



Monaro Acclimatisation Society Inc
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Sustainable future fishing for trout and native fish

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Trout Cod Recovery Plan Status

Founded in 1937, the Monaro Acclimatisation Society Incorporated (MAS) is a voluntary organization primarily concerned with the development and maintenance of freshwater fisheries in south-eastern New South Wales in the Snowy Monaro region. Because this region contains mostly trout water, the MAS has a focus on trout, but it also makes significant contributions to the native fish program throughout the region. The MAS is a primary stakeholder with the NSW Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries) and is recognized as such under the Fisheries Act 1935. MAS participates with NSW Fisheries in the stocking of freshwater lakes and rivers, maintenance of habitat, contribution to policy and legislation affecting freshwater fishing in NSW.

MAS seeks your advice on a number of matters in respect to the efforts for restoring Trout Cod to Australian waters.

In regards NSW, MAS has been engaged with DPI during community engagement for a draft Trout Cod Action Plan

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-10/draft-trout-cod-action-plan.pdf>

and also with stocking of Trout Cod into the Goodradigbee River.

Our understanding is that these Trout Cod stockings are by way of trial, firstly to confirm survivability of stocked fish and, hopefully in due course, natural recruitment. We understand that conditions last year were not conducive to surveying near Flea Creek or McIntyre's Hut but that no Trout Cod were captured.

Searching the Federal websites, it seems that while Victoria has a 2023 Action Statement on Trout Cod, the most recent Federal documentation dates back to 2008.

https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicspecies.pl?taxon_id=26171

That National Recovery Plan seems to have been active approximately 2008-2013. We do note the requirement:

“Within five years from adoption, an external reviewer will be appointed to undertake a formal review and evaluation of the recovery program.”

We seek the following from you:

- What is the status of a National Trout Cod Recovery Plan?
- Where can we obtain access to the external reviewer report from the 2008 plan?
- Given Victoria, and soon NSW, are developing updated Trout Cod Recovery Plans or similar, what are the Federal intentions in this vein?
- We note with interest that the 2023 Victorian Action Plan do not cite introduced trout as a threat to Trout Cod. The Federal assessment, within a large grouping of introduced species, saw trout to be only low threat ranking for predation and competition. Did the external reviewer report address the impact of trout?

MAS share with all the sincere desire to see this iconic species be restored. We do however have concerns over possible bans on stocking trout into premier trout waters in NSW and seek to be engaged in Trout Cod developments.



Kerry Pfeiffer

President

Monaro Acclimatisation Society

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