

17th June, 2011

Fishing at Burrill Lake could lead to health risks

Shoalhaven City Council are reminding residents and visitors to Burrill Lake to avoid touching, fishing or collecting the dead or dying fish in Burrill Lake on the State's South Coast following reports of people netting unhealthy fish after a significant fish kill near Kings Point.

Council are urging people to take note of the NSW fisheries advice.

NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) Director Fisheries Conservation and Aquaculture, Bill Talbot, said that dead or dying fish from the affected should not be eaten and fishers should also avoid collecting shellfish from the area.

Fisheries officers were alerted to the fish kill yesterday after a high number of dead and struggling fish were discovered in the shallow water near the boat ramp at Kings Point," Mr Talbot said.

NSW DPI is investigating the fish kill, in conjunction with the Office of Environment and Heritage and Shoalhaven City Council.

There are no apparent signs of water quality problems; however it is suspected the fish kill may be the result of a toxic algae bloom similar to that experienced at Jervis Bay earlier this year. Fish species affected by the kill include a large range of fish species and size classes including bream, flathead, whiting, mullet and luderick.

We encourage people on the NSW South Coast to adopt a commonsense approach: Do not eat fish that are dead or dying when you find them or that do not look healthy when caught.

Shellfish from the area should also not be collected.

Consumption of unhealthy fish may be a health risk due to their poor condition

NSW DPI will continue to work closely with the relevant agencies, using all available resources to respond to this fish kill. Any further fish kills should be reported to NSW DPI's 24 hour hot line 1800 043 536.