

# Fish tracking in the Vasse-Wonnerup

## *Project update April 2014*



Funded by:



### STATE NRM OFFICE

Natural Resource Management in Western Australia



Freshwater Fish Group & Fish Health Unit

[www.freshwaterfishgroup.com](http://www.freshwaterfishgroup.com)

Investigators: Stephen Beatty, James Tweedley, Joel Williams, James Keleher, Jeff Whitty, David Morgan, Mark Allen

Community Coordinator: Alicia Reagan – Department of Fisheries W.A.

Supported by:



GeoCatch

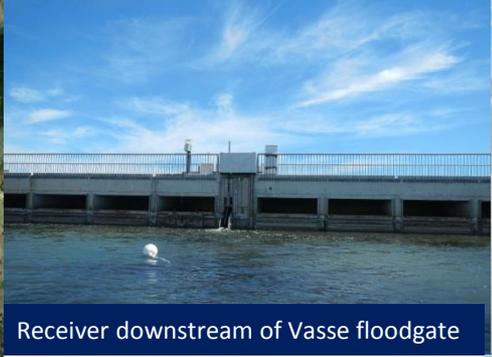
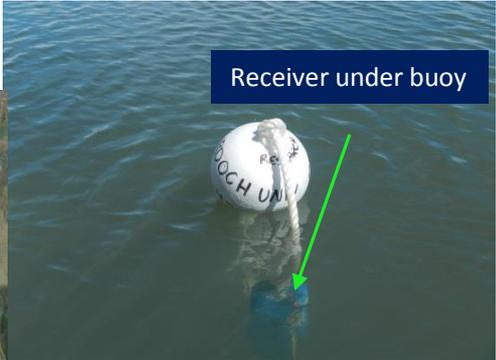
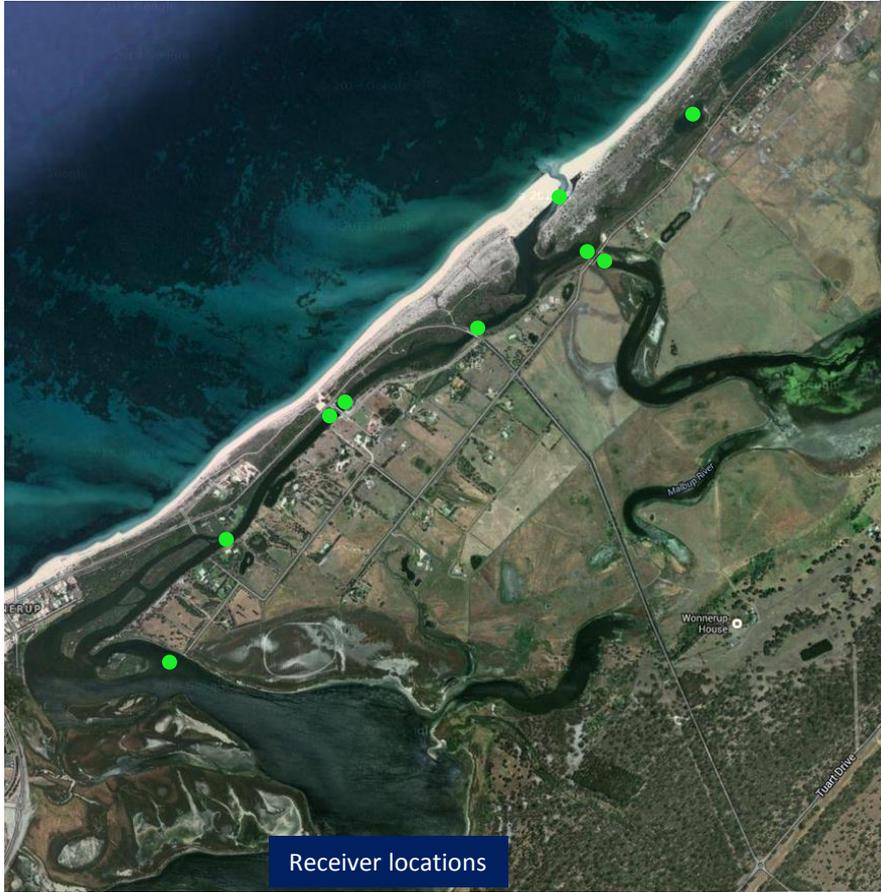


Government of Western Australia  
Department of Water



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Fisheries





11 Acoustic receivers ('listening stations') deployed March 2014 (N.B. two in Vasse River not shown)



Students fishing hard



Blake Williamson with his catch



Sarah Smith with "Fluffy" the Black Bream



Blake Williamson releases tagged fish

Busselton High School Year 9's April 4<sup>th</sup> - one Bream (nicknamed "Fluffy") acoustically tagged + 4 T-bar tagged



James Tweedley talks Black Bream



Students learn the different fish species



Sadie Marriott with her Black Bream

# Busselton High School (cont.)



Seine net demonstration



Discussing the project



Surgery demonstration



Downstream of the Vasse gates

## Busselton High (cont.)



Discussing fishing techniques



Students fishing



Discussing fish tracking



Surgery demonstration

## Busselton High (cont.)



Xavier and Lachlan releasing tagged fish



Surgery during the rec. fishing day



Surgery during the rec. fishing day



Biggest fish: by Jadon Wilder 389 mm TL

Recreational fishers Black Bream tagging day >25 participants: (5 Black Bream acoustically tagged, + 16 Black Bream T-bar tagged)



Alicia registering participants



Team shirts



Surgery demonstration



T-bar tagged Black Bream)

Recreational fishers Black Bream tagging day (cont.).



Joel Williams inserting an acoustic tag



Jeff Whitty inserting an acoustic tag

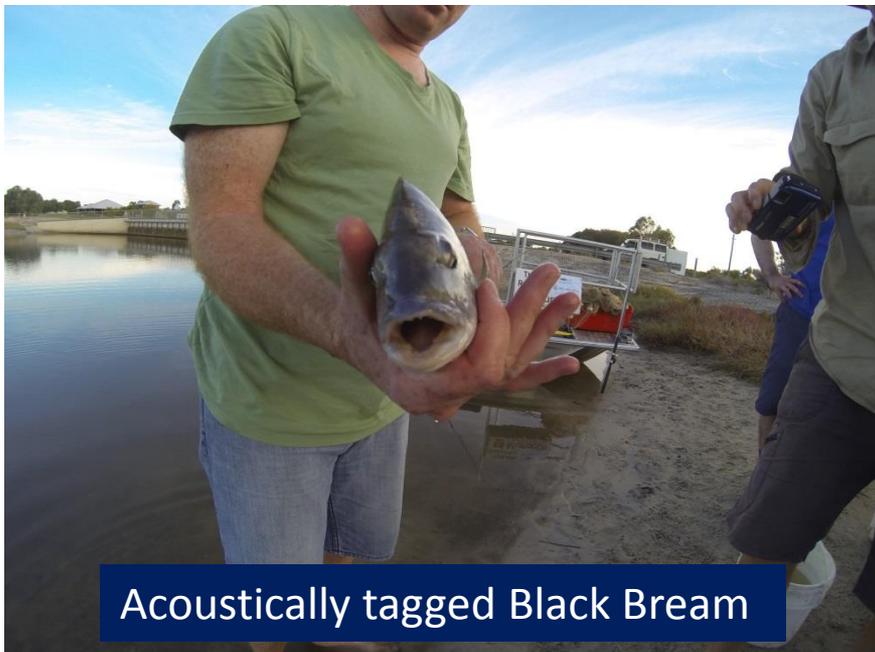


Steve Beatty inserting an acoustic tag



Acoustically tagged Black Bream

Surgery (colouration = Betadine (not blood!))



Acoustically tagged Black Bream



T-bar tagged Black Bream

SUMMARY: First tagging trip April 3-5

Total Bream acoustically tagged = 18 (size range 254-389 mm TL) + T-bar tagged = 56 (201-242 mm TL)

Total Sea Mullet acoustically tagged = 5 (size range 265 – 300 mm TL)

# *Special thanks to:*

- *Alicia Reagan (Dep. Fisheries) for her exceptional coordination of these community events*
- *Busselton High School Year 9 students and Renay Down.*
- *Community members: Glen Stevens, Howard George, Jadon Wilder, Darcy Rochford, Peter Blake, Hazel Blake, Alan Hatfield, Ryan Hatfield, Skye Hatfield, Ralph Sohns, Jessica Hampton, Cassie Teasdale, Mark, Charmaine Brindley, Tom Brindley, Jessica Brindley, Alan Porter, Sophie Sparkes, Jacob Ness, Zane McTaggart, David Tromp, Tim Putt, Sandra Putt, Xavier Putt, Lachlan Putt*