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## VICTORIAN MULLOWAY TAGGING

### Newsletter- May 2018

Welcome to the second edition of the Victorian Mulloway 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 relies on the dedicated involvement of anglers.

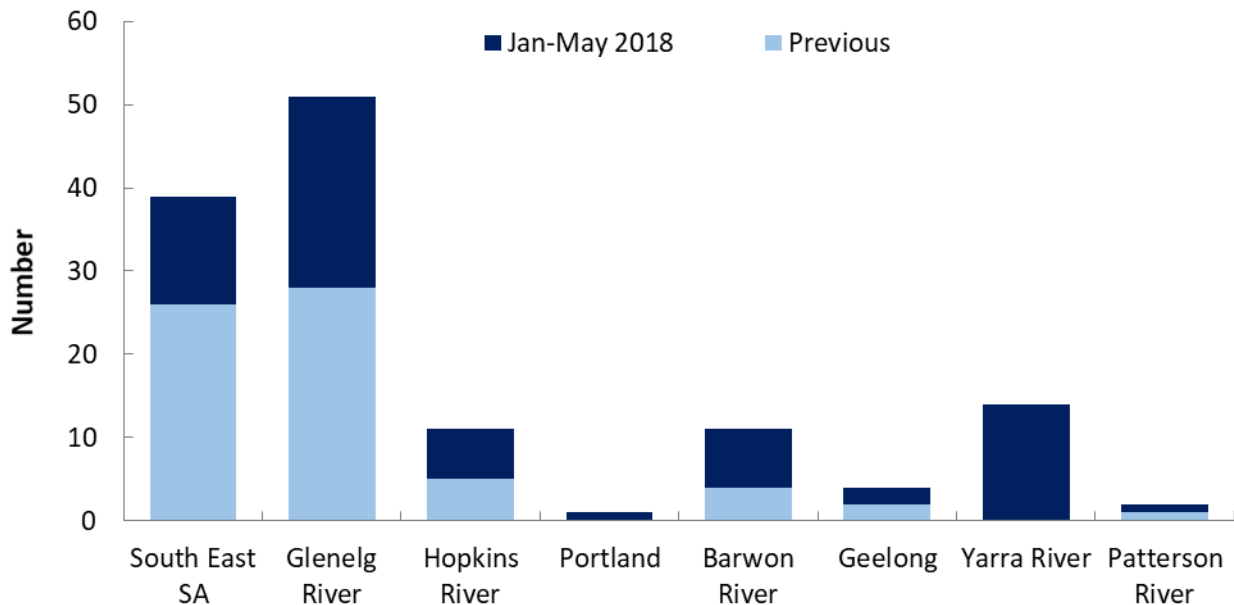
Since the first newsletter (January 2018), an additional 7 anglers have come on board, bringing the total to 58 anglers providing valuable data to better understand the species. We still have a small number of kits available so if you know of anyone that would make a valuable member of our tagging team, please let me know. We are particularly keen to hear from anglers interested in tagging and releasing Mulloway from marine waters, central Victoria (Yarra and Patterson rivers) and eastern Victoria (Mallacoota, Gippsland lakes).



*Luke Gercovich with his 80 cm Mulloway tagged in the Hopkins River in March.*

## Tagged Fish

Since the January 2018 newsletter, an additional 67 Mulloway have been tagged, bringing the total to 133 fish (Figure 1). A fantastic effort by all! Over the past few months we've seen Mulloway tagged in new areas of Victoria, including the Yarra River and Portland. The majority of tagged fish have come from the Glenelg River and nearby beaches around Port MacDonnell in South East South Australia.



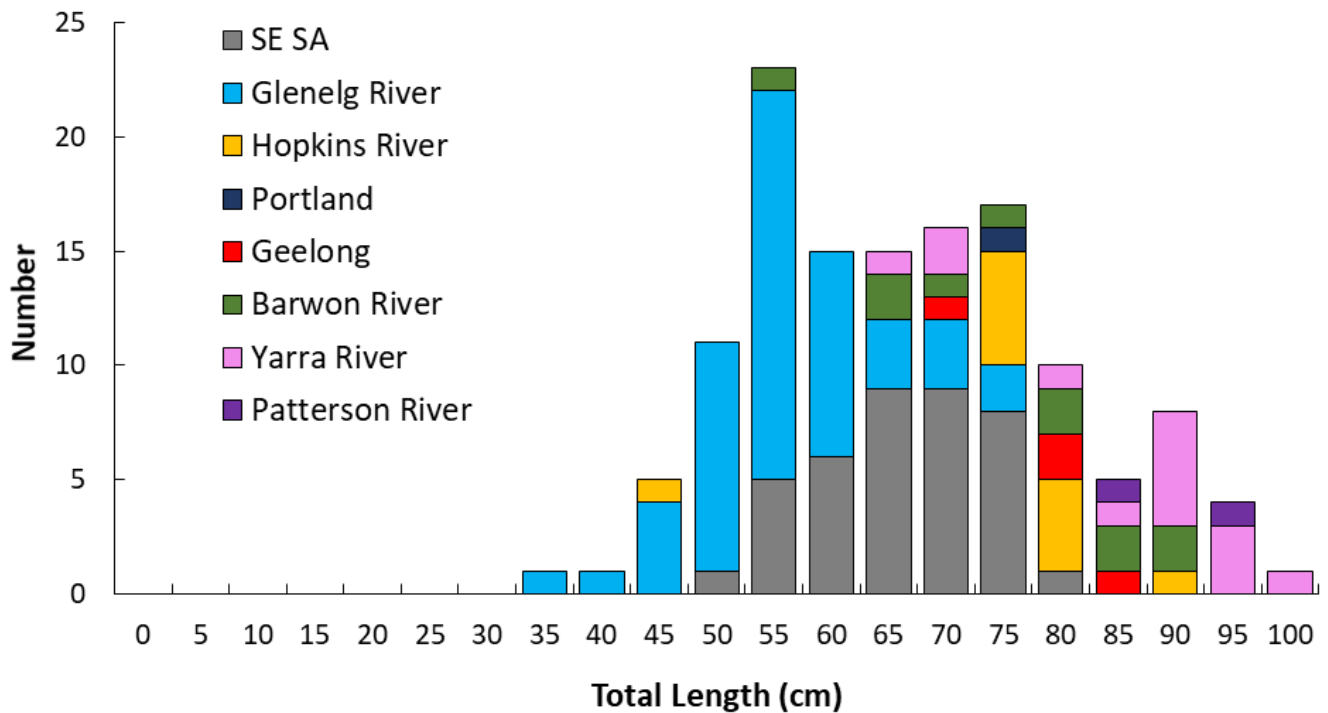
**Figure 1.** Numbers of Mulloway tagged across the various regions/waterways.

## Top taggers (as of May 2018)

Michael Gordon continues to hold the lead for the most Mulloway tagged at 37, followed by Nigel Telford on 17. Over the past month, Steve Kovacevic has put in a lot of hours, which have paid off with him tagging 11 Mulloway in the Yarra River. Great work Steve! Neil Humphries has also been busy on the Glenelg, while Mark and Luke Gercovich, have split their time tagging in both the Glenelg and Hopkins rivers. Jaryd McDowall has also been successful targeting Mulloway in the Barwon River and nearby Beaches, tagging a total of 11 fish.

Angler	Fish Tagged
Michael Gordon	37
Nigel Telford	17
Steve Kovacevic	11
Jaryd McDowall	7
Neil Humphries	7
Mark & Luke Gercovich	7
Shane Lowery	6
Gary Brown	5
Shane Murphy	5
Bohdi Pannenburg	4
Shane Murrell	4

There has been a great range of size classes tagged, with Mulloway ranging in length from 38.5 to 102 cm. Brad Spiden has become the first angler to tag a Mulloway over the magic metre, with his 102 cm fish caught from the Yarra River (Figure 2). 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, Patterson and Yarra rivers.



**Figure 2.** Length frequency of Mulloway tagged by anglers from the various regions.



The largest Mulloway tagged so far is this 102 cm fish caught from the Yarra River by Brad Spiden.

### Largest Mulloway Tagged as of May 2018

Location	Angler	Total Length (cm)
South East SA	Shane Murrell	80
Glenelg River	Michael Gordon/ Mark & Luke Gercovich	77
Hopkins River	Shane Murphy	93
Vic Marine waters	Jaryd McDowall	87
Barwon River	Jaryd McDowall	93
Yarra River	Brad Spiden	102
Patterson River	Shane Swain	95.5





*Jaryd McDowall with the largest Mulloway to be tagged in the Barwon River, at 93 cm.*



*Steve Kovacevic with a 93 cm Mulloway tagged from the Yarra River.*



*After joining the program only weeks ago, Aaron Coleman has already tagged his first Mulloway!*



*Luke Gercovich with a 81 cm tagged Mulloway from the Hopkins River.*



*Another descent Mulloway tagged from the Barwon is this 89 cm fish caught by Al Gladman.*

## Tagging recaptures

Since January 2018, we have recorded an additional five recaptures, bringing the total to nine. Two Mulloway have been recaptured in the Yarra River, both being caught within 1 km of where they were tagged. The largest growth observed was that of a 63 cm fish tagged in the Glenelg River in December last year. The fish was recaptured 116 days later, measuring 5 cm and covering a distance of approximately 8 km. This is not too surprising, given Mulloway do most of their growing during the warmer months of year.

Perhaps the most interesting recapture to date, has been the 59 cm Mulloway tagged in February this year near Port MacDonnell in SA, which was recaptured in the Glenelg River 42 days later, covering a distance of approximately 15 km. No growth was observed throughout this period which is unusual for summer, but it's presumed the fish was utilising energy for movement rather than growth. This recapture confirms connectivity between coastal waters of South East SA and the Glenelg River, and aligns with the knowledge that Mulloway migrate into estuaries from the ocean as juveniles.

### Total Mulloway recaptures as of May 2018 (new in grey)

Tagging Angler	Total Length (cm)	Tagging Location	Recapture Angler	Total Length (cm)	Recapture Location	Days Out	Distance travelled	Growth
Michael Gordon	58	Glenelg River mouth	Kade Faulkner	59	Glenelg River caves	42	14 km	1 cm
Michael Gordon	77	Glenelg River mouth	Tobias Sicely	79	Glenelg River mouth	35	<1 km	2 cm
Shane Lowery	74	Hopkins River	Mark Hadden	74	Hopkins River	7	<1 km	<1 cm
Nigel Telford	71	Pt Danger (South East SA)	Jamie Coates	71	Pt Danger (South East SA)	18	<1 km	<1cm
Gary Brown	59	Pic Ponds Beach (South East SA)	Chris Fellenberg	59	Glenelg River-Donovans	42	15 km	<1 cm
Kobi Rothall	63	Glenelg River mouth	Ron Jones	68	Glenelg River-Donovans	116	8 km	5 cm
Brad Spiden	87	Yarra River	Ben Bremer	88	Yarra River	37	~1 km	1 cm
Jovica Simic	74	Yarra River	Hieu Duong	76	Yarra River	10	<1 km	2 cm
Mark/Luke Gercovich	77	Glenelg River	Clinton Sicely	78	Glenelg River	27	1 km	2 cm

## 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 cm 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.

