



Silver Perch

Bidyanus bidyanus

Endangered

The overall objective of the Action Plan is to assist, where possible, the re-establishment of Silver Perch in the upper Murrumbidgee Catchment by providing suitable habitat and assisting inter-jurisdictional actions to re-establish the species, should resources become available.

Strategies in the Action Plan include:

- Protect and manage habitat: protect sites and habitats that are critical to the survival of the species and provide optimal conditions should Silver Perch occur in the ACT.
- Collaborative research: support projects aimed at improving understanding of the biology and ecology of the species as the basis for managing its habitat.
- Threat abatement: manage activities in the Murrumbidgee Catchment in the ACT to minimise or eliminate threats to fish populations.

Population Trend (2018–23): Functionally extinct

Despite extensive surveying, Silver Perch have not been recorded in the ACT section of the Murrumbidgee River since 1988 and is highly unlikely to be present within the ACT. Re-establishment of Silver Perch would require significant action from the ACT and surrounding NSW governments.

Figure 1 shows that NSW already stocks the species into the Burrinjuck Reservoir. Though 40,000 individuals were stocked in 2019-20, significant migratory movements of the species has not occurred into the ACT.

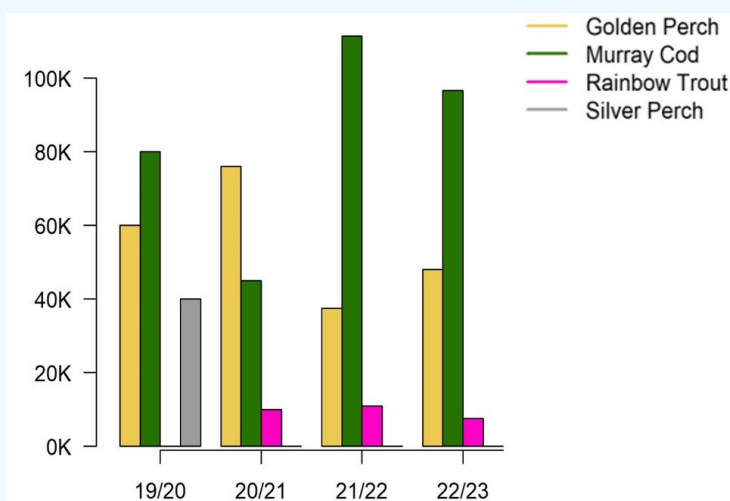


Figure 1: Stocking in the NSW Burrinjuck Reservoir (Upper Murrumbidgee) by the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

Engagement with NSW has been undertaken by the ACT Government on flow improvement in the upper Murrumbidgee River as the species is particularly sensitive to connectivity limitations.

Other key conservation outcomes included:

- the protection and restoration of Murrumbidgee habitat and the Murrumbidgee River Corridor
- amendments to the ACT Fisheries Act instating complete protections for the Silver Perch and
- improved collaboration with other jurisdictions and agencies to assist in species recovery.

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Action Indicator	Progress 2018-23
Protection	
The potential Murrumbidgee habitat is protected in nature reserve, or an area set aside specifically for conservation of the species if it re-establishes.	Achieved
Habitat conservation and management	
Riparian zones are protected from impacts of erosion, sedimentation, prescribed burns.	Mostly achieved - ongoing
Fish population re-establishment is not impacted by barriers to fish movement.	Partially achieved - ongoing
No new alien fish species establish in the Murrumbidgee River.	Achieved
Stocking	
Species stocked, if feasible, at a regional level.	Not achieved
Collaborative management	
Collaboration with other agencies and individuals involved in Silver Perch conservation and management (Recovery teams, State agencies, universities) where relevant to the Upper Murrumbidgee.	Partially Achieved - ongoing
Monitoring	
Trends in abundance are recorded for fish species and management actions. Detection of Silver Perch is highlighted.	Achieved

Note: this is a summary of progress for action indicators. For the full Effectiveness Review Report, please contact OfficeofNatureConservation@act.gov.au.



Outcome:

The Silver Perch remains absent from the ACT, though surrounding areas are conducting stocking for recreational purposes. As a species that prefers long reaches of connected flowing water and access to flood plains, Silver Perch is particularly sensitive to river regulation across the Murray-Darling Basin. Overall, the re-establishment of Silver Perch in the ACT would require significant action from the ACT and NSW governments.

What's next for the Silver Perch?

- Management of riparian and aquatic habitat particularly adequate flow and connectivity to facilitate any re-establishment of the Silver Perch population in the ACT, including restoring areas of the Murrumbidgee River Corridor.
- Research and monitoring to ascertain the habitat and biological reasons for the absence of Silver Perch species in the ACT.
- Investigate the potential for stocking the Silver Perch in the ACT.