

Snowy bass info night

From Marlo in Victoria, to Jindabyne in New South Wales, Australian Bass numbers have now been restored to nearly the entire length of the Snowy River.

It was only 15 years ago when the Snowy River had one major generation of aging fish that were fast running out of time to successfully breed again and replenish the population.

Snowy River bass are not considered genetically different from other Australian bass in South East Australia, however, the thought that the lineage of Snowy River Bass could end was unthinkable to many in the recreational angling community.

Thankfully, both the New South Wales and Victorian governments made funds available at that time to artificially breed bass from the remaining Snowy River bass and restock the Snowy.

Again, just before Christmas, Fisheries Victoria, as part their program to get one million Victorians fishing, stocked another 40,000 Australian bass into the Snowy River at McKillops Bridge.

The Snowy River now appears to be well stocked with bass and a new era of exciting fishing opportunities has begun. The hope is that the Snowy River could once again become the premier Australian bass fishing river in Australia.

The burning question that many ask in regards to the future of Australian bass in the Snowy is, 'Are the environmental flows purchased for the Snowy River restoration sufficient to allow Australian bass to breed naturally again in the Snowy?'

To try and answer this question, Marlo Angling Club is excited to present Dan Stoessel, from the Arthur Rylah Institute, who has studied the lack of natural recruitment of Australian bass in the Snowy River for the past two to three years.

His work is focused on the estuary of the Snowy River. Australian bass spend most of their lives in the freshwater reaches of the Snowy River in Victoria and New South Wales. They migrate to the estuary in spring when they are ready to breed. Dan has some new findings to share on this topic as well as bass and estuary perch life cycles and spawning requirements.

Following Dan's presentation, Liz Brown, from the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (EGCMA), will discuss what the EGCMA is doing in terms of ongoing investigation on the impact of environmental flows to the Snowy River.

The information evening will begin at 6.30pm on Monday, January 30, at the Marlo Angling Club on the Marlo foreshore.