

Mary River Cod Fact Sheet

Scientific Name: *Maccullochella mariensis*

Common Name: Mary River Cod

Status: EPBC Act (1999): Endangered

Distribution: Mary River and tributaries.

Habitat: Slow flowing freshwater streams in lowland areas and rocky upland streams. Favours deep pools, overhanging vegetation, boulders, logs and undercut banks.

Description: Large, elongated fish, slightly concave head profile with protruding lower jaw. Golden- yellow to green or dark brown with black to dark green mottling. Has been recorded at 23.5kg but usually less than 10kg.

Habits: Ambush predator. Lays eggs on wood surfaces, preferably hollow logs.

Comments: endangered fish. Declines in population due to loss of riparian vegetation and de-snagging of waterways.

The Mary River Cod (*Maccullochella mariensis*) is an iconic species with a restricted distribution which is highly sought after as a recreational target species. Cod are listed as endangered under the EPBC Act largely due to habitat degradation and threats from overfishing.

A key recovery action for Cod is the hatchery production and restocking of genetically diverse fingerlings across their natural distribution, and for the creation of recreational fisheries to take pressure off natural Mary River stocks which are a no-take species in the Mary River Catchment.

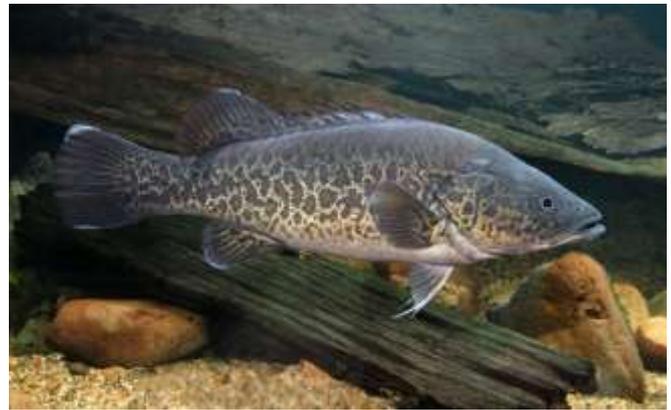
This is a significant responsibility that requires dedicated effort to maintain high hatchery standards, ensuring specific genetic and fish husbandry procedures adhered to.

The Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee has taken over management of the Gerry Cook Hatchery in Collwood Rd where the breeding program for the endangered Mary River Cod is now underway for the 2016 season. Fingerlings produced at the Hatchery will be released into waterways at strategic locations in the Mary River Catchment for conservation stocking. Fingerlings will also be released into certain impoundments outside the Mary River Catchment for recreational fish stocking.

The MRCCC are currently fund raising to support a professional operation at the Hatchery. If you would like to help, please consider making a tax deductible donation to the Mary Catchment Public Fund. Details can found on the MRCCC's website at <http://mrccc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Public-Fund-Donations.pdf>

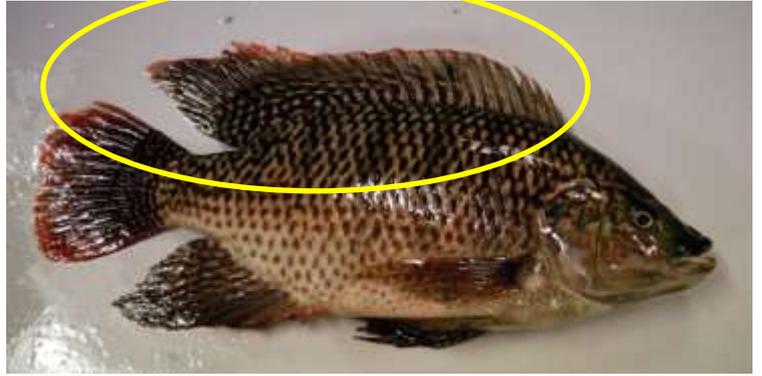
The next open day at the Gerry Cook Hatchery will be on Saturday 22nd October 2016. For more information, please call the MRCCC on 07 5482 4766, email admin@mrccc.org.au or visit the website at www.mrccc.org.au

Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee
Resource Centre – 25 Stewart Terrace, Gympie, 4570
Phone 07 5482 4766
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The Gerry Cook Fish Hatchery - Cooroy

PEST FISH TILAPIA FACT SHEET



The highly invasive fish species Tilapia (*Oreochromis mossambicus*) has become established in the lower Mary with significant numbers caught in the barrage pondage near Tiaro in October 2014. In early April 2016, a school of Tilapia was caught in the Mary River at Widgee Crossing, just downstream of Gympie.

Tilapia is a predator fish which is included in the Top 100 list of invasive species.

Tilapia have a highly successful breeding strategy (up to 1200 eggs a year, in up to 4 broods) and low juvenile mortality as the female stores the eggs and hatchlings in her mouth.

Tilapia can dominate local fish communities and displace local species through aggressive behaviour and competition for food and space. They pose a significant threat to the native fish in the Mary River.

Left: Image of the specimen caught in an offshoot of the Mary River at Tiaro in October 2014.



The images on this page show the many colour variations of Tilapia

Regardless of colour, all Tilapia have a continuous, unbroken dorsal fin as indicated by the yellow circle. This is probably the easiest way to identify the species.

The Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee would appreciate your help in tracking the distribution and spread of this fish. At this stage knowing where the fish is not yet established is just as important as knowing where it has been observed.

Tilapia can be relatively easily identified by the continuous dorsal fin along its spine (most native fish have a break or dip

in their dorsal fin).

If you catch a Tilapia, do not release it back into the river and please notify MRCCC or Boating and Fisheries on 13 25 23.

For more information, visit www.daff.qld.gov.au/fisheries/pest-fish/noxious-fish/tilapia

