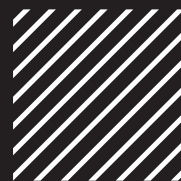




Queensland
Government

STOP THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES IN OUR RIVERS



KATI THANDA-LAKE EYRE BASIN (QLD)

OVERVIEW

Sleepy cod and redclaw crayfish have recently spread through the rivers of the Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre Basin, outside of their natural range. They are highly invasive species which impact our native species and damage riverine ecosystems. It is important we stop them spreading into other nearby rivers and catchments.





WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Although sleepy cod and redclaw are native to parts of northern Australia, they have been introduced into the Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre Basin which is outside their natural range. Both species share the ability to withstand harsh conditions and they reproduce prolifically, making them excellent invaders. Their aggressive nature means that they can out-compete native species for food and habitat, especially in isolated waterholes.

Sleepy cod have become established throughout the Cooper catchment over the past decade; however, they are absent in the Georgina and Diamantina catchments. Sleepy cod are a serious threat to native fish, including the endangered Cooper Creek catfish (*Neosiluroides cooperensis*), as they are predatory and compete for food and habitat.

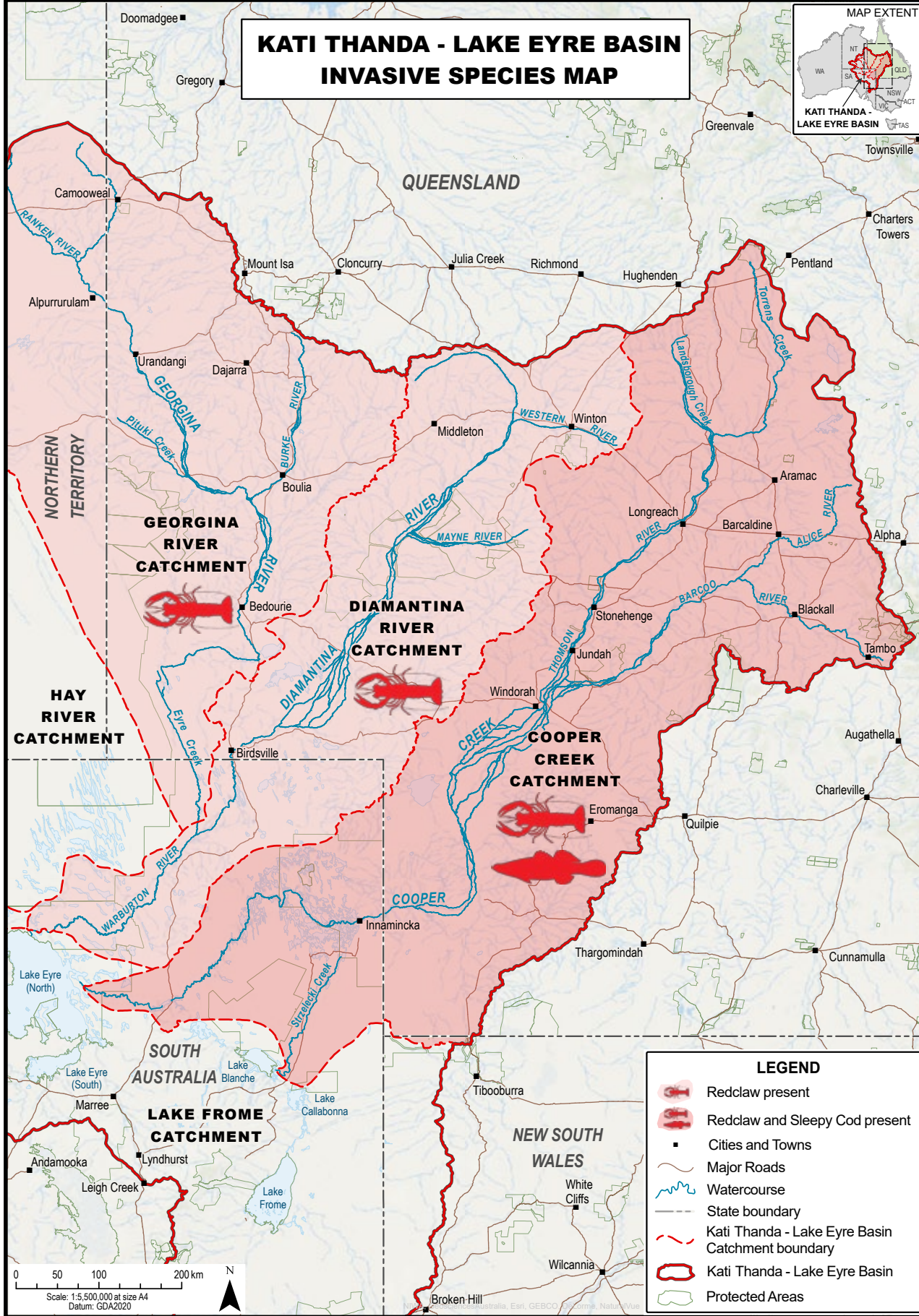
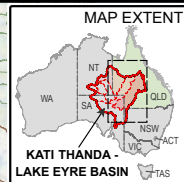
Redclaw have already spread throughout the Cooper, Georgina, and Diamantina catchments. They are larger, faster-growing, more dominant and more territorial than the native blueclaw yabby (*Cherax destructor*) and may have already contributed to the decline of blueclaw yabbies in some waterholes.

Two other pest fish species are also present within the Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre Basin catchments: Mosquitofish (*Gambusia holbrooki*) and Goldfish (*Carassius auratus*). Cane toads (*Rhinella marina*) have also been recorded in the Cooper and upper Georgina catchments, which will likely cause rapid, widespread damage to native frogs, reptiles and birds.



Diamantina River near Birdsville

KATI THANDA - LAKE EYRE BASIN INVASIVE SPECIES MAP



LEGEND

- Redclaw present
- Redclaw and Sleepy Cod present
- Cities and Towns
- Major Roads
- Watercourse
- State boundary
- Kati Thanda - Lake Eyre Basin Catchment boundary
- Kati Thanda - Lake Eyre Basin
- Protected Areas

0 50 100 200 km
 Scale: 1:5,500,000 at size A4
 Datum: GDA2020



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Unfortunately, once populations of invasive species have become established in the wild, eradication is unlikely. The priority is to stop invasive species spreading further and to keep sleepy cod and redclaw out of the neighbouring catchments. Under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* everyone is obliged to take reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with spreading or introducing invasive/pest fish. There are simple steps you can take to help protect the unique rivers and ecosystems of Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre Basin.

STEP 1



Do not return invasive species to the water, dead or alive. Dispose of them by eating them OR kill them humanely and bury them above the high-water mark or place in a bin. Possession limits do not apply, the taking of female redclaw carrying eggs is permitted.

STEP 2



Do not use invasive species as bait (in whole or part). Under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*, everyone is required to take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise risks associated with invasive fish in their possession.

STEP 3



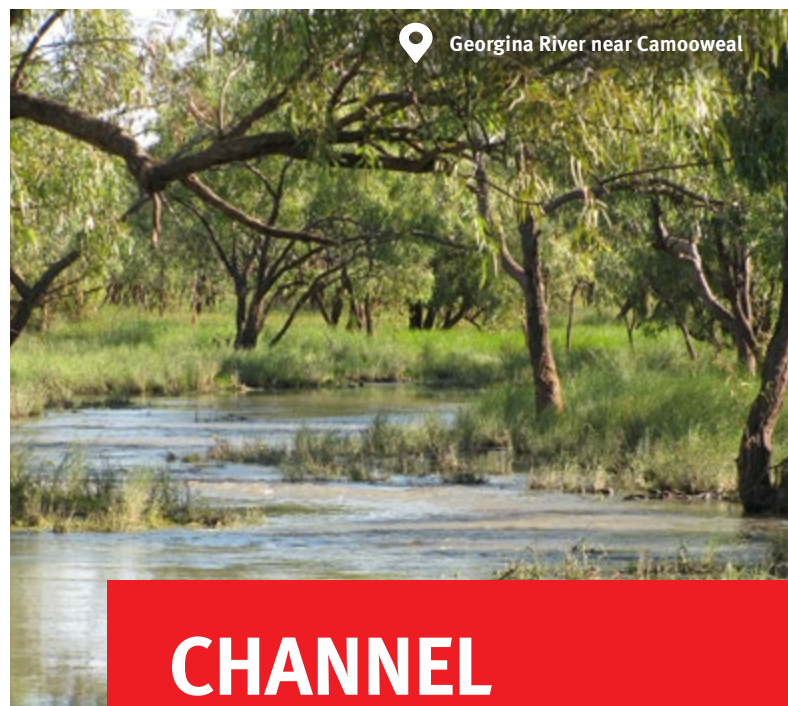
Do not transfer invasive species between waterways. Clean and inspect your boats and fishing gear.

STEP 4



Get educated!

- Download the Qld Fishing 2.0 app
- Visit fisheries.qld.gov.au
- Call 13 25 23



CHANNEL COUNTRY

At the heart of the Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre Basin is Queensland's famous Channel Country: a vast network of braided waterways that regularly come alive in "boom and bust" cycles driven by rain and flood events.

Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre Basin is formed by the mighty Georgina and Diamantina Rivers and Cooper Creek as they drain south through the Simpson and Strzelecki Deserts to Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre Basin. Covering almost a third of the State, this arid region features extensive freshwater and wetland habitats that support a dazzling array of native wildlife.

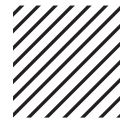
The region is home to 18 Aboriginal Traditional Owner groups who are responsible for the area's many important Dreamings and cultural sites – sacred landforms, trees, and resource areas, along with ceremony and burial places.



Qld Fishing 2.0



STOP THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES



Sleepy cod and redclaw have recently spread outside their natural range and become established in the Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre Basin catchments. Alongside several other pest species, they represent a significant threat to our unique native fish and riverine ecosystems. The priority is to stop these species spreading into neighbouring catchments. Please keep a look out for these species! If you catch one, do not return it to the water, do not use it as bait and please clean your fishing gear between sites to prevent unwanted hitchhikers! Under the *Fisheries Act 1994*, it is illegal to release non-indigenous fisheries resources.



SLEEPY COD (*OXYELEOTRIS LINEOLATA*)

Medium to large dark brown gudgeon, with a whitish or tan belly, and brown stripe along its side. Usually has spotted dorsal, anal, and tail fins, and the tail fin is rounded. Body is long and head is flattened, can grow to 50cm long.

Image © R.Swainston/anima.fish



REDCLAW (*CHERAX QUADRICARINATUS*)

Large crayfish, growing to around 20cm. Shell ranges from green to deep blue and males have very distinctive bright red markings on the outer margin of their pincers. Pincers are long and slender compared with a yabby, and redclaw have four ridges on their head.

Image © R.Swainston/anima.fish

MOSQUITOFISH (*GAMBUSIA HOLBROOKI*)

Small fish, single dorsal fin, rounded tail, large eyes, flattened head, protruding lower jaw. Olive-brown to bronze or silvery colour. Females to 60mm with deep rounded belly, males to 35mm with elongated anal fin.

GOLDFISH (*CARASSIUS AURATUS*)

Bright yellow to silver, grey or black, sometimes mottled, with large, rounded scales, forked tail. Grows to around 35cm, but often smaller. Often mistaken for carp, but unlike carp they lack barbels (whiskers) on corners of upper lip.

CANE TOAD (*RHINELLA MARINA*)

Large toad up to 15cm long, with large poison glands behind their head and bony ridges above the eye. Skin is warty, olive-brown, reddish-brown, or yellow, with a pale cream underside. Hands are unwebbed, back feet are partially webbed.