

# Lake Tyers

## Eastern Victoria



with Frank Milito

**T**he removal of commercial netting over a decade ago from Lake Tyers in Eastern Victoria has seen the creation of a sport fishing paradise.

During its commercial netting history, up to 70 tonnes of mature fish a year were removed from this pristine estuary system. It's been over 10 years since the netting ban in the Lake with a clearly expected result: fish populations have boomed, which in turn has transformed the system into what can only be described as a lure fishing paradise.

Interestingly, most lure fishers

I know who frequent Tyers, report catches of up to and in excess of 30 bream a session (catch & release) aside from countless flathead and other species with a high percentage of the bream measuring a very healthy 39-45cm.

This is a very interesting statistic considering that most of these bream would have been just under commercially legal size around the time of the netting ban.

Aside from incredibly strong recruitment of black bream over the past decade, the abundance of other species within this

system is inspiring. The Lake is alive with giant sea mullet, massive luderick, schools of yellow eye mullet, trevally to 2kg and some of the biggest tailor I've ever seen - aside from the odd school of big yellow fin bream, the occasional snapper, salmon, dusky flathead, etc!

Traditionally Lake Tyers is a land locked system that receives entrance openings during high rainfall flood events, on average every 28 months or so.

However, Tyers had gone through a great deal of environmental change during an extended period of drought and



*Above: Facilities in the area are very good - and this one (Number 2 at Lake Tyers Beach) is typical of the formal launch ramp structures in the Gippsland, where successive governments, councils (and locals) have worked up an enviable standard of facilities for the boating and fishing communities. Below: When these estuaries are opened, the estuarine water is refreshed, the local prawns return to normal - and these artificials are so effective you'll be spoilt for evermore!*

