



# Bass & Perch From Boondooma

Part 6 in our series on freshwater impoundments & rivers,  
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**W**hen driving north-west into Queensland's rural outback, you will find a beautiful body of water called Boondooma Dam. Boondooma is an ideal destination for anglers, boaters or holiday makers who are looking for a getaway of a few days duration, or even a week to escape the hustle and bustle of the city.

I'd rate Boondooma as the best bass and golden perch fishery in Queensland, and a dam that should go onto your 'must fish' list.

**Background** Boondooma Dam is situated 20 km north-west of Proston in south-east Queensland, and is open to all forms of boating. With a capacity of 212,000 ml, it is one of the larger dams that we have covered in this Queensland impoundment series. It has a surface area of 1,920 hectares (making it approximately half the size of Somerset dam), and was built in 1983 for irrigation purposes and the local power station.

It is an attractive dam that divides into two arms, which are created by the Boyne, and Stuart River systems that merge into the impoundment. Both rivers and the dam's various little creeks are heavily timbered and offer great fishing. In contrast the main body consists of mainly open water with a few rocky islands that also hold good concentrations of fish. Your quest for fishing action should include targeting fish around weedbeds, steep banks,



**Above:** The author with a 42cm Boondooma bass taken during a Pro-Bass Circuit event early in 2000.

**Left Top:** The boat ramp at the DNR camping grounds. If you camp and launch here you can leave your boat on the foreshore in front of your tent.

**Left Centre:** A very happy Australian Bass tournament competitor with this Boondooma thumper.

islands, shorelines, rocky points, timber and even schooled fish in deep water.

My first experiences with this impoundment were in early 2000 when the Humminbird Pro-Bass circuit first visited the dam.

During the event sixty-eight anglers flocked to the impoundment and landed 263 tournament scoring bass over one and a half day's of angling. That figure made it the most productive dam ever to stage an event. You'll be pleased to note that the 2000/2001 Pro-Bass circuit event revisited Boondooma during the 21/22 October weekend and an even better result was posted. Not just with bass, but also golden perch (which are great fun but do not score points for the tournaments). This time, 83 anglers caught 314 scoring bass for a new all time record.

Over the day and a half event, well over 400 bass and at least 700 Yellowbelly were caught by cast and retrieve anglers and they were all returned alive. I personally landed at least a dozen good sized yellowbelly and about an equal number of bass over the weekend and I know from campsite chatter that many of my friends caught the same numbers of goldens, if not more.

Boondooma Dam has been stocked with Australian bass, barramundi, golden perch, Murray cod, saratoga and silver perch. In the past twelve years, over 200,000 bass fingerlings have been stocked into the dam by the Boondooma Dam Fish Stocking and Management Association. Golden

