Golden perch

Common Names
Australia - Commonwealth, Murray perch, Yellowfin perch

STOCK IDENTIFICATION
Golden perch (Macquaria ambigua) occur throughout most of the Murray-Darling system with the exception of higher altitudes as well as in the Lake Eyre and Bulloo internal drainage systems of Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia, and the Dawson-Fitzroy river system in south-eastern Queensland (Lake 1971). They are also widespread within the Lower Murray River and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert (Bice 2010).

The Lakes and Coorong Fishery (LCF) is a multi-species, multi-gear fishery and is located in, and adjacent to, the estuary of the Murray River. This comprises the Coorong lagoons, Lower Lakes of the Murray River (Lakes Alexandrina and Albert) and Coorong Coastal Waters (Sloan 2005). Fishers in the LCF primarily use gill nets to target mulloway (Argyrosomus japonicus), golden perch (Macquaria ambigua), yellow-eye mullet (Aldrichetta forsteri), black bream (Acanthopagrus butcheri), and greenback flounder (Rhombosolea tapirina).

The LCF is the only commercial fishery permitted to take golden perch in South Australia. Golden perch is an important target species in the LCF and in 2010-11 comprised 4% of the total catch (all species) of the LCF and 19% of the total value (all species). For catches comprising finfish only, golden perch contributed 5% of the catch and 27% of the value in 2010-11 (Ferguson and Ye 2012).

The central stock represents the dominant golden perch stock within the Murray-Darling basin. In addition to the central stock of golden perch Kewen et al (1995) also identified a genetically distinct stock in Lakes Alexandrina and Albert (Kulfs et al 2017).

The Management Plan for the Lakes and Coorong Fishery identifies four performance indicators (PIs) and their associated reference points (RPs). All PIs were derived from catch and effort data for the historical reference period from 1984-85 to 2001-02 (Sloan 2005).

The fishery was certified by the Marine Stewardship Council system by June 2008. The certificate expired on March 2014 and the fishery is now completing the final stages of reassessment. Click here to link to the MSC fishery page and to learn more about the MSC fishery certification unit.