



## Narran Lakes Fish Survey Results – October 2024

In October 2024, as part of the Lower Balonne Flow-MER Project, members of the University of New South Wales Centre for Ecosystem Science Flow-MER fish team undertook fish sampling at 11 Narran River and Lake sites.

Following an unusually wet period from 2021-2023, the Narran Lakes were inundated in March 2024. This provided an ideal opportunity to fill a significant gap in our understanding of the role Narran Lakes plays in supporting fish communities in the Northern Murray–Darling Basin.

The UNSW-CES team was led by Dion Iervasi and Jackson Lamin from Austral Research and Consulting, assisted by Pat Johnson. CEWH representatives and Dharriwaa Elders Group River Rangers also participated in a sampling day.

### Results

#### Fish

Of the five native fish species caught, the most abundant was the bony bream (*Nematalosa erebi*), captured at all sites except Back Lake.

Spangled perch (*Leiopotherapon unicolor*) and golden perch (*Macquaria ambigua*) were captured at most sites, whilst Hyrtl's catfish (*Neosilurus hyrtl*) were captured at just over half the sites.

Only one carp gudgeon complex (*Hypseleotris* sp.) was captured at Angledool Weir.

Golden perch caught across nine sites were 25 to 50 mm long and likely new recruits. No adults were captured.

Three exotic fish species were also captured. These were the Goldfish (*Carassius auratus*), European carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) and Eastern gambusia (*Gambusia holbrooki*).

#### Turtles

Two turtle species were captured, these were the Broad-shelled turtle (*Chelodina expansa*) and Murray short-necked turtle (*Emydura macquarii*).

#### Decapods

Two decapod (crustacean) species were caught, the most common being freshwater prawns (*Macrobrachium* sp.), captured across all sites except Back Lake and Clear Lake Midden. The common yabby (*Cherax destructor destructor*) was also captured across all sites except Back Lake.

#### Bivalves

One bivalve (mollusc) species was captured, being the Austral mussel (*Hyridella australis*).

#### Frogs

One unidentified frog species was also captured.



Clockwise from top left: Golden perch; Austral mussel; Broad-shelled turtle; and common yabby with freshwater prawns in net behind.

### More information

For a copy of the full report contact the UNSW's Flow-MER Communications Officer Jane Howard, at [jane.howard@unsw.edu.au](mailto:jane.howard@unsw.edu.au).

Visit [www.flow-mer.org.au](http://www.flow-mer.org.au) to learn more about the Flow-MER program.

Top image: The Narran River at Angledool Weir, October 2024 All photos: Austral.



The Flow-MER Program team acknowledges the Aboriginal communities of the Murray–Darling Basin and pays respect to Elders past and present. We acknowledge Aboriginal People as the Traditional Owners of the land, water and sky Country across the Basin and value the expertise, wisdom and enduring connections that have informed their care for Country over millennia. We recognise the intrinsic connection of Aboriginal People to Country, and we value the enduring cultural, social, environmental, spiritual, and economic connection to the rivers, wetlands, and floodplains of the Basin. Artist: Rebecca Salcole