

## Northern Inland Bioregion

### Environmental Management Overview

During 2000/2001, work commenced on a survey of northern inland streams to help develop our understanding of the freshwater native fish in the region. This work is being undertaken by staff and students from Murdoch University, and supported by funds from the Fisheries Action Program.

Two new Fisheries Action Program projects were funded in the northern inland bioregion. These were:

- Freshwater native fish surveys of the Fitzroy River (Kimberley Land Council).
- Biology and distribution of fish in the inland waters of the North West Pilbara (Murdoch University).

## Southern Inland Bioregion

### Environmental Management Overview

The conservation of the 13 species of freshwater native fish which exist in Western Australia is a growing issue for Fisheries WA. Some of these species are endemic to Western Australia, and therefore their survival depends on us. Most of these fish are under pressure because of deteriorating environmental conditions. Therefore Fisheries WA is working with other agencies and institutions to undertake research on the distribution and life history of these animals to obtain the information required to protect them.

In addition, a number of public education projects are under way to inform people about native fish and their protection. The agency has provided funds to assist Murdoch University to prepare a series of posters about native fish. Further, the agency has an approval process in place for assessing proposals to translocate fish into and within Western Australia, to minimise the risks associated with movement of fish which may impact on endemic species.

In recognition of the threat from environmental changes to the long-term survival of the Margaret River marron strain, the agency has collected a stock of these animals. These marron are now breeding successfully in captivity at the SWFRAC, and will be available for restocking should the need arise in the future.

Five new Fishcare WA projects were funded in the southern inland bioregion. These were:

- The tilapia – its impact on the Greenough and Chapman Rivers ecosystems (Geraldton Secondary College).
- Habitat rehabilitation and freshwater native fish research (Busselton Senior High School).
- Investigation and revegetation of fish ladders (Bennett Brook Catchment Group).
- Publishing of brochure/posters on freshwater fishes of south-western Australia (Murdoch University).
- Riverwatch – riverbank care (Kelmscott Primary School).

One new Fisheries Action Program project was funded in the bioregion. This was:

- Artificial habitats for marron enhancement and biodiversity protection in south-western Australia (Fisheries WA).

