

Monitoring Macquarie perch in King Parrot Creek

- * During April 2015, fish surveys were conducted at five sites in King Parrot Creek between Flowerdale and Kerrisdale using fyke netting and backpack electrofishing techniques (see table 1).
- * A total of 608 fish, comprising seven native and two introduced species were captured, with native fish accounting for 83% of the total catch (see table 2).
- * Macquarie perch (*Macquaria australasica*) (n=386) was the most abundant species captured and was recorded at all five survey sites.
- * The size range of Macquarie perch captured was between 62 and 350 mm total length (TL) (average = 149 mm TL).
- * Over 77% of Macquarie perch collected were between 110 and 160 mm TL, while young of year accounted for 7% of the total Macquarie perch catch (see figure 1).
- * The record number of Macquarie perch collected during this survey is attributed to consecutive years of strong recruitment, particularly during Spring 2013 (see figure 1 and figure 2).
- * The abundance of river blackfish (*Gadopsis marmoratus*) and two spined blackfish (*Gadopsis bispinosus*) have also significantly increased over the past two years (see figure 2).
- * Southern pygmy perch (*Nannoperca australis*) were also collected at one of the survey sites, which was very encouraging given this species has undergone extensive declines in recent years.
- * No carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), goldfish (*Carassius auratus*) or redfin (*Perca fluviatilis*) were collected.
- * Litter, discarded fishing line and illegal fishing traps continue to be threat.

Table 1. King parrot Creek site summary information.

Site	Location	Latitude	Longitude	Date/s sampled
01	Draytons Bridge at Fairview Road, Kerrisdale	-37.17275	145.25305	9/4/15 14/4/15
02	Moores Road, Flowerdale	-37.31008	145.28822	7/4/15 13/4/15
03	Richards Bridge off King Parrot Creek Road, Strath Creek	-37.21027	145.23425	9/4/15 14/4/15
04	Burslems Bridge on upper King Parrot Creek Road, Strath Creek	-37.24051	145.23402	8/4/15 14/4/15
05	Private Property – Callandoon, off Broadford-Flowerdale Road, Strath Creek	-37.24215	145.23880	8/4/15 13/4/15

Table 2. Catch summaries for King Parrot Creek during April 2015.

Species name	Common name	Site					TOTAL
		01 Draytons Bridge	02 Moores Rd	03 Richards Bridge	04 Burslems Bridge	05 Callandoon	
<i>Macquaria australasica</i>	Macquarie perch	87	29	121	101	48	386
<i>Gadopsis marmoratus</i>	River blackfish		3	2	15	29	49
<i>Gadopsis bisinosis</i>	Two-spined blackfish		27				27
<i>Galaxias rostratus</i>	Riffle galaxias	3	3	1			7
<i>Galaxias olidus</i>	Mountain galaxias	6		4	4	3	17
<i>Philypnodon grandiceps</i>	Flat headed gudgeon	2		2		1	5
<i>Nannoperca australis</i>	Southern pygmy perch		15				15
<i>Salmo trutta</i> *	Brown trout	34	15	16	7	5	77
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> *	Rainbow trout	23		2			25
<i>Cherax destructor</i>	Yabby	4	2	7	10	1	24
<i>Euastacus armatus</i>	Freshwater crayfish	4	5	3	4	2	18
<i>Chelodina longicollis</i>	Common Turtle			1			1
<i>Ornithorhynchus anatinus</i>	Platypus		2			2	4
TOTAL		163	101	159	141	91	655

* Denotes exotic species

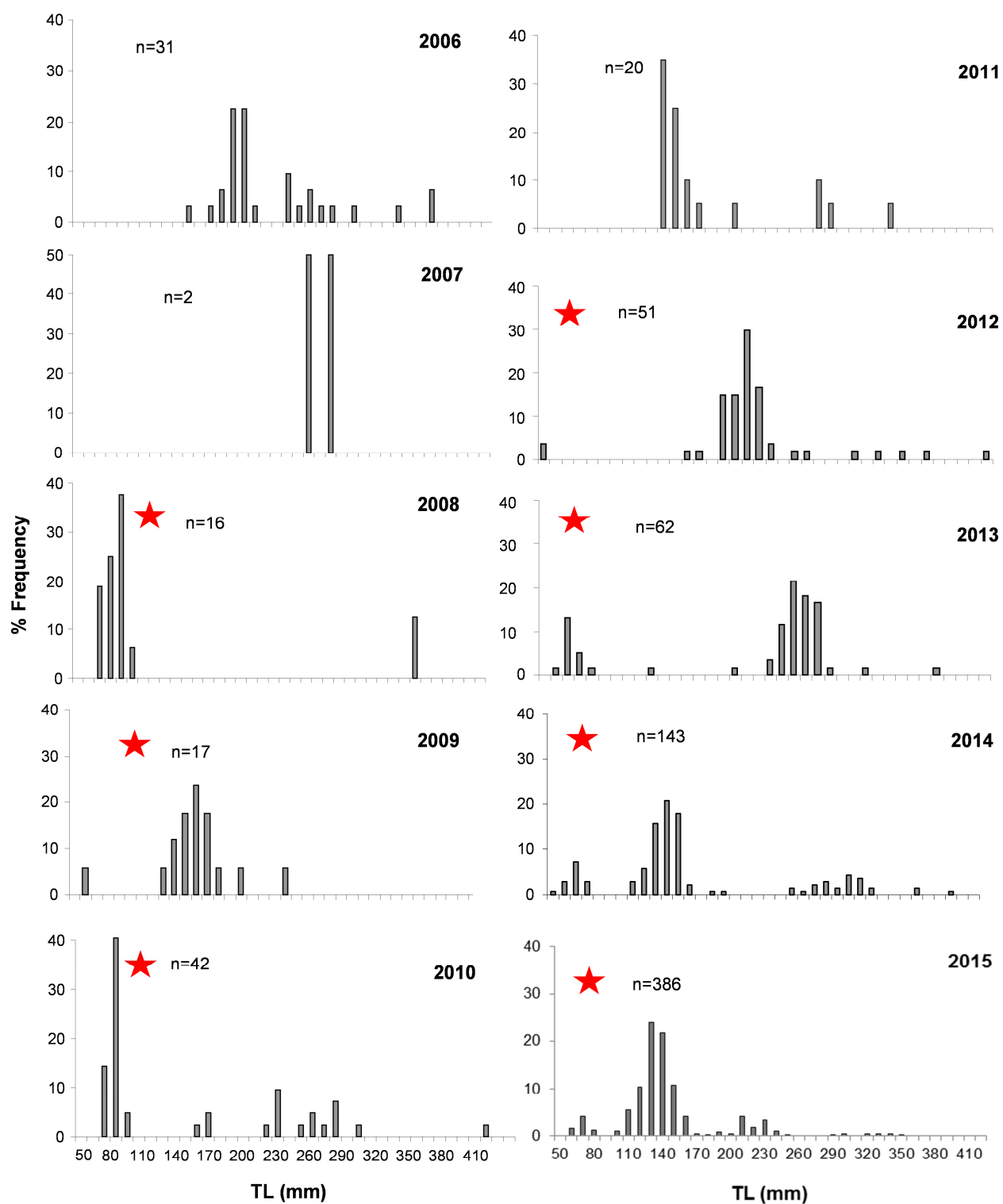


Figure 1. Total length (TL) frequency of Macquarie perch captured in King Parrot Creek between 2006 and 2015. Note: red stars indicate observations of natural recruitment.

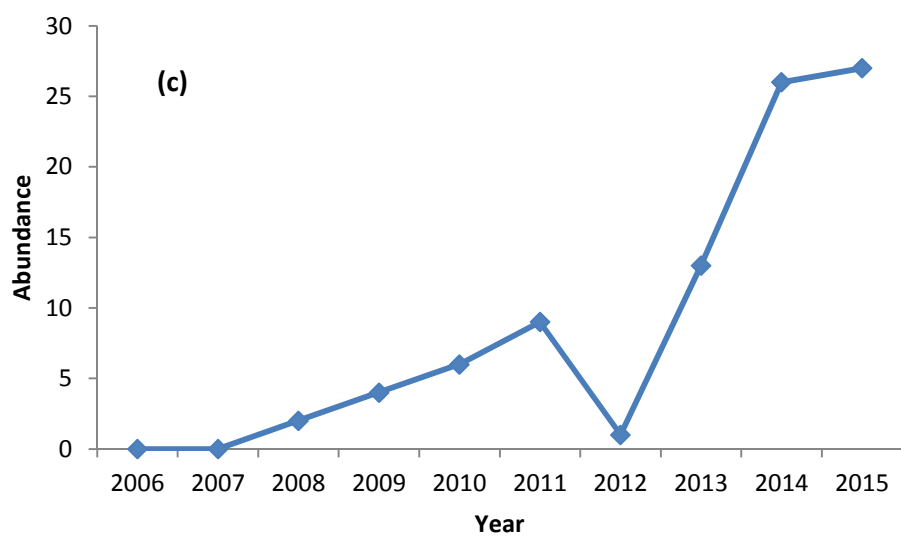
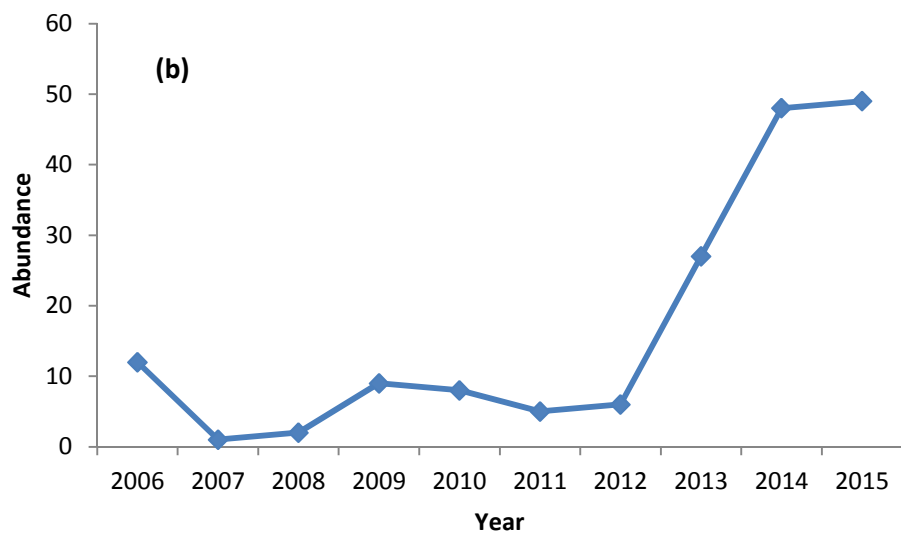
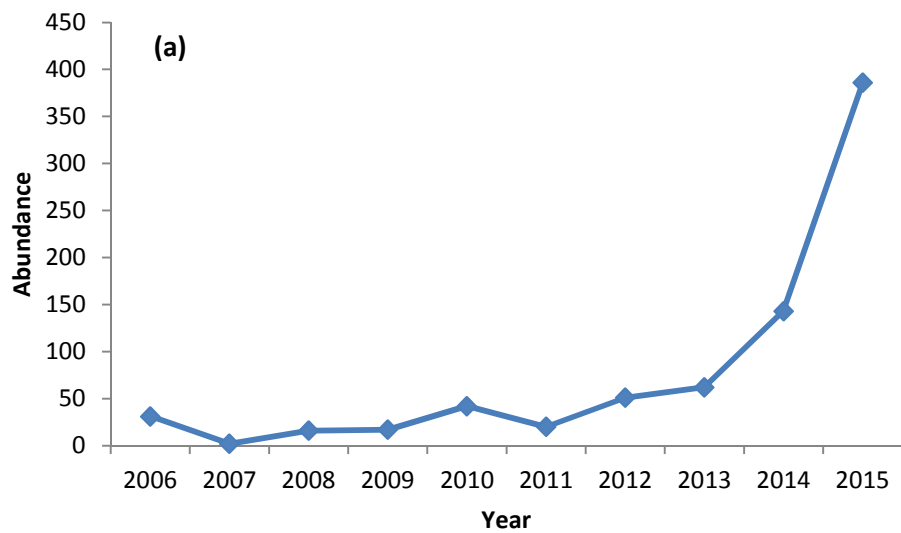


Figure 2. Abundance of (a) Macquarie perch; (b) River blackfish and (c) two-spined blackfish between 2006 and 2015.