

LIST OF BALLARAT REGION THREATENED FISH SPECIES

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

TROUT COD, *Maccullochella macquariensis*

The Trout Cod is a species of large, elongated fish native to the Murray River. The 'natural' population of these fish is restricted to the Murray River, but they have been introduced to other waterways since. Their critically endangered status has been granted since their rapid decline which has been in progress since the European settlement. Generally, this fish grows to around 45cm and up to 5kg, although accounts of 16kg have been documented. They are blueish grey in colour, with a speckled pattern, only slightly different to the more common Murray Cod. These fish live in areas of high debris, made up of driftwood and snag piles. They are a carnivorous fish, feeding on aquatic insects and crustaceans. They can leap from the water to take flying food items above the surface.

ENDANGERED

FRESH WATER CATFISH, *Tandanus tandanus*

The Tandanus catfish, or the eel-tailed catfish is a large species of freshwater cat ranging from 2kg to 8kg when full grown. They are an endangered species, but after being commonly introduced into the aquarium trade their numbers in total have stopped declining. It is a species endemic to Australia, most commonly found in the Murray-Darling River system. This catfish has a short dorsal fin and a distinct eel-like tail, their colouring pale below with brown, olive green to reddish purple above. They have barbels on their mouth common to most catfish species. These fish are bottom feeders, thus they swim close to or along the river bottom feeding on zooplankton and small insects. Larger Tandanus catfish also feed on fish and crustaceans that are 'mouth sized'.

MACQUARIE PERCH, *Macquaria australasica*

The Macquarie Perch is a species of fish native to the Murray-Darling River system. It gained its endangered status after European settlement, since then its population has been in decline. It is now restricted to 20 localities, few of these in Victoria, with a notable population in the Yarra River. They are a schooling species, preferring clear, deep waters with dense cover made of rocky holes and vegetation. They feed primarily on insects and larvae, although they will take molluscs and crustaceans.

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