

Mr Martin Carroll  
Secretary  
Anglers Action Group  
PO Box 630  
Narrabeen NSW 2001

Dear Mr Carroll,

Thank you for your letter of 23 May 2003 concerning the commercial catch of luderick.

I note your comment regarding the price obtained for the price of luderick at the Sydney Fish Markets. I am advised that fish prices on the Sydney Fish Market website ([www.sydneyfishmarket.com.au](http://www.sydneyfishmarket.com.au)) represent dollars per kilogram and fish boxes can contain up to 25 kilograms each. The Sydney Fish Market's commission charge for fresh fish consigned within NSW is 12% of the sale price. Luderick prices in 2003 have reached \$3.26 per kilogram.

Luderick is a key species harvested in the estuary general fishery and the ocean hauling fishery. These fisheries recently underwent comprehensive environmental assessment. Through this process luderick was identified as being "moderately fished".

As a result of these assessments, Fishery Management Strategies that include a number of new management initiatives are being implemented to ensure all species are harvested in a sustainable manner. Management responses include the implementation of discard chutes when using meshing or flathead nets, a reduction in the length of the general purpose haul net and the banning of hauling over seagrass.

These management responses are relevant because luderick are mainly found in association with weedy habitats such as seagrass beds, and luderick is primarily caught in mesh nets and hauling nets during autumn and winter.

I am advised that NSW Fisheries is about to commence a research project on luderick. This study is funded by the Recreational Fishing Trust and will increase existing knowledge of the species on which future management, research and compliance can be based.

In response to your question regarding right of way between recreational and commercial fishers, I am informed that recreational anglers are not required to give way to commercial fishing activities unless they are fishing in an area that has been formally identified as a recognised fishing ground. At this stage only one area has been designated as a recognised fishing ground, in the Clarence River.

I am also advised that other waterway users cannot interfere with the operations of commercial fishers who are already fishing or waiting to carry out fishing activities in any waters.

I appreciate your interest the management of the fisheries resource. If you have further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Mr John Diplock, Principal Manager, Recreational Fisheries on (02) 9527 8473.

Yours Sincerely

Ian MacDonald MLC  
NSW Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries

(stamped 22 August 2003)