



Daily Mercury (Mackay)

Thursday 22/05/2014

Page: 9
Section: General News
Region: Mackay QLD, AU
Circulation: 10971
Type: Regional
Size: 275.00 sq.cms.



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

press clip

Biologists hunt down and catch tilapia marine pest

Ross Irby

ross.irby@dailymercury.com.au

REEF Catchments fisheries biologists have caught three of the tilapia marine pests in the Gooseponds at North Mackay and sighted another eight or 10.

Officers intend to ramp up eradication efforts to rid the popular waterway of the pests before they begin breeding and impacting on native species.

Biologist Tim Marsden said the exotic pests had likely been introduced into the ponds by someone discarding fish from an aquarium.

The three captured tilapia are 50 to 80cm in length and biologists hope their introduction into the waterway was recent and that their numbers are still small.

Plans to cull the fish are still being thought out, but are expected to involve habitat improvement measures, better water quality, boosting in-stream habitat with logs for native species, and encouraging native riparian vegetation.



Daily Mercury (Mackay)

Thursday 22/05/2014

Page: 9
Section: General News
Region: Mackay QLD, AU
Circulation: 10971
Type: Regional
Size: 275.00 sq.cms.



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

press clip



PEST HUNT: Fisheries biologists with Reef Catchments Tim Marsden, Matt Moore and project officer Amanda Bland (at front) electro fishing at the Gooseponds in a bid to control the spread of exotic pest, the tilapia fish. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED