

## Clean-up a key part of developing the Carp control plan

4 June 2019

Research projects informing the National Carp Control Plan (NCCP) are currently in their final stages of being reviewed ahead of the work being presented to the Australian Government in December 2019.

If the Government decides to proceed with release of the carp virus to control carp, there may be the need to clean up large numbers of dead fish in some areas.

Dr Luiz Silva from Charles Sturt University and his team have been reviewing information from around the world to recommend the best way to approach a carp clean-up, should it turn out to be necessary.

“Most of the clean-up reports we found referred to accidental fish kills and lacked well organised clean-up and disposal efforts, these are literally more like an emergency response” explains Dr Silva.

The study highlights the importance of preparation and planning for any possible fish kill events. A plan is the first part, but then having access to resources to do the clean-up is vital.

“There are two important phases to cleaning up a mass fish kill. The first may seem obvious and easy removing the fish from the water, however in a country as large as Australia with remote regions this could be quite a challenge. Then there is a need to dispose of the carcasses appropriately and safely” Dr Silva said.

“Because the carp virus release is only a concept at this stage (requiring government approval) it represents an opportunity to develop a well thought-out clean-up and disposal plan beforehand” Dr Silva stated.

Researchers also acknowledge and recommend carrying out clean-up trials to investigate the efficiency of different strategies in different ecosystems (terrains).

This research project is an important part of the NCCP and provides insight on a key challenge of a clean-up should the government decide to release the carp virus and it be required.

The National Carp Control Plan (NCCP) remains on track to deliver a report to the Australian Government in December 2019.

The NCCP is a \$10.2 million program led by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, on behalf of the Australian Government. The program aims to address the questions: is it feasible to release the carp herpes virus to control carp? If so what is the most effective way to release and manage the virus?

**IMAGE** Caption: Carp feeding; Credit: Tom Rayner

### **MEDIA CONTACT:**

**Peter Horvat**

Manager of Communications, Trade and Marketing

D +61 2 6285 0414m M +61 415 933 557, E [peter.horvat@frdc.com.au](mailto:peter.horvat@frdc.com.au)