

# Fish Species of the Yanco Creek System



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## Fish of the Yanco Creek System

The Yanco Creek System supports a significant community of native fish species and is part of the Lower Murray River Endangered Ecological Community.

11 native fish species and four species of crustaceans have been recorded in the Yanco Creek System including the large bodied species:

- » Murray Cod
- » Trout Cod
- » Golden Perch
- » Silver Perch
- » Catfish
- » River Blackfish
- » Bony Herring



Murray Cod



Trout Cod

Small bodied species that have been recorded include:

- » Murray Darling Rainbowfish
- » Australian Smelt
- » Carp Gudgeon
- » Unspecked Hardyhead



Murray Darling Rainbow Fish

Southern Pygmy Perch and Flathead Galaxias are threatened species that are also expected to occur in the system based on habitat suitability analysis.

The system is also home to freshwater crustaceans like the common yabby, Murray crayfish, Freshwater shrimp, and the Freshwater prawn.



Common Yabby

A guide to freshwater fish in NSW can be found at: [https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/634583/What-Fish-is-This.pdf](https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0011/634583/What-Fish-is-This.pdf)

Introduced pest fish species recorded include

- » Common Carp
- » Redfin Perch
- » Gambusia
- » Goldfish
- » Oriental Weatherloach.



Redfin Perch

## Importance of native fish in the Yanco Creek System

Native fish are an important component of aquatic ecosystems and they have important social, cultural and economic value in the Yanco Creek System. Recreational fishing is a \$3.4 billion industry in NSW that supports local tourism in regional and rural communities.

The industry also contributes to the health and well-being of recreational fishers. Aboriginal cultural fishing is an integral component of connection to Country. Protecting and promoting cultural fishing activities of First Nations communities is recognised in the management of fisheries resources in NSW.



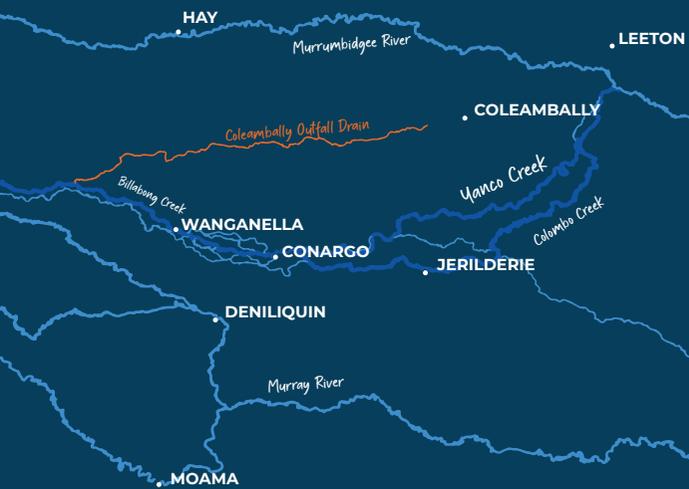
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[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing)

The Yanco Creek System is an important river system that links two of Australia's largest rivers the Murrumbidgee and the Murray.

The system is made up of a complex network of creeks including Yanco Creek, Billabong Creek, Colombo Creek and Forest Creek, along with many anabranches, wetlands, lagoons and floodplain channels.



A key significant feature of the Yanco Creek System is its flow diverse water environments which create valuable and diverse aquatic habitats. In particular, areas with higher flows are essential for a number of iconic native fish, including some threatened species, to move, feed and breed.

## Benefits of improving flows

The way water is managed and used in many rivers in NSW has changed the timing, frequency and duration of natural flows. Providing the correct flows at the right time can enhance fish populations by allowing them to swim to where they need to feed, grow and breed.

Managing water delivery to protect or reinstate flow regimes is an important management tool to support native fish and restore populations.

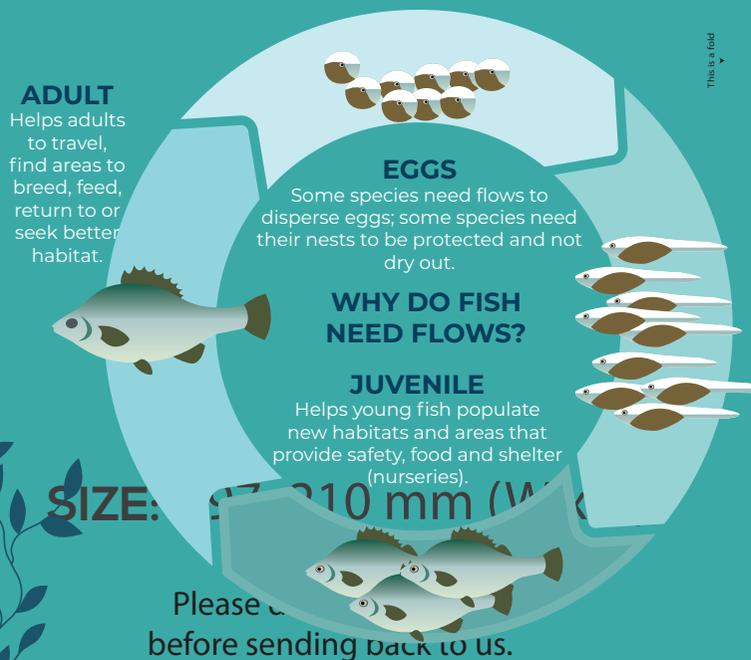
For more information on fish and flows go to: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/habitat/rehabilitating/fish-and-flows>

## Benefits of improving connectivity

Barriers on waterways, like dams and weirs, can prevent native fish from migrating to their required habitat for food, shelter and breeding. Weirs and dams reduce flowing water habitat that leads to a loss of spawning cues and reduced habitat quality for native fish.

Providing fish passage for example using fishways or fish ladders at barrier structures, or removing weirs where they are no longer needed, are measures that can improve fish passage and habitat, and result in improved migration, breeding and distribution of native fish.

More information can be found at: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/habitat/threats/barriers>



Pre-fabricated rock ramp fishway