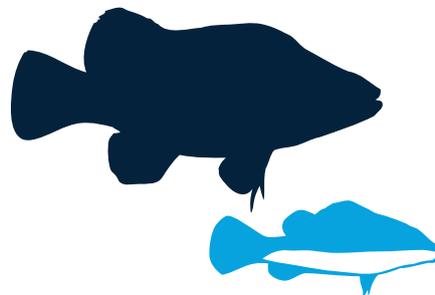
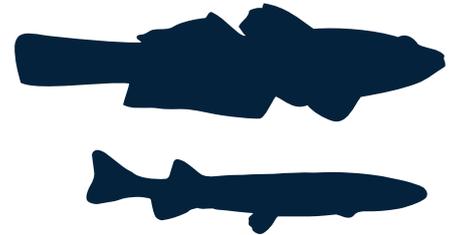


SPECIES UPDATE

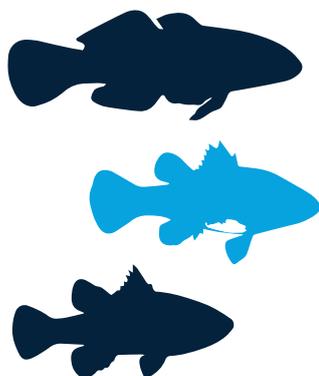
26 species are listed as threatened or endangered

IMPROVING POPULATIONS

Macquarie perch, Trout cod and Murray cod populations are improving

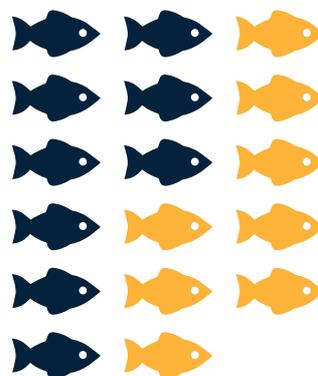


Common galaxias and Congolli are improving in the Lower Lakes



SPECIES AT RISK

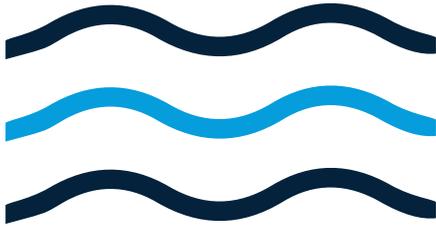
3 species, Southern pygmy perch, Purple-spotted gudgeon and Yarra pygmy perch are declining



STABLE POPULATIONS

9 out of 17 freshwater fish species have stable Basin-wide populations

Water for the environment is released by environmental water holders, at specific times and locations to help native fish breed and move through the Basin.



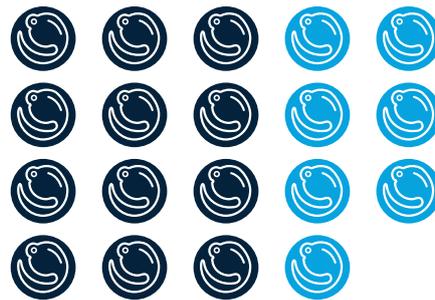
FLOW EVENTS

Over three years, almost 300 flow events were provided by environmental water holders, to support native fish species

Around 90% of the monitored flow events contributed to a positive response by native fish

SPAWNING EVENTS

Water for the environment triggered or enhanced spawning events for several of our Basin fish species
For example Golden perch, Murray cod and Silver perch



INCREASED MOVEMENT

Water for the environment also supported the large-scale movement of Golden perch and Silver perch; which is critical for their life-cycle needs



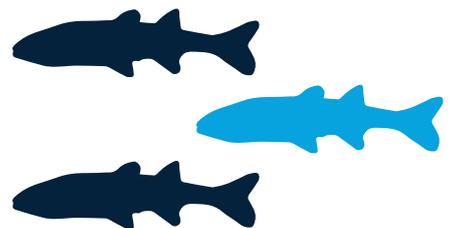
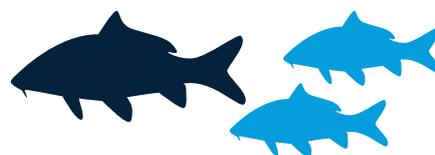
RECRUITMENT

Water for the environment supported recruitment events for Basin-wide species including Murray cod, Silver perch and Golden perch

THREATS TO NATIVE FISH

Carp are a top-tier threat to the health of many native fish species and aquatic environments

The MDBA supports the National Carp Control Plan being developed by the Australian Government



SURVIVAL RATES

Water for the environment supported the survival of 3 populations of the critically endangered species Murray hardyhead