

Seven Creeks Fish Survey 2025



Key points

- A notable increase in abundance of both Trout cod and Macquarie perch was recorded in the long-term monitoring reach below Gooram Falls from the previous year.
- Macquarie perch young-of-year were recorded in the highest numbers since 2015 indicating successful recruitment over the last 12 months.
- Fish appeared to be in good condition this year, with fewer Lernaean (parasitic anchor worm) infections observed.

Seven Creeks is unique as it sustains populations of two nationally endangered fish species - Macquarie perch and Trout cod. Both species are found in a 15km section of the Seven Creeks between Polly McQuinn's weir and just below Galls Gap Road. Fish surveys are undertaken regularly to monitor these important fish populations.

Survey sites

During March 2025, 30 sites were surveyed using electrofishing and fyke nets. This included nine sites downstream of Galls Gap Road Bridge, 19 sites between Gooram Falls and Galls Gap Road (long term monitoring reach) as well as two sites above Gooram Falls. (Figure 1). All fish captured were measured for total length (mm) and the larger bodied fish were also weighed.

Seven Creeks naturally fluctuates between periods of drought and periods of flooding. The extremely low and cease to flow events from Spring 2018 to Summer 2020 had detrimental impacts on native fish populations within the creek. Flooding such as that experienced in 2022 and 2023 particularly during fish breeding seasons (spring-summer) also impacted recruitment success. Over the past 12 months, Seven Creeks has experienced relatively low flows, with one notable peak in stream water level in late November-early December 2024. This event may have assisted to maintain habitat connectivity during the dry summer which followed.

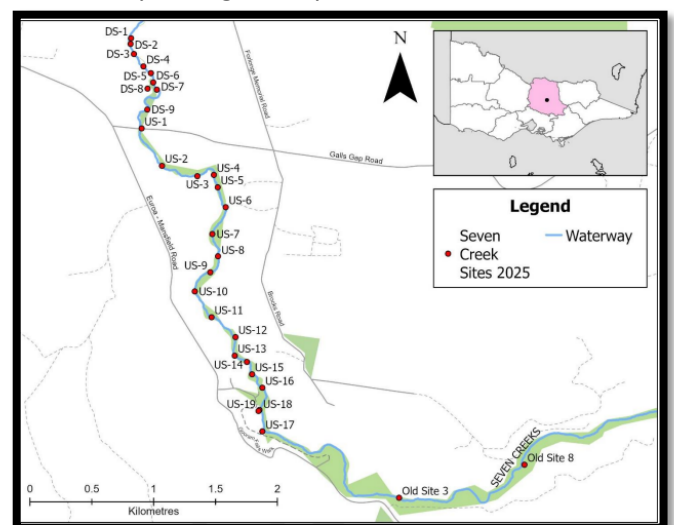


Figure 1. Map of survey sites in the Seven Creeks, March 2025.

Results

During the 2025 surveys, 697 fish were recorded. The table below provides a breakdown of species and locations where fish and other fauna were captured. This is a significant increase in abundance from the 2024 survey. Most native fish appeared to be in good condition this year, with fewer Lernaea (parasitic anchor worm) infections observed compared to the last few years.

Common Name	Below Galls Gap Road - 1 km, 9 sites	Galls Gap Rd to Gooram Falls - Long term monitoring reach	Above Gooram Falls (2 sites)	Total
Trout cod	13	265	84	362
Macquarie perch	18	125	20	163
Murray Cod	3			3
River blackfish			3	3
Two-spined blackfish				0
Golden Perch	1	1		2
Mountain galaxias	6	46		52
Australian Smelt	2	2		4
Carp gudgeon	17			17
Southern pygmy perch				0
Common yabby	y	y	y	0
Freshwater crayfish				0
Common long-neck turtle				0
Platypus				0
Carp*		36		36
Goldfish*				0
Redfin*		1		1
Brown trout*				0
Mosquitofish*	8	46		54
Total	68	522	107	697
*exotic species				

Fish and fauna capture 2025.

Trout Cod

Trout cod numbers have increased with 362 individuals captured. This included 256 from the long-term monitoring reach which is the highest number recorded since 2015 and more than triple the number detected in 2024. (See Figure 2). An increase in sampling efficiency due to low flow conditions may have contributed to this large increase however, strong recruitment appears to have been the main driver. Young-of-year and juveniles were the dominant size classes found. There was also a rise in breeding adult numbers contributing to the recruitment success.

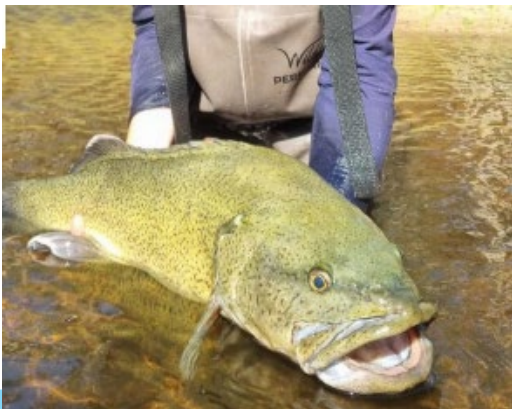


Photo 1. Adult Trout cod.

Macquarie Perch

This year, the number of Macquarie perch captured increased significantly with 163 fish recorded compared to 82 in 2024. Again, due to lower flows sampling efficiency may have been a factor however, like with Trout cod strong recruitment appears to have been the main reason. Young-of-year were the dominant size class in the long-term monitoring reach. This is the highest detection of young-of-year since 2015 with low numbers recorded over the previous four years. Fewer adult/sub adult fish were recorded than in 2024. Above Gooram Falls, 20 Macquarie perch estimated to be 1-2 years old were found indicating there has been some breeding success. While young-of-year have not been detected from this reach in recent years, the presence of 1-2+ cohorts highlights the persistence and survival of recent recruits.

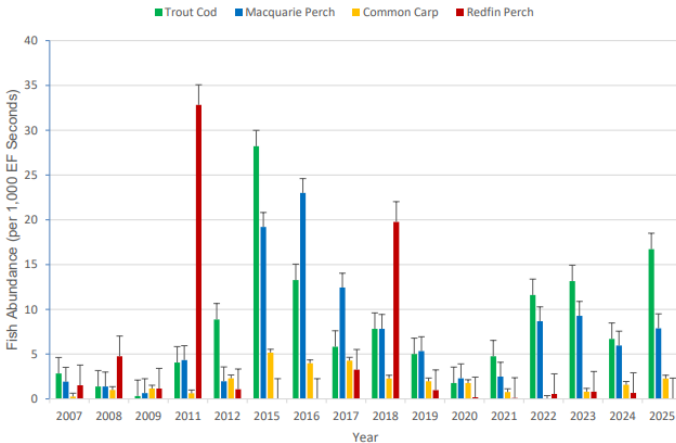


Figure 1. The standardised abundance of Trout cod, Macquarie perch, carp & redfin in Seven Creeks at the long-term monitoring site (Galls Gap Rd to Gooram Falls) between 2007 and 2025.

Other native fish species

In the last two years, River Blackfish have been detected in low numbers, above Gooram Falls only. This is historically where the species has been recorded. The three individuals captured this were young-of-year. Three sub-adult Murray cod were recorded downstream of Galls Gap Road. This is the first record of Murray cod in the creek since 2018.

Introduced Species

Introduced species made up 15 per cent of the total catch this year (See table). Carp numbers have increased slightly while Redfin numbers remain low. All introduced species captured were removed from the creek.

Translocations

Five Macquarie perch and five Trout cod from the long-term monitoring reach were translocated from Seven Creeks to the Snobs Creek hatchery to preserve genetic stock within the Goulburn Broken catchment.