



Department of
Natural Resources
and Environment

MAFRI PROJECT SPOTLIGHT
No. 19 **May 16, 2002**

TRACKING LAKE EILDON GOLDEN PERCH TO BENEFIT ANGLERS

Principal researcher: John Douglas

Research is currently underway in Lake Eildon to find out what type of habitat golden perch prefer. The information will benefit anglers who will be able to target the fish more successfully.

Over the last few years, many thousands of golden perch have been stocked into Lake Eildon and recent surveys by Fisheries Victoria have shown the fish are growing large. However, many anglers have been slow to catch on to the potential golden bonanza offered in the lake and seem to be having some trouble consistently catching the fish. To help out, The Marine and Freshwater Resources Institute (MAFRI) at Snobs Creek is undertaking a study of the movements and habitat preferences of golden perch.

Several Lake Eildon golden perch have been implanted with acoustic “pinger” tags. These pingers can be located by researchers using a specially developed hydrophone – a “microphone” that picks up sound vibrations underwater.

“By locating the fish on a regular basis and recording the location, water depth, presence of cover, type of bank and the water temperature, scientists will be able to let anglers know something about where the fish like to live. From then on, it’s up to the angler”, said John Douglas, MAFRI project scientist.

The acoustic pinger tags are surgically implanted into the body cavity of the fish, making these fish difficult to identify by anglers. Therefore, the researchers are also marking the fish with a visible external pink dart tag, which is attached to the back of the fish.

Anglers catching golden perch in Lake Eildon with a pink tag are asked to record the tag number and location of the capture and to return the live fish carefully to the water. The details can then be forwarded to MAFRI at Snobs Creek near Eildon (ph 03 57742208).

For more information about this project, please contact John Douglas at MAFRI on 5774 2208.