



MEDIA RELEASE

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Gippsland Lakes overrun with carp following major spawning

Lake Wellington in the Gippsland Lakes area of Victoria is currently overrun with carp due to a major spawning event.

National Carp Control Plan (NCCP) staff have visited the area to understand the extent of the problem, and found the rivers teeming with carp, according to NCCP National Coordinator Matt Barwick.

“The warmer water and still conditions are perfect for carp to thrive, and this latest carp outbreak reinforces the need for action when it comes to getting Australia’s significant carp problem under control,” Mr Barwick says.

“Carp outbreaks such as this have been shown to affect irrigation systems of local landholders, by blocking their supply of water. Not to mention all of the other destructive impacts carp have, including negatively impacting water quality and aquatic biodiversity,” Mr Barwick says.

The NCCP is assessing potential use of a species-specific carp virus, Cyprinid herpesvirus 3, as a biocontrol agent for carp in Australia. Research, planning, and consultation under the NCCP will ensure that risks associated with carp biocontrol are understood, and mitigation measures identified.

Operating through the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC), the \$15 million NCCP will provide a detailed plan to the Australian Government which will make a decision regarding release of the carp virus as a biocontrol agent in late 2018.

Mr Barwick says the NCCP is engaging with impacted regions and encourages anyone else who sees such dramatic shifts in the carp population to notify the NCCP.

“We want to work collaboratively with the local community - as healthy river systems and waterways result in healthier communities. We want to understand the ecological values of the affected river systems and waterways and work together to help solve the carp problem,” Mr Barwick concludes.

The NCCP is holding community briefing sessions throughout Victoria, including in Sale on 13 November and Lakes Entrance on 14 November. For further information please visit www.carp.gov.au.

Ends

Image Caption: Thousands of carp eggs stuck to commercial fishing nets at Lake Wellington in Victoria.

Media inquiries

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