

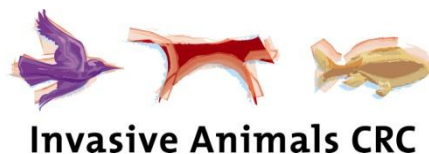


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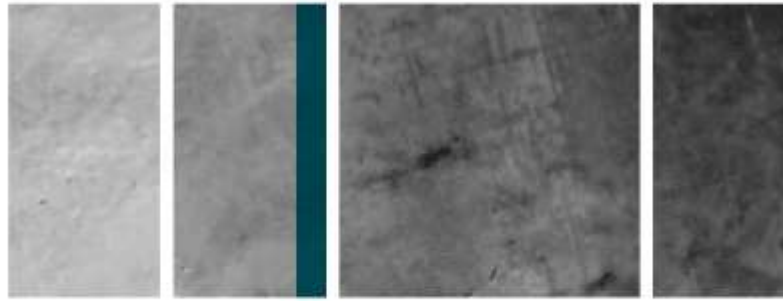
Guidelines for planning carp fishing competitions

Andrew Norris



Invasive Animals CRC



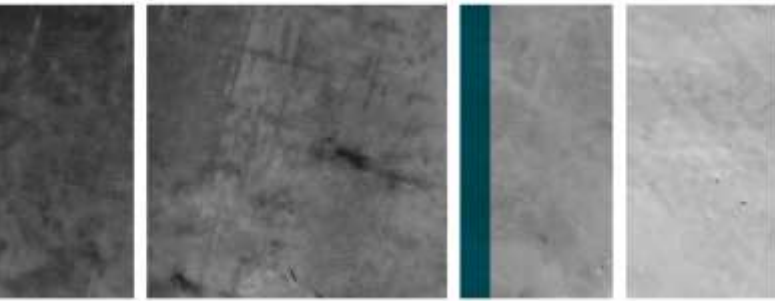


Guidelines for planning carp fishing competitions

Andrew Norris

Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation
Agri-science Queensland
Sustainable Fisheries Unit
Bribie Island Research Centre, Woorim
2011
An IA CRC Project





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Office Location: University of Canberra, Kirinari Street, Bruce ACT 2617.

Telephone: (02) 6201 2887

Facsimile: (02) 6201 2532

Email: contact@invasiveanimals.com

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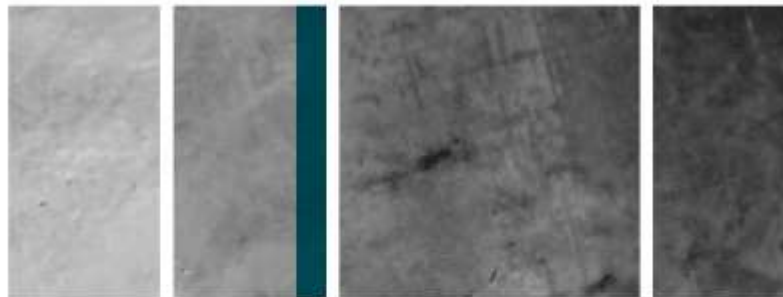
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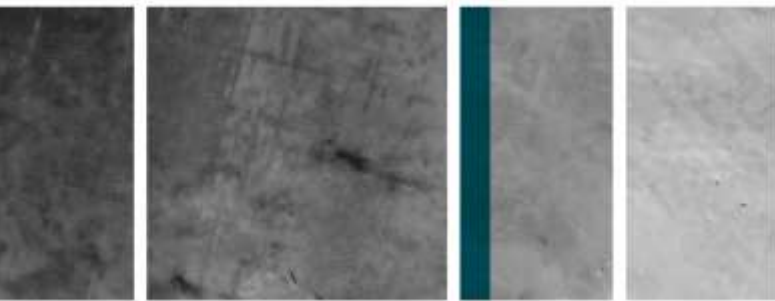
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Front cover photo: The author measuring carp at the Surat carp competition, 2007. Image provided by DEEDI.

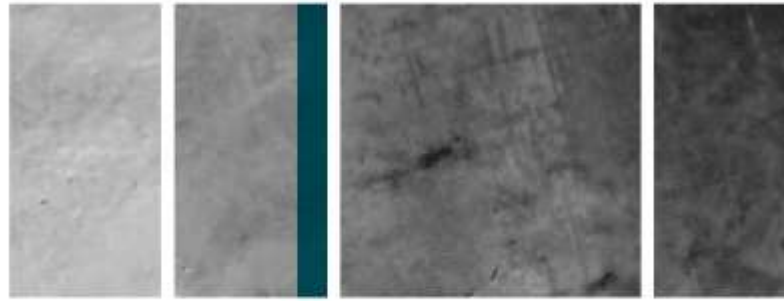


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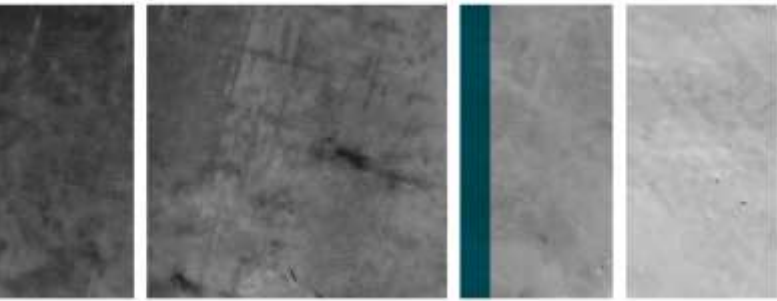
Summary

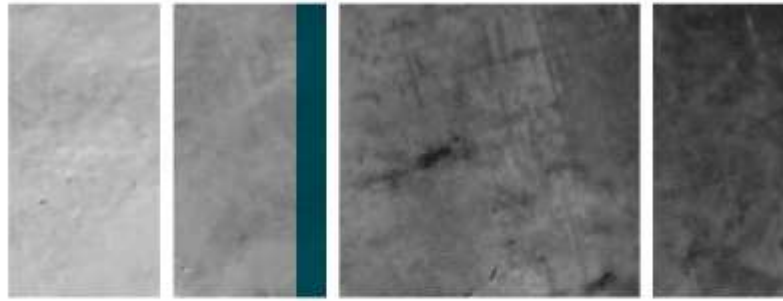
Many fishing and restocking clubs already host fishing competitions for native fish species and have a strong understanding of what is needed to successfully run these events. There are several important differences in hosting competitions for carp, primarily because carp is a declared pest or noxious species. This guide aims to highlight these differences and provide some ideas to make carp competitions more effective and enjoyable.

In recent years, growing environmental awareness has led to a rise in community activities aimed at supporting or recovering the local environment. Carp fishing competitions are seen as a fun, hands-on way for members of the public to help reduce the high numbers of this pest fish and its destructive impact on inland waterways. High-technology methods such as electrofishing (by trained personnel) are certainly more efficient at reducing carp populations, but they do not provide the community with a sense of involvement.

This guide will be a useful reference for any fishing club or other organisation considering hosting a carp fishing competition. It includes scientific knowledge of the habits and ecology of carp and the most efficient ways to target them. It also includes advice from experienced fishing competition organisers on how to plan and run a public event. Examples and advice are provided on how to successfully combine these two sets of sometimes-conflicting ideals. A workbook is attached at the end.

The guide explains how to set the objectives of a competition, and how these objectives influence many other aspects of planning, such as the site, timing and size of the event and likely sponsors and prizes. It provides advice on public event advertising, permits and insurance, catering, entertainment, registration systems and crowd control. The aim is to maximise the fishing competition's effectiveness against carp while ensuring a safe and enjoyable public event that everyone will be keen to do again.





1. Introduction

1.1 What is this guide about?

This guide has been developed as a tool to help groups plan and run fishing competitions specifically targeted at catching carp from their local waterways. It is made up of two complementary components. The first section describes the planning process and addresses the major issues that need to be considered when establishing a carp fishing competition. The second section deals with running an event. A workbook is included to help guide the planning process.

1.2 Who is this guide for?

This guide is designed for those who wish to set up a new carp fishing event and organisations considering sponsorship. It also provides ideas to people who currently run fishing competitions, including:

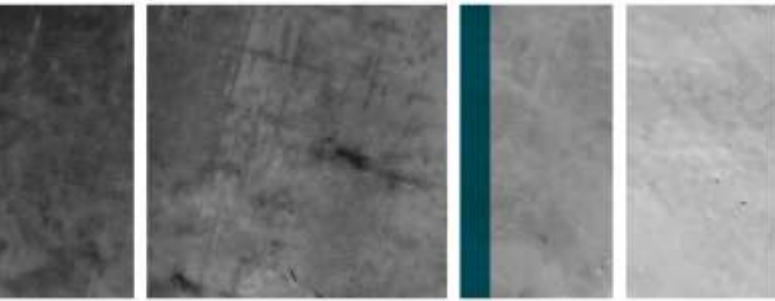
- fishing clubs
- regional community groups
- local councils
- catchment management groups
- regional natural resource management (NRM) groups.

1.3 Carp in Australia

Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) are one of 41 freshwater fish introduced into Australia that have established self-sustaining populations (Corfield et al 2008). Carp originated in China and spread throughout Asia and Europe as an ornamental and aquaculture species. They were released into the wild in Australia on numerous occasions in the 1800s and 1900s but did not become widespread until a release of 'Boolara' strain from a fish farm into the Murray River near Mildura in 1964. The spread of carp throughout the Murray-Darling Basin coincided with widespread flooding in the mid-1970s. Carp are now the most abundant large freshwater fish in the Murray-Darling Basin – comprising up to 90% of fish biomass in some locations – and are the dominant species in many fish communities in southeastern Australia (Reid and Harris 1997, Brown et al 2003). Carp have also found their way into both Tasmania and Western Australia and have been introduced to new localities through escapes from garden ponds, their use as bait, or deliberate release by recreational anglers.

1.4 Problems caused by carp

Carp can have detrimental impacts on native aquatic plants, animals and general river health, particularly through their destructive feeding habits. Although often found in degraded areas, it is still not entirely clear in many cases whether carp are a cause or a symptom of that



degradation. In some cases, carp have probably been blamed for degradation that is actually the result of human activities.

Impacts that have been directly attributable to carp include:

- Reduced water quality – When present in high numbers, carp contribute to poor water quality by uprooting vegetation and stirring up sediments during feeding, leading to increased turbidity. This in turn reduces light penetration, decreases plant growth, inhibits visual feeding by native species and can smother plants and clog fishes' gills.
- Impacts on aquatic plants – Carp have significant effects on native aquatic plants both through direct grazing and through uprooting plants while feeding, leading to a reduction in plant density and biomass. Soft-leaved, shallow-rooted and submerged plants are most likely to be affected.
- Impacts on invertebrates – Declines in macroinvertebrate populations in still waters with increasing adult carp numbers have been well noted. However, only anecdotal evidence exists for running waters.
- Disease – Carp can carry a number of disease-causing organisms. Some of these, such as the Asian fish tapeworm, now occur in Australia and may pose a risk to native fish.

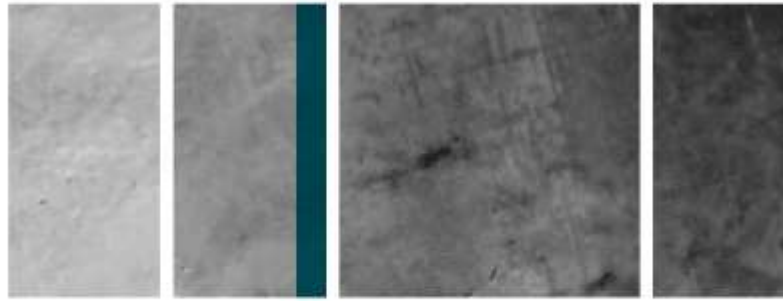
Evidence is less certain for these assertions of carp impacts:

- Reduction in native fish numbers – Anecdotal evidence suggests that carp displace native fish through competition for food and habitats and predation of juvenile fish. However, many native species experienced well-documented declines before carp became widespread and increased carp abundance may actually be a result of declining native fish populations.
- Algal blooms – It has been suggested that an increase in carp numbers leads to algal blooms. Overseas studies have indicated that carp excretions can increase nutrient levels, resulting in an increased concentration of phytoplankton. However, their density would have to be extremely high to have a significant effect, so algal blooms directly caused by carp would be unlikely in many ecosystems.
- Erosion – Carp feeding habits can potentially undermine river banks leading to the collapse of the banks and their vegetation. However, due to the number of confounding factors, there is, at this stage, little scientifically documented evidence to support this.

1.5 Carp competitions

The increasing awareness of environmental issues in Australia has inspired more and more people to become involved in protecting our natural assets. Many community groups are concerned about the impacts carp are having in their local waterways and want to actively address the issue. Carp fish-out events are becoming more popular as people see them to be a fun way to help deal with the pest fish problem, and an opportunity to raise money for the restocking of native species or other community-based projects.

Natural resource and catchment management groups have increasingly invested in carp competitions as a means of engaging the community on pest fish issues and to be seen to be actively addressing the problems caused by carp. These organisations often provide financial and staff support for competitions.

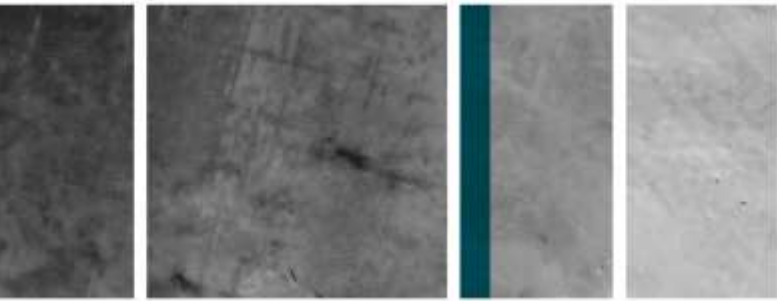


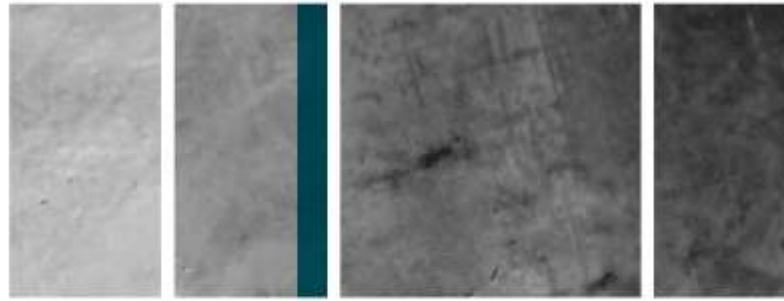
The effectiveness of angling competitions at reducing the impacts of carp populations has not been well documented (Norris et al 2011). It has been widely believed by policy makers that such events have little long-term impact on carp numbers. Recent research in Queensland has confirmed that carp angling competitions have only a minor impact on local carp populations and are neither a one-off nor an annual answer to the carp issue (with one or two rare exceptions).

Carp competitions do offer a range of obvious benefits, including:

- community education and dialogue
- the generation of income for local businesses
- a social function
- raising money for professional carp removal and complementary projects such as restocking of native fish.

Many fishing and restocking clubs already run fishing competitions for native species and have a strong understanding of what is required. There are a number of small but important differences in holding carp competitions, mainly because carp are a declared pest or noxious species. This guide will highlight these differences and provide some ideas on how to make carp competitions more effective and enjoyable.





2. Planning the competition

2.1 How to get started

This section provides a brief overview of the planning process for a carp competition and is designed to be used in conjunction with the workbook (at the end of this document) to ensure most important items have been considered and addressed. The planning process generally takes much longer than setting up and running the event. Careful planning will minimise the risk of unforeseen last-minute problems.

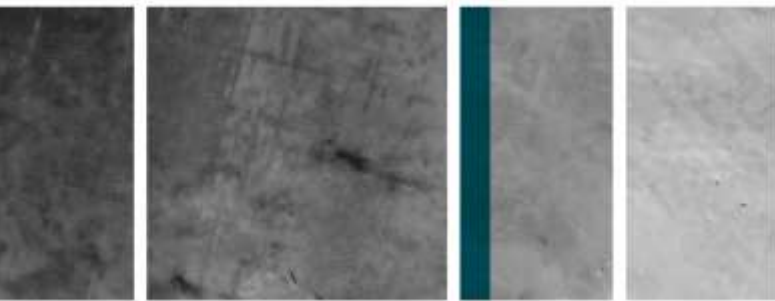
Planning and running a fishing competition requires a solid commitment from the organising committee and a good idea of the number of people likely to participate. There are a number of quick questions that need to be answered before a decision is made to plan in more detail. The answers to these questions will guide the planning process and determine the competition parameters that are most suitable for both the organisers and the participants.

The following list covers some of the main points to consider before deciding to run a carp fishing competition:

- Who will run it?
- Are there enough interested people?
- What are the objectives?
- What type of event will be run?
- Where will it be held?
- When will it be held?
- How will it be funded?
- What will the rules be?

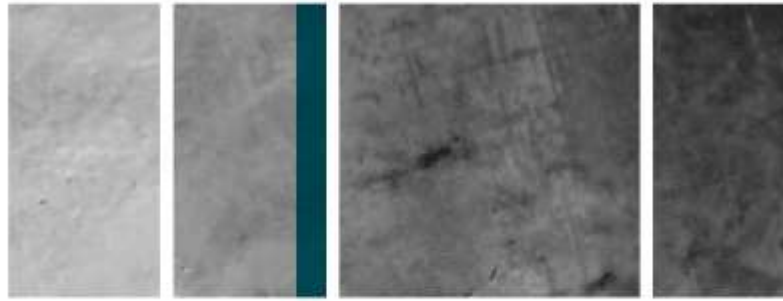
2.2 The competition committee

The key to running a successful competition is the establishment of a strong committee to oversee all planning and implementation. This committee forms the foundation for all competition activities and is responsible for all coordination and decisions relating to the event. The committee should generally consist of six to 12 people. This size will ensure workloads can be shared and individuals are not overburdened by tasks, while still maintaining a group size where decisions can easily be made. The committee members need to be dedicated, and prepared to meet regularly and do a fair amount of work. They must also be prepared to delegate tasks when necessary, or their workload may become too great.



2.3 Competition flowchart





2.4 Competition objectives

Carp fishing competitions can be held for a wide variety of reasons, including:

- as a response to concern about the environmental impacts of carp
- to raise awareness of the pest fish issue
- to raise funds for a worthwhile cause
- to hold a community event
- combinations of the above.

Before any planning begins, a clear set of objectives for the competition must be decided. These objectives will define the type of competition being run and the set of tasks that will be needed to run it.

Competition goals from all members of the committee could be put on a list and each member then asked to individually rank them (eg from 1-5 in terms of importance). Compiling the rankings from each of the members will highlight which objectives are deemed most important by the majority of the group. The top few goals on the list then become the competition objectives and subsequent planning should try to achieve these in the best possible way.

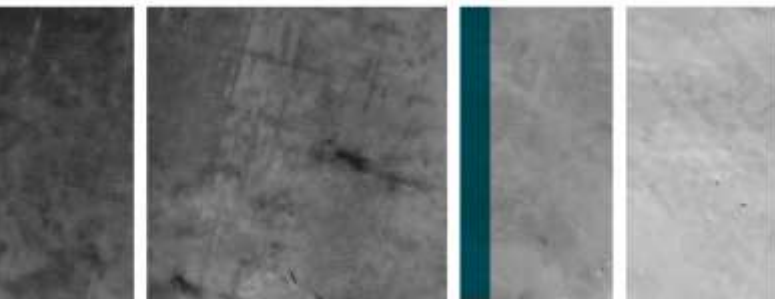
For example, objectives might include: attracting the best anglers in a competition of skill (individual, team or club), raising proceeds for restocking native fish and removing a large proportion of the carp population from a particular area. In this case, a fairly competitive event may be most appropriate. Alternatively, the objectives might include: educating the local community, providing a social event, attracting as many people as possible and raising money for the community (eg the local school). In this example, a less competitive event targeting the broader community may be the best option.

2.5 Type of event

The committee must decide on the nature and target audience of the fishing competition. This may be clearly stated in the objectives or may need further clarification. Factors such as the competition's duration and prize type will be determined by the type of event chosen.

A competition could be held over a single day, a weekend or a month or be ongoing throughout the year. A series of events could also be considered. The duration will affect the site selection and the infrastructure required to host the event. The objectives may also influence the duration of the event; for example, greater carp removal is generally obtained by a series of events, rather than a one-off or annual event.

In more competitive events, prizes are generally based on carp catches, with major prizes often offered for the largest or heaviest carp, or the most carp caught. Conversely, competitions focussing on encouraging participation and enjoyment tend to have fewer major prizes associated with anglers' catches and more prizes for mystery carp sizes or random registration draws. The value of the prizes can also differ between these event formats. Will there be only a few high-value prizes, or will there be lots of smaller, low-cost prizes?



2.6 Site selection

Major factors affecting the choice of site include:

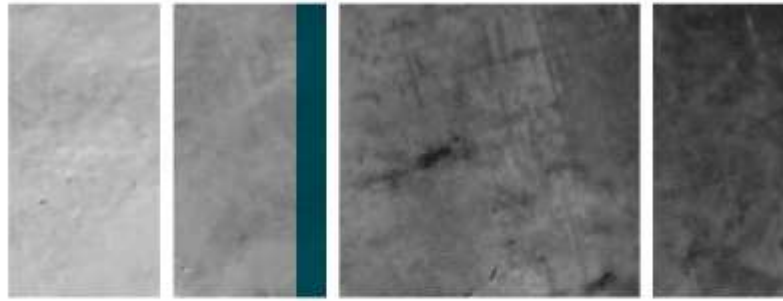
- carp numbers
- accessibility to fishing areas
- ecosystem value and potential for carp-impact reduction
- facilities and infrastructure.

Availability of carp is the highest priority for selecting a site. If people cannot catch fish, they will not be happy and may not attend future events. This is particularly important for competitions trying to encourage community participation in carp management activities. A more competitive event could consider fishing an area with low carp numbers because the chance of catching a carp is reduced and theoretically takes more skill.

Assuming there are sufficient carp in the area, the next major consideration is access to fishable water. In most competitions, not everyone participating has the ability to fish from a boat. So, ample access to shore-based fishing spots is mandatory. The competition site should enable a large proportion of the predicted entrants to comfortably and safely fish from the bank in areas where they are likely to catch carp. Some competitions ban boats altogether and only allow shore-based fishing – this is best undertaken on private land with water frontage. A number of potential sites could be selected and the relevant landholders contacted to determine the likelihood of being able to either traverse through or fish from their property.

The objectives of the competition will likely include how important it is to reduce the impact of carp on the local ecosystem. Fishing competitions generally have a very small to insignificant impact on carp populations due to the size of the areas involved and the proportion of the population removed. If the objective of the competition is to reduce carp damage, then strong consideration needs to be given to site selection. The relative importance of other site selection parameters may have to be compromised. Small enclosed sites where carp are unlikely to breed or sites where carp have only recently moved in provide the greatest opportunity to reduce their populations in a meaningful way. Small areas increase angler pressure (ie angler-hours per kilometre of waterway) and thus hopefully the carp reduction achieved. Closed systems such as billabongs, small lakes, ponds, dams and other isolated waterways ensure that carp cannot repopulate from nearby waters, increasing the timeframe for the benefits of any population reductions. Unfortunately, many of these systems are ideal carp spawning sites and recruitment is likely to be high.

The size of the competition area needs to be carefully considered from a logistical perspective. It must be large enough to enable entrants to access good fishing areas, but still remain manageable. A larger area may encompass more good carp fishing spots, but will increase the amount of work and infrastructure required to support people fishing there. The amount of signage, bins, toilets, and supervision needed all increase with expanding competition areas. Public liability insurance can also increase, as can the occupational health and safety requirements needed to meet the policy specifications.



Smaller sites also make it more likely that anglers will weigh-in their fish more often and spend time at the competition headquarters.

Careful consideration also needs to be given to what facilities and infrastructure are already available at the site. Do the areas being considered have adequate roads, toilets, bins, seating, power and water for the competition? Many fishing clubs already have a clubhouse with toilets, power, cooking and bar facilities. If the competition area is nearby, such a clubhouse can be a great place to use for the competition headquarters. If the competition area is to be more remote to enable camping, then all of these facilities will need to be hired and thus included in the competition budget. Many anglers enjoy the ability to camp where they are fishing and this is particularly beneficial if you are targeting participants from out of town. A compromise to this can be the use of private land where access to power and water, and possibly a shed can be arranged. This could be the local showground or a farmer's property. If entertainment is to be provided in the day or evening then the facilities needed for these activities should also be taken into account, especially if large numbers of people or loud noise is expected. The types of infrastructure and facilities will be further discussed in the budget section and a list is included in the competition checklist and workbook.

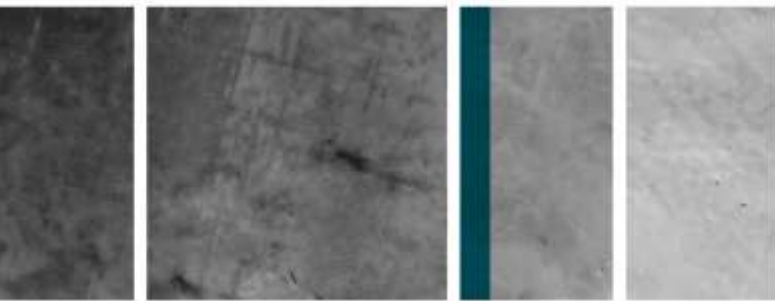
The selection of the competition site and headquarters is sometimes a compromise between a number of conflicting factors. Availability, weather, the competition's objectives and local knowledge of the committee members will all play a role in determining the site selection.

2.7 Event timing

When the event is held can play a large part in determining how many people will attend. Some factors to be considered include:

- dates of other community events in the region
- weather
- seasonal work periods (ie many people might not be able to make it during harvesting season)
- quality of fishing at different times of year
- dates for other major fishing and recreational activities outside the area
- availability of volunteers and committee members in the lead-up to the event.

The duration of the competition may also affect the timing. The event could be for a day, two days, or over a long weekend. Long weekends are always good times to have an event, especially if camping is allowed and people from out of town are expected. The three-day weekend enables campers to set up and enjoy their campsite for longer and allows more time for travel. Multi-day events provide organisers with the opportunity to put on a show for at least one night, providing a social highlight for the area and increasing revenue from catering.



2.8 Funding and budgets

The cost of running a carp fishing competition is closely linked to the size of the event. Obviously, as the number of participants increases, so does the amount of infrastructure required to support the people participating. For small events, much of the infrastructure may already be in place, helping to minimise operating costs. For example, many fishing clubs already have access to a clubhouse or outdoor area where facilities such as toilets, electricity, bins, seating and so on are available. This negates the need to hire or arrange these items. For larger events, or those held in more remote locations, much of this equipment will need to be hired. Regardless of the event size, competitions need to be run to make a profit or at least be cost neutral. This section will firstly discuss ways to raise revenue to pay for an event, and then some of the costs associated with holding a competition.

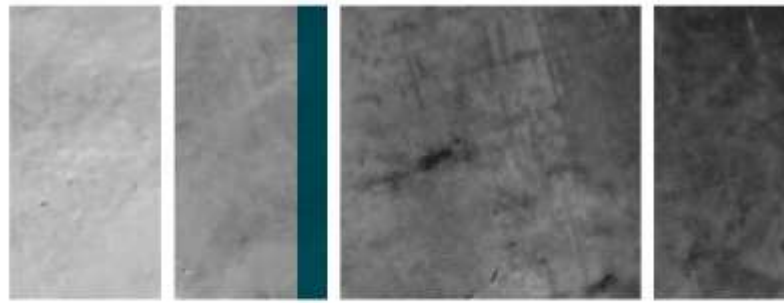
The majority of carp fishing competitions are organised by local community groups, particularly fishing and restocking clubs. While these groups put a certain amount of money into carp competitions, it is generally recognised that external funding will help make the event bigger and better, and reduce the stress on organising committees.

There are a number of avenues to explore when searching for help to cover the costs of running these events. Often regional natural resource or catchment management groups help sponsor competitions, particularly in their first few years. The competitions enable these organisations to set up stalls/displays and communicate with the broader community, passing on appropriate environmental information. Many state governments also have a grants system for funding community events. Some of these are open for application all year around, but others have set dates for the submission of proposals. Large businesses and funds from the proceeds of gambling (eg Queensland's Treasury Casino's community project funds) also have money set aside for community events and these may be worth approaching for help with the event management costs.

The largest revenue component generally comes from angler registration fees. The amount available will depend upon the entry fees and number of people. At competitions targeting community involvement and family fun, these fees are generally kept to a minimum to keep it affordable and encourage as many people as possible to register. Kids or junior fees are often negligible and families generally get good prices. Conversely, more competitive events with expensive prizes can have high registration fees, sometimes over a hundred dollars.

Two other major revenue streams are from raffles and catering. Multiple raffles can raise a surprising amount of money in a short time and encourage people to attend draws and prize ceremonies. The prizes should be something that the participants would find interesting and desirable, and something just a bit beyond what most could afford to buy on impulse. Coolers, fishing gear, alcohol (for ages 18+), generators, camping gear and packages all make good prizes. For larger competitions, big-ticket items such as kayaks or small boats, electric motors and the like can be great prizes. Prize sponsorship or revenue from entrance fees will need to cover the purchase cost of the prizes so that no loss is incurred if entrance levels are poor.

Catering can provide a great source of revenue for competition organisers. People will come to the event headquarters at least once to register and hopefully again to attend the prize



draws. This provides an ideal opportunity to raise some money. Catering can be as simple as a barbecue with cold drinks. The smell of a barbecue cooking all day seems to have an almost magical appeal to many people and they cannot resist buying a quick bite to eat. Community groups can be invited to run a barbecue to raise proceeds for a worthwhile cause. Alternatively, at larger events, catering organisations can be charged a fee to set up their stalls.

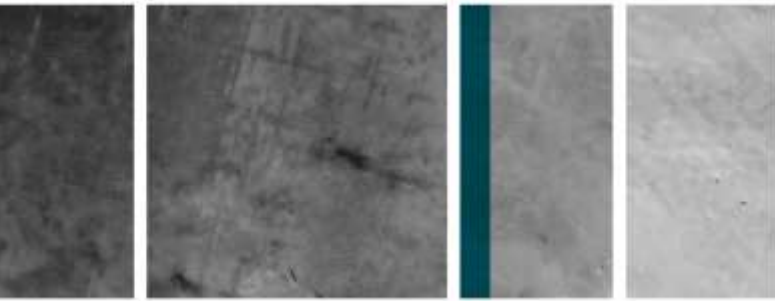
The bar can be the biggest revenue raiser at events, particularly when a night of entertainment is put on for the entrants. The bar also creates a social focal point for anglers and is best set up near the carp weigh-in. The bar can be as simple as a number of coolers for small events, or may provide beer on tap and require large mobile cool rooms when entrant numbers are greater. It is important that the relevant permits are obtained to sell alcoholic drinks and that there is some form of fenced off area and security. The bar needs to be set in an area large enough for people to congregate and generally under some form of cover. Large marquees or sheds can provide shelter from sun, wind or rain and are a good place to arrange seating for people to sit down and enjoy their food or drink. A public-address (PA) and music system can help keep people entertained.

Sponsorship is often needed to ensure participants have a chance to win an adequate number of good prizes. Sponsorship can range from the loan of equipment right up to support of the event and major prizes. For larger events, a number of sponsorship categories may be offered based on the level of support given. Naming rights for the event could be offered to the business or organisation that donates the most. Major sponsors could also be offered the opportunity to set up a display of their goods within the competition headquarters. Local businesses and individuals will often support smaller prizes, sometimes providing them at wholesale cost, or as a donation.

A broad range of organisations provide support for fishing events. Some of the businesses to target include:

- major fishing, camping and boating brands or shops
- local shires, to provide support in the form of funding, sites, electricity, garbage removal and other facilities
- service stations and restaurants, to provide gift vouchers
- fishing tackle and hunting stores
- local shops, to provide prizes and discounted catering goods
- other fishing clubs
- natural resource or catchment management groups
- local hotels, to provide cheap drinks and use of PA or entertainment equipment
- hire companies for the use of equipment.

Developing a good relationship with sponsors can ensure ongoing support for your event and should be a high priority for event organisers. It is important to clearly highlight what sponsors will get in return for their contribution. After all, for most businesses sponsorship is an investment in advertising and they would like to know what sort of return they will achieve. It should be explained to sponsors that their name/brand/product will receive



exposure not only to participants, but also the broader community through the event advertising and media. All sponsors should be acknowledged during the prize ceremonies and major contributors individually thanked. A sponsor list should also be included with the registrations forms and participants encouraged to use sponsors' products and services wherever possible. After the event it is important to thank the sponsors, in person or with a letter, receive their feedback on the event and gauge their interest in contributing to future competitions.

There are clearly many costs involved in running a fishing competition. Some of these are further detailed below.

Media and advertising

- advertising (print, TV, radio, web) and signage
- promotional shirts, drink holders and other items
- website hosting

Prizes

- competition prizes
- show bags
- raffle prizes

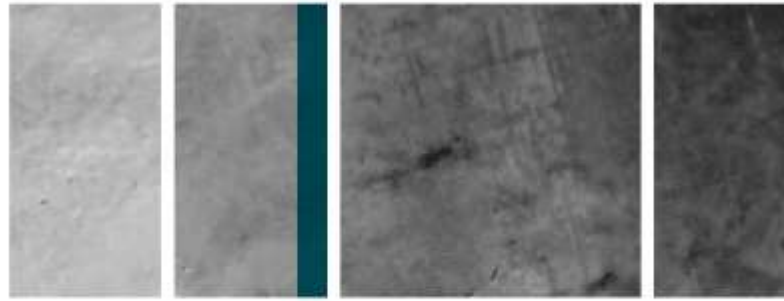
Event management

- permits
- insurance
- phone and administration fees
- printing of registration forms
- petrol for vehicles and generators
- entertainment
- lighting
- medical supplies
- security
- waste disposal
- PA system
- water
- facility hire
- venue hire
- marquee hire
- toilets
- tables and seating
- cooking facilities
- weigh-in scales

Catering

- food and drinks for sale
- ice and coolrooms
- tables and seating
- serving implements
- gas and electricity

Of course, the exact expenses will be determined by the venue chosen, the number of



contestants, the level of prizes and a whole range of other competition factors. There are a variety of ways to help minimise competition running costs. The first question that needs to be asked about an item is whether it is really needed. If it is essential or highly desirable to have the item then does the organising committee have access to one or know of anybody who they could borrow it from? If this is not the case, the item will need to be hired or purchased. The decision of whether to hire or purchase the item should be based upon its cost, availability, storage and whether it will be used in other events. Generally small items like star pickets and temporary fencing are better off purchased as they are affordable and can be reused for a variety of reasons. Larger items like marquees and portable toilets are probably better off being hired as they are typically used infrequently and are hard to store.

Some less obvious costs include provision of food, drink and fuel for volunteers helping with the competition, supplies required for the entertainment (eg stage, lighting, power), possible legal review of the competition rules, event security and availability of water. One other item to take into careful consideration is public liability insurance. In recent years the cost of public liability insurance for events has skyrocketed and in some cases become prohibitive. Depending upon the affiliations of the organising committee, the competition may be partially covered under the policies of the local fishing club if it is the lead organisation. In this case, a special event permit and fee may be required. Alternately the competition may be able to be covered by an existing insurance policy of a local government, or larger natural resource or catchment management organisation.

Below is an example of the costs to run a 2000-person four-day carp fishing competition at the local racecourse. Camping was allowed and a live band performed for the crowd on the Saturday night. Note that the expenses do not cover any of the supplies for catering (food and beverage), because these were deemed to be activities where the costs would be fully covered.

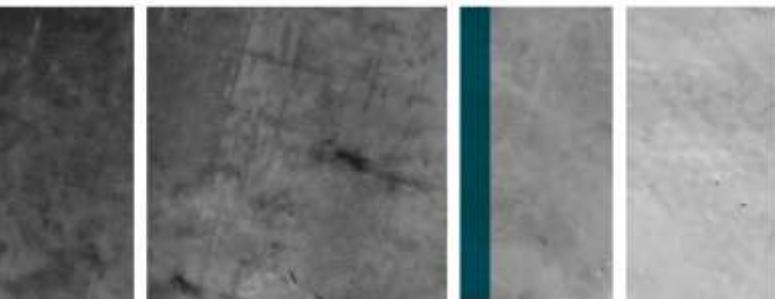
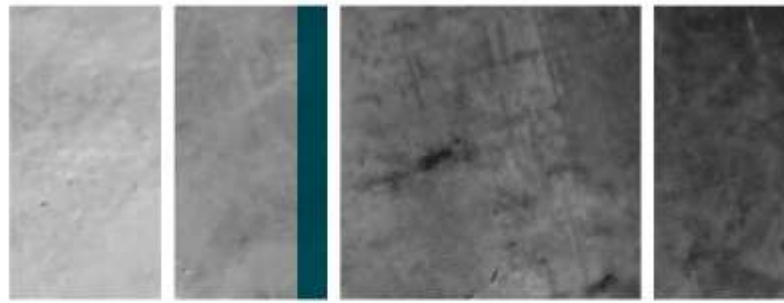


Table 1. An example of the costs to run a 2000-person four-day carp fishing competition

Event expenses	Further details	Cost (\$)
phone and admin		500
licence fees		100
facility/venue hire		1000
insurance	public liability insurance	5000
equipment hire	toilet and showers hire delivery and pickup	5000
(over 4 days)	waste disposal hire and pickup	400
	marquees	500
	PA system	150
	tables and chairs	150
	cold room and ice machine	900
	scales	500
security		200
fuel reimbursement		900
entertainment	live band	500
	lighting for band	100
presentation ceremony	entertainment	880
	trophies and prizes	5000
	prize bags and giveaways	250
production costs	lighting and plumbing	1000
	freight	300
merchandising	shirts and promotional items	2000
services for volunteers	food and drink (over 4 days)	700
communications	mobile phone	200
	maps (design and printing)	500
	signs	1500
ticketing production and rules	nomination tickets design and printing	800
	legal costs for wording of competition rules	500
marketing/advertising	printing and distribution of brochures	5000
	website design, hosting and links	3000
	magazine and newspaper ads	1000
	radio ads metropolitan and regional	2500
promotions	banners	500
	appreciation plaques and certificates	200
other	medical kit	100
	bait	300
Total expenses		42,130



2.9 Prizes

The prizes offered at the competition and the way they are distributed should be directed by the competition objectives and be decided upon by the competition committee. The strategy behind giving out prizes can be to reward angler skill levels and catches, to reward participation, or a combination of both. The value of the prizes should be determined by expected registration numbers, sponsorship levels and the amount of money the event hopes to raise.

Once the distribution method has been decided, the committee needs to determine the number and value of prizes for each category. If multiple weigh-ins are held, the number and value of prizes for these need to be carefully considered as they can add up quite quickly. Generally prizes for each weigh-in are less than those for the overall competition. Competitions could have only a few high-value prizes or offer a lot of lower-value prizes. The length of prize ceremonies and the type of participants needs to be considered at this step. Would the contestants prefer to have a low chance of winning a few really good prizes, or instead prefer to have cheaper prizes and a far greater chance of winning? Offering the latter can lead to quite lengthy prize ceremonies, often resulting in grumblings and a loss of interest. Having many prizes for the Junior category helps encourage the kids to join in, but for similar reasons to above, it may be better to include more items in a show bag provided at registration to reduce prize ceremony lengths and ensure they all get something.

In order to generate greater participation and reduce cheating, the major prize on offer at most competitions is usually awarded based on a random draw from participants' registration numbers. The winner typically needs to be present at the draw and has a set time to make themselves known to event organisers. This approach encourages more people to register, even if they do not fish, because it is like entering a large raffle. Random prize draws also encourage more people to attend prize ceremonies.

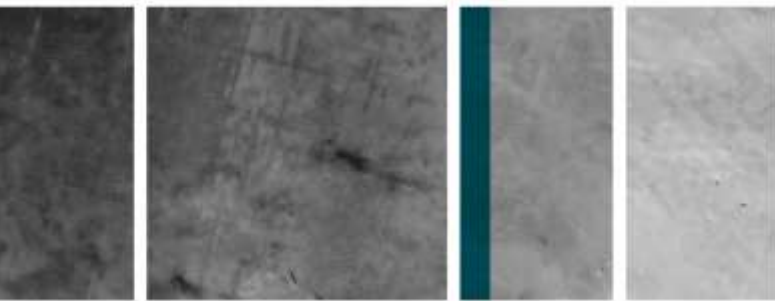
Some of the categories for which prizes could be given include:

- most carp
- heaviest carp
- longest carp
- mystery size (length or weight).

These could apply to each of the Senior, Junior and Team categories with the prize values adjusted accordingly. Prizes for mystery sizes gives all anglers the chance of winning a prize for every carp they weigh-in, regardless of size. This is a particularly useful feature for pest fish competitions where knowing the number of fish removed is important and encourages greater participation.

Just about anything can be used as a prize. Some of the more obvious options include:

- fishing gear
- gift vouchers
- camping gear
- sporting goods
- cash
- boating gear.



A diverse range of sponsors can also lead to a great mixture of prizes. Sponsors can be asked to donate prizes outright, or for more expensive items provide them at a discounted price (eg wholesale cost). Where possible, recognition should be given to any donated goods or services.

2.10 Permits and insurance

A number of permits may be needed to host a carp competition, with the type varying between different regions. For example, in Queensland it is currently illegal to possess any part of a carp, alive or dead. Thus competitions need a Fisheries permit for participants to bring their catch to the weigh-in and then dispose of the carcasses appropriately. In New South Wales, the legislation is different but other permits may be needed. If a bar is to be set up then temporary licensing permits are needed under legislation in most states.

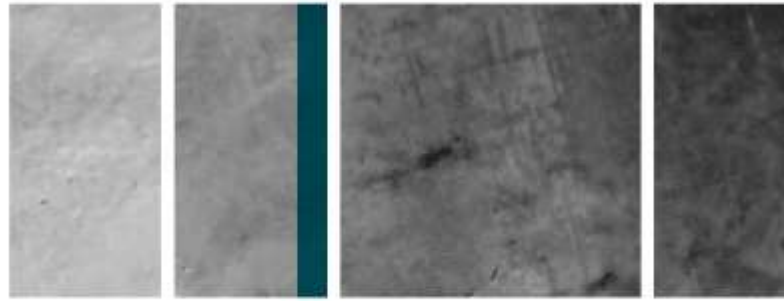
Another consideration for event organisers is recognition of Native Title and/or traditional ownership. Consent should be sought from traditional owners for competitions. Many local natural resource or catchment management groups have an Indigenous liaison officer who could be the first point of call in addressing this issue.

Public liability insurance should be sought for every event. A public liability insurance policy will protect an organisation against its legal liability to pay compensation to a third party for injury and/or property damage arising from an incident related to the organisation's normal activities. The policy also covers legal costs associated with defending a claim for compensation. Public liability insurance policies are now quite expensive, but the cost is insignificant compared to the massive compensation bills that can occur if organisations are not adequately insured. Many groups already have a public liability policy for their regular activities, but activities that are outside the normal activities of the organisation may not be covered. Advice should be sought from the insurer on additional cover for special events such as carp competitions. Sometimes public liability can be included under existing council or NRM cover. If insurance is required, it is important to shop around as the price and degree of cover can vary greatly between companies.

The application process for these permits and insurance can be quite lengthy, so forms should be submitted well in advance of the competition date. Allow 2-3 months if possible to ensure that an event does not need to be cancelled at the last minute due to minor technicalities. Permits need to be clearly displayed in the relevant areas during the competition.

2.11 Media and advertising

A well-developed media and advertising campaign should not only spread the word about the competition, but also educate the broader community about the problems carp and other pest fish cause. To maximise the return for time and money, a detailed advertising plan should be developed and one or two principal contact people nominated. The plan should cover a list of all of the information about the competition and environmental issues that you want to convey and will ensure that a consistent, unified message is presented. The plan should include answers to questions most likely to be asked by the media and any specific



messages the organisers wish to get across. Having only one or two principal media liaison contacts reduces the stress on shyer organisers and ensures that incorrect, conflicting or inappropriate information is not given out. The person responsible for media liaison should be experienced and confident in the role.

The advertising should consist of two phases. The goal of the initial phase is to let people know that the competition will be happening and when it will occur. This information should be spread as widely as possible for several months before the competition date. The second phase of advertising should occur in the weeks leading up to the event. Its objective is to provide more detailed information and to generate interest in the competition. This can be targeted more locally and should increase right up to the registration day and throughout the competition.

Useful advertising methods include:

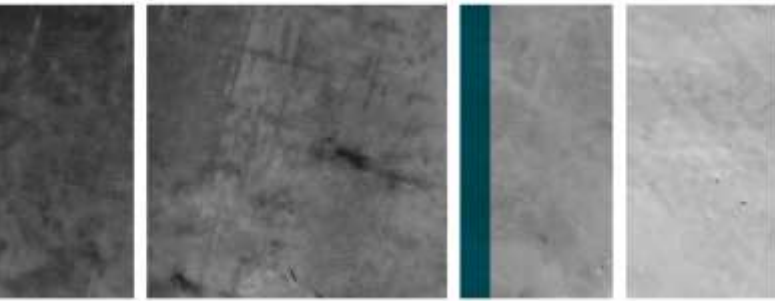
- fishing magazines' events calendars and websites
- advertisements in local newspapers and periodicals
- flyers in local shops and notice boards
- local and regional radio.

Closer to the competition, many radio stations and newspapers will ask for interviews. This is an excellent opportunity for free advertising as well as passing on the messages from the competition to the broader community. Informing fishing clubs around the state and across the border will also ensure any interested members know that the event will be occurring.

During contact with the media, the spokesperson must clearly get across the desired message and should acknowledge the contributions from sponsors where possible. This ensures that sponsors get an advertising return for their generous contributions. In all interviews and advertising, details should be given on how interested people can get further information. One of the best ways to facilitate this is to set up a website for the competition. This could be linked to the organising group's existing website, or be a new site focusing just on the competition. The website will allow more detailed information and maps to be available for interested parties and provide further exposure of sponsors logos and contributions. For larger competitions, registration forms can be posted on the website to allow early registration. The website should contain details about the event times and dates, location, prizes and categories, a map, camping availability and further contact details.

2.12 Rules and regulations

A list of the competition rules should be developed and provided to anglers when they register. Clearly defining the rules reduces the risk of protests and claims being lodged during and after the event and helps it to run smoothly. The rules should contain information about the relevant fishing regulations, competition fishing area, weigh-in times and procedures, fishing times, eligible species, camping restrictions, how prizes are to be awarded and any other important information.

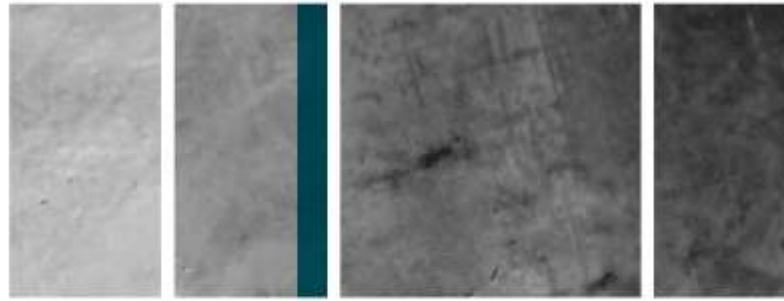


Some common rules include:

- Fishing methods are to comply with state legal requirements.
- Fish are to be killed quickly and humanely.
- The fishing area is restricted to ... and
- Fishing is to begin at (time) on (date) and finish at (time) on (date).
- Fish may be weighed-in throughout the day – no fish will be accepted for weigh-in after (time, day).
- No registrations will be accepted after ...(date).
- Competitors must be registered before they start fishing.
- Only registered competitors will be eligible for prizes.
- Registration tags must be presented with all fish to be weighed.
- Registration tags must be presented to collect prizes.
- Prize presentation will be at (time, place, date).
- Prizes will be awarded in the following categories:
- Anglers must be present to receive their prize.
- For mystery prizes, the angler must reach the stage within 30 seconds to claim their prize. In the event that a prize is not collected, a redraw will occur.
- The judges' decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- Anglers are encouraged to return all native fish to the water in a careful manner.
- Any one fish may only win one prize and all prizes must be accepted, as there is no cash in lieu of any prizes.
- All persons competing and participating in any associated activities do so at their own risk.
- All officials with an identifying letter or wearing an official shirt must be obeyed at all times.
- This is a boat-free competition – no boats are allowed.
- Any person found breaking the competition rules or fishing regulations will be disqualified and their details may be given to the local fisheries officers or police.
- All anglers are responsible for the security of their personal belongings, where personal belongings include vehicle, boat and all equipment, boat motor, camping gear and all other belongings.
- Campers are reminded to abide by relevant camping-ground rules and regulations.
- All competitors using boats must abide by the regulations governing the use of these vessels. This includes appropriate licences, safety equipment and conditions of use.

2.13 Delegation of tasks

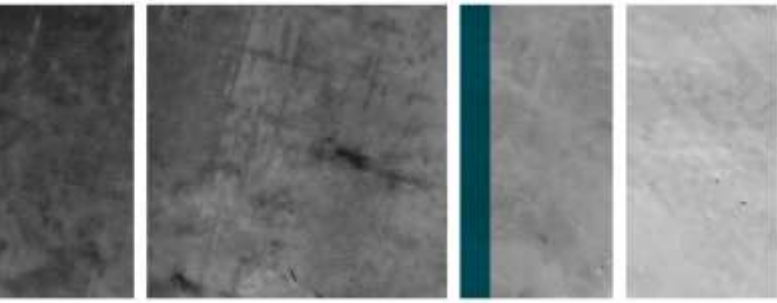
Throughout the planning process a list of things to do will be generated. Responsibility for overseeing these tasks needs to be delegated to individuals. The competition committee may not be able to handle all of the tasks themselves and may need to get other people involved to help out. It is important that all tasks are given a due date and the progress towards

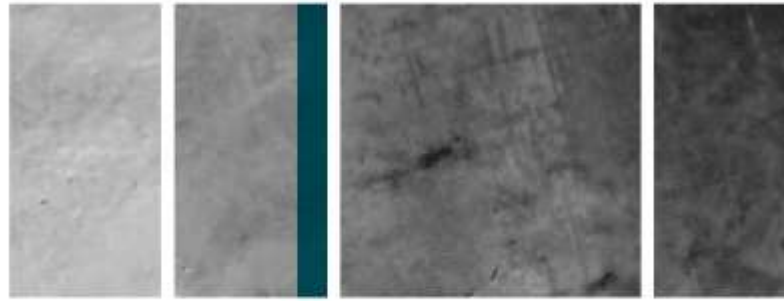


completion is monitored. One good way to do this is to ask those responsible for a brief progress report at the regular committee meetings. Issues can be identified and a plan of attack developed to deal with any difficulties. Creating checklists of tasks for the people involved is an easy way to keep track of what needs to be done and when.

2.14 Hints to increase carp removal

- Target carp in areas where they are likely to be having the greatest ecological impact.
- Reduce the competition area to increase fishing pressure.
- Include camping areas where people can fish. Campers often fish throughout the night.
- Mark on a map the areas where carp are likely to congregate or spawn. Target fishing pressure in these places.
- Encourage the use of burley (fish attractant) as this can significantly increase the catch of carp.
- Pre-seed popular fishing areas with burley to encourage carp to congregate at these locations.
- Suggest and sell a range of bait types. Carp can be fussy and prefer one bait type over another, and this may change from day to day.
- Include sample rigs or suggestions on how to catch carp. Many people fish for them with tackle and gear that is too heavy and hooks that are too large.
- Carp fishing is often better at dawn, dusk and during the night. At these times carp often move into the shallows to feed and are more active. Competitions should be structured to maximise fishing during these times.
- Consider hosting several competitions in the year in the same area. Repeated fishing may have a greater impact on the carp population in the same way it does for other recreational fish species.
- Encourage people to fish more often for carp outside of competitions.
- Use competition proceeds to pay for carp management work in sensitive or priority areas.
- Encourage carp fishing in closed lagoons where migration cannot occur to replace removed fish.
- Do not promote false expectations of carp removal. Be realistic in the competition goals. Carp competitions will in general only remove a small proportion of the carp present.
- Make the competition enjoyable and people will want to participate in future years.
- Provide great prizes to encourage participation.
- Use media opportunities to educate the general public about the harmful impacts of carp and what can be done about them.





3. Running the competition

As the competition draws near, it becomes time to start implementing all the ideas from the planning efforts. A timeline or calendar of each step could be a useful tool for the planning committee to develop early in the process – this can assist tracing progress and readiness. It is at this stage where the benefits of detailed preparation pay dividends and missed items become glaringly obvious. The following section will briefly cover some of the tasks that need to be done to set up, run and tidy up after the event. Some ideas for follow-up activities are also included.

3.1 Site preparations

Working bees on the weekends leading up to the competition may be needed to prepare the competition area and headquarters site. This process is made easier if the competition is held on private land, because more of the facilities can be cleaned or set up in advance without the risk of public interference.

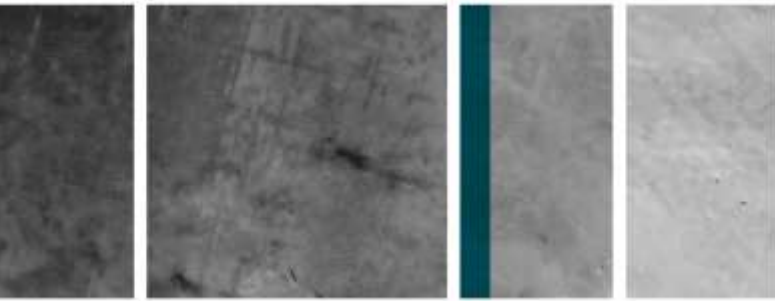
Around the competition fishing area, access tracks may need to be cleared or slashed, bankside reaches tidied up for easier access to the water and fences erected around dangerous areas or no-go zones. If camping is available, areas might need to be slashed to make life easier for the campers. If drop-pit toilets are to be provided, then the holes can be dug in advance of the competition. Where boats are allowed in the competition, designated launch sites could be prepared to help streamline the launching process.

At the competition headquarters, the grass may need to be slashed and any tables, benches and shelters cleaned. Consideration should also be given to the area where competitors will be allowed to park their vehicles. Many people may congregate for the prize draws and entertainment so space needs to be available to accommodate them all.

3.2 Setting up

In the day or two before the competition the remainder of the preparations need to be completed. It is important that individuals are delegated responsibility for each of the jobs that need to be done. This delegation should already be decided upon in the planning process and documented in the workbook. The collection and setting up of hire equipment can be quite time-consuming, especially when only a few large items (eg portable toilets) can be moved at once. Ensure that enough time and people are available to take care of this, especially when items need to be delivered right across large competition areas.

Across the competition area, toilets and bins need to be put out where they will be needed. A range of signage should also be put up. On the major roads and intersections around the region, signs indicating that the competition is on and where to go to register and/or fish will help participants, especially those from out of town. These should be put up before the registration opens.



The competition headquarters can be quite busy just before the registration opening. Having as many volunteers as possible available decreases the load on the organisers and speeds up the process. Some of the items that need to be set up or erected include:

- shelters or marquees for the registration, catering, weigh-in and management areas
- coolroom and ice
- PA system
- registration tables
- toilets
- lighting
- power and cables for all equipment (catering, computers, weigh-in, toilets, entertainment, coolroom, lighting)
- weigh-in table and equipment
- tables and seating
- water for catering and cleaning up at the weigh-in.

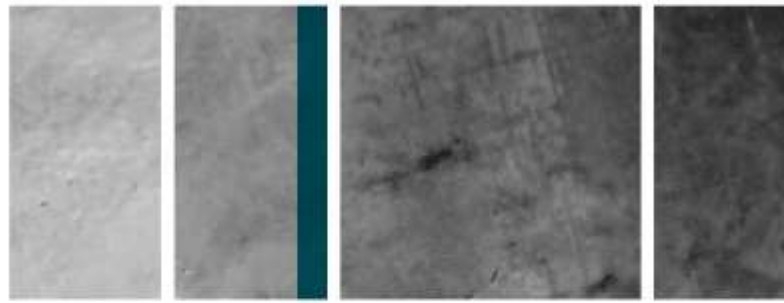
3.3 Registration

Many of the preparations for the competition registration can be made well in advance. If possible, registration forms for each category should be printed on different coloured paper to help differentiate them and speed up the registration process. Registrations seem to be processed quicker when a separate table is set up for participants to fill in the registration details themselves, before presenting the completed forms to the organisers for processing and payment. To facilitate easy cash handling, entry fees could be a multiple of \$5. This reduces the need for coins in change.

There are several ways to allocate registration numbers to participants. When multiple people are accepting entries, it is important that the process is clear and simple, otherwise multiple entrants may receive the same number. One simple and effective method is to divide the entry forms into two sections. The top section has space for the entrant to include all of their details and contains a pre-printed registration number. The lower section has the same pre-printed registration number and the entrant's name. When the entry fees are paid, the lower section is torn off and given to the entrant as their registration number. The upper section is kept by the organisers and the data filed or entered into a database. With this system there is little risk for confusion over the allocation of registration numbers. Separate numbering systems can be used for Junior, Senior, Team and so on (eg J1, S1, T1) categories.

Another way to allocate registration numbers is to simply write them on each form as they are submitted and then cross them off a list to ensure numbers are not repeated. This method is quite practical, but more care needs to be taken so that no entrants are assigned the same number, especially when multiple people are taking registrations.

Regardless of the method used, it is important that all data are kept in an ordered manner. The registrations should be bundled according to categories and either stored in a folder or entered into a computer. This information will be needed for prize allocation at the end of



the competition. If random prize draws are to be conducted, a single entry containing the entrant's name and number should be placed in special barrels or buckets. This can be done by the registration committee or the onus can be placed upon the entrant to submit it.

The registration point is a great opportunity for the competition committee to communicate with each entrant, because they all have to register at some point. An easy way to do this is to give each contestant a show bag as they sign on. These can contain an outline of local fishing regulations, information on local environmental initiatives, sample fishing rigs, promotional material from sponsors, and lists of competition rules, sponsors, weigh-in times and category prizes. In many competitions, the show bags for juniors contain a range of inexpensive fishing gear (such as a tackle box filled with terminal tackle for beginners). This not only encourages children to participate in the competition, but also cultivates their interest in fishing.

There are also other opportunities to raise proceeds at the registration point. Raffle prizes should be put on display and tickets available for sale. Similarly, if there is any promotional merchandise for the competition, it should be on display and for sale where anglers register.

3.4 Marshals

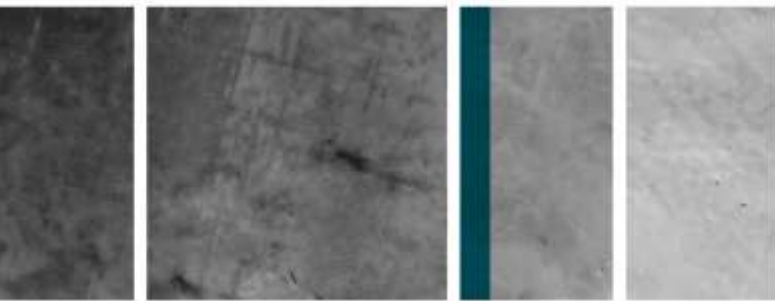
To help ensure the competition runs smoothly, a number of volunteers can act as event marshals. The role of a marshal is to:

- answer any questions people may have about the competition
- direct people to fishing and camping spots
- ensure people are obeying the competition rules and regulations
- ensure people are well behaved and do not become too rowdy
- organise people wanting to weigh-in fish
- direct people during the prize presentations.

Providing marshals with a distinctive cap or uniform is essential as it identifies them to competitors. The rules should state that contestants must obey the marshals at all times and that marshals have the power to disqualify those not conforming. Choose marshals carefully to ensure that entrants enjoy the competition.

3.5 Catering

With many people congregating at the competition headquarters throughout the competition, it is important to make sure that food and drink are readily available. Regardless of whether the catering is run by community groups or competition organisers, adequate cold storage needs to be provided. Also make sure that there are plenty of gas cylinders for the cooking. It is surprising how much can be used when barbecues and other devices are run for long periods.



The bar should be set up near the entertainment area if possible. The area needs to be fenced off to stop minors wandering in and to prevent people walking off with drinks. The liquor licence will specify the conditions for sale, including whether security is needed and the times when sales can occur. The licence is required to be readily visible at the point of sale and alcohol should be served responsibly. Drinks should be chilled in advance if possible before being transferred to coolers. This involves predicting the amount that may be required each day. Tills need to have an ample initial float and enough change. Excess cash should be removed regularly. Plenty of bins should be located in the catering area to ensure that used eating implements and empty drink containers can be easily disposed of, enabling recycling where possible. Within the bar, an area should also be set aside for placing wrapping and boxes for drinks. If possible, a trailer can be parked behind the coolers or coolroom where the rubbish can be easily disposed of.

Making food and/or drinks available free to the volunteers to thank them for their help is an option.

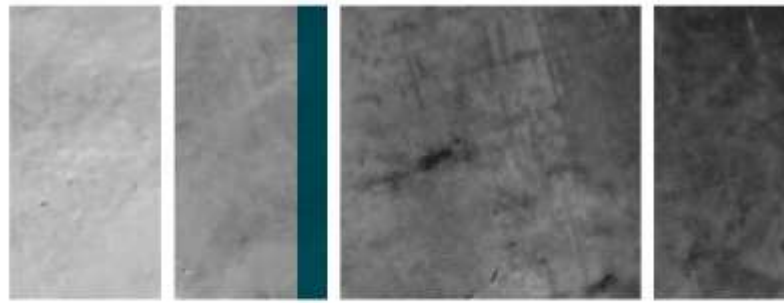
3.6 Entertainment

A wide variety of entertainment can be put on during the competition. Some options to consider include presentations by leading fishing identities, movie screenings, seafood cooking demonstrations, live singers or bands, a DJ, a jukebox, bush poetry and joke telling, or a combination of the above and many others. The entertainment can become a social highlight and substantial revenue can be raised from associated catering and bar sales.

Preparations for the entertainment should be completed and tested at least an hour before the performances begin. Many entertainers will provide most of their own equipment, but may need access to a stage to perform on and lighting and power for their gear. A simple stage can be set up on the back of a flatbed truck with tarpaulins for the roof and walls. This setup needs to be driven into place early so as to avoid navigating around people when the area becomes busier. Thought may need to be given to the stage location and orientation to minimise noise carrying towards nearby homes and properties. Generally the entertainment area is set adjacent to or within the bar and catering area. Ensure that there is adequate space for people to come and enjoy the show. Seating and an area for dancing should be set aside. A designated smoking area will keep non-smokers happy and may also be required under hospitality regulations. If weather conditions could be less than perfect, some form of shelter or marquee for the entertainment and crowd would be a good idea.

3.7 Weigh-ins

Weigh-ins are one of the more exciting aspects of fishing competitions. Here anglers and spectators congregate to register fish caught and compare sizes and numbers. Weigh-in stations are often open continuously, but may also be divided into sessions. The number of weigh-in sessions at a competition is dependent upon the duration of the event and the number of prizes on offer. The period leading up to the close of a session can be hectic as anglers leave it to the last minute to weigh their catch. Continuous weigh-in or having



multiple sessions will encourage anglers to bring their catch in fresh and will reduce the last minute rush at the final session. Typically, weigh-in sessions close daily or half-daily, depending on the competition duration, and prizes are often offered to encourage early weigh-in of fish. The weigh-in station can become very busy, so it is important to ensure there are enough people helping out and that a well-defined procedure is put in place.

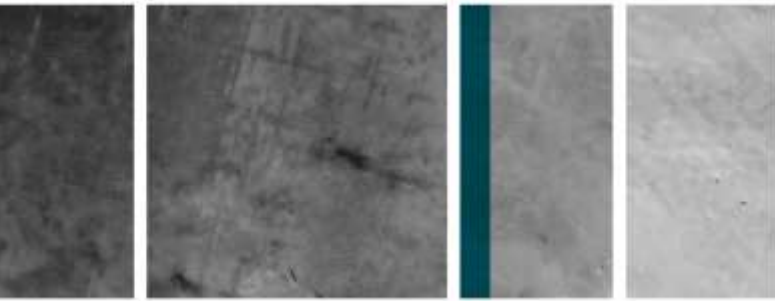
Information that should be collected for each fish includes angler name and registration number, date, time, species (where relevant), length, weight and catch location. Fish length is the easiest measurement to take, because it needs only a suitable ruler or measuring board. Length is also the most difficult measurement for anglers to cheat with. Carp should be measured from the tip of the snout to the apex of the 'V' in the tail fin (called the fork length). Measuring to the V ensures measurements can still be made from fish with damaged tail fins. Weighing individual fish will need a good set of scales (preferably waterproof) and scales should be tared between fish to account for slime and liquid on the measuring plate. The catch location information need not be made available to the general audience, but it may let competition organisers know where the most fish were caught and be useful for planning future competitions.

All catch information needs to be immediately recorded onto data sheets, preferably contained within a ring-binder or clipboard so they cannot be easily lost. It is better to record the results in pencil, because if the data sheets get wet, pen ink might run. Where possible, the catch information should be entered into a spreadsheet or database so it can be easily sorted, used for the allocation of prizes, and retrieved as statistical data in the future. The data collected is likely to be useful for fisheries managers when they need to assess carp populations.

3.8 Presentation of prizes

The prize ceremony is typically a jovial affair and one of the most-anticipated parts of many competitions. Participants look forward to the chance of winning some great prizes, especially if mystery sizes and random registration number draws are involved. The structure of prize presentations for carp competitions is very similar to those for other fishing competitions, except more participatory prizes may be given out to encourage greater registration rates. One of the most important aspects of the prize presentation is to keep it short and simple. Long, drawn-out presentations can be tedious, particularly at the end of a weekend's fishing. It is important that not too many prizes are given out so that the presentations don't go on for hours. It may be better to offer fewer better quality prizes and provide juniors with more in their registration show bags. Similarly, the timing of the presentation is important. Consideration needs to be given to those who will need to travel to get home, or those who wish to socialise further.

Presentations generally follow the tried-and-proven formula of announcing the junior prizes first, followed by the senior prizes and then the major prize and raffle draws. This process ensures that the majority of people have something to look forward to right up until the end of the ceremony. Within the above categories, there can be presentations for each of the weigh-in sessions as well as for the overall prizes. A guest presenter or fishing personality can



help make the presentation more interesting. A clear PA system is a must if large crowds are expected.

At the start of the presentations it is a good idea to give a quick recap of the competition statistics. These can include the number of people registered in each category, the number and weight of carp caught, the smallest and largest fish caught and how the proceeds raised will be used. At this stage it is also important to thank all of the sponsors for their contributions and the volunteers and organising committee for their efforts. A brief summary of any rules and directions related to random prize draws should also be given to ensure there is no confusion.

The winners of all prize categories need to be sorted out before the presentation, including winners of 'random-size' prizes. This can involve frantic work behind the scenes. Allow at least an hour for all of the data to be collated. The announcer can then easily read the winners from a list. The winners of the raffles and random participation draws should be conducted in clear view of the crowd with the major prize saved until last. Each winner should be congratulated before being given their prizes. Photographs of the winners can be useful for post-competition media, report writing and just to capture the event for memories.

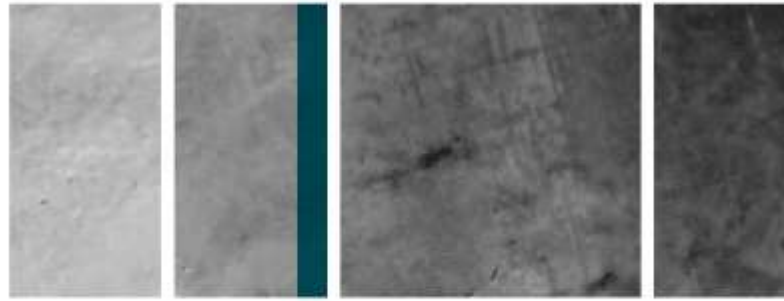
At the end of the presentations, all entrants should be thanked for their involvement and any upcoming competitions or events can be mentioned.

3.9 Cleaning up

When the crowd disperses after the prize presentations, the task of cleaning up must begin. All venues used in the competition should be left in a better shape than when they were found. Extending the hire period of rental equipment to enable items to be returned the day after the competition can help ease the stress and rush of the clean-up. Rubbish needs to be picked up and all bins emptied, particularly where people have camped. A trailer may be needed to move full bins and rubbish bags to the local refuse tip. All fencing and signage needs to be taken down. The catering equipment and cooking facilities also need to be cleaned.

3.10 Post-competition

There are several things that can be done in the weeks following the competition to increase participation in following events and encourage continued sponsorship and support. The media should be supplied with a summary of the competition statistics, information on how the proceeds will be spent and a list of the sponsors. Photos and stories of a fun event can generate interest in future competitions. A report should be written for any major funding body, shire council or regional NRM group. The report should cover the competition statistics (carp removed, number of competitors, etc), media coverage generated, how well the competition objectives were achieved, and the sponsorship received.

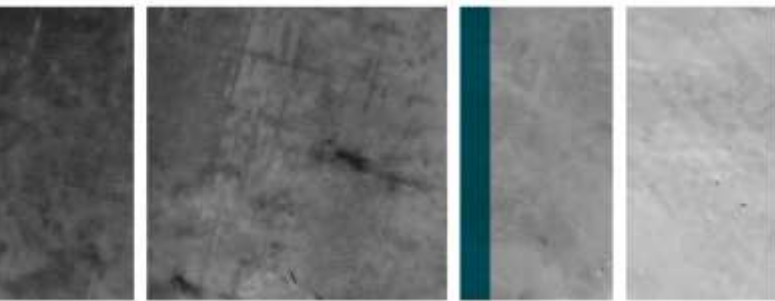


A letter should also be sent out to each sponsor thanking them for their generous contribution, asking them for feedback on the event and the way their sponsorship was handled, and perhaps an expression of interest for support of future events.

The competition committee should also run its own review of the competition as soon as possible after the event. Some of the areas to review could include:

- whether the competition objectives were achieved
- whether the media spread the desired message
- the number of people who registered
- the proceeds raised
- equipment excesses or shortages
- the competition area
- the headquarters site
- carp catch rates
- camping sites
- sponsorship support
- catering
- how the entertainment was received
- what problems occurred
- what worked well
- event timing (duration and time of year)
- whether enough people were involved to help out.

After the review, a decision can be made on whether to hold another competition in the future.



4. Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank the many wonderful people who allowed me to look at the inner workings of carp fishing competitions. In particular I would like to thank Lavinia Fielder and the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) team who organised and ran the 2008 Regional Carpbusters Series in southern Queensland. I would also like to thank those involved in organising and hosting the Surat, Thallon, Mungindi, Goondiwindi, St George and Dirranbandi carp competitions in 2007 and 2008.

5. Further reading

Brown P, Sivakumaran KP, Stoessel D, Giles A, Green C and Walker T (2003). *Carp Population Biology in Victoria*. Marine and Freshwater Resources Institute, Department of Primary Industries, Snobs Creek, p202.

Corfield J, Diggles B, Jubb C, McDowall RM, Moore A, Richards A and Rowe DK (2008). *Review of the Impacts of Introduced Ornamental Fish Species that have Established Wild Populations in Australia*. Australian Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, Canberra.

Koehn J, Brumley A and Gehrke P (2000). *Managing the Impacts of Carp*. Bureau of Rural Sciences, Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Canberra.

Norris A, Chilcott K and Hutchison M (2011). *The Role of Fishing Competitions in Pest Fish Management*. PestSmart Toolkit Publication. Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre, Canberra.

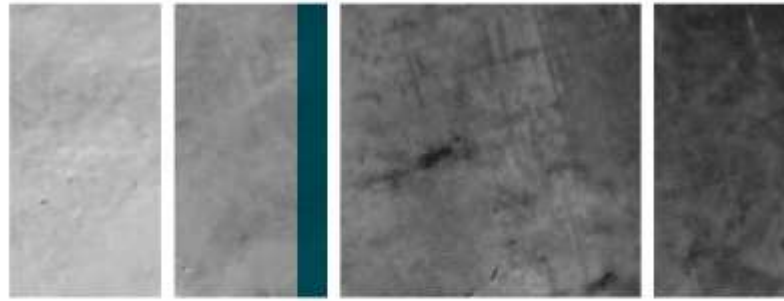
Reid DD and Harris JH (1997). Estimation of total abundance: the calibration experiments. In: JH Harris and PC Gehrke (Eds), *Fish and Rivers in Stress – the NSW Rivers Survey*. NSW Fisheries, pp 63-70.

Websites:

The Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre website contains a wide range of information on carp and other introduced pest species (see <http://www.invasiveanimals.com>).

Vertebrate pest information portal: www.feral.org.au

Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries website: <http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/28.htm>



Appendix 1. Example of details from the Goondiwindi Carp Cull 2008

Competition details

The carp-only competition area extended along the McIntyre River from the Town Commons (below the Goondiwindi Town Weir) to the base of the Boggabilla Weir, a distance of approximately of 12 km. The area also included the off-river lagoon at Rainbow Reserve, where participants could camp and fishing efficiency could be evaluated in a closed environment. The event ran from 8pm Friday through to noon on Sunday.

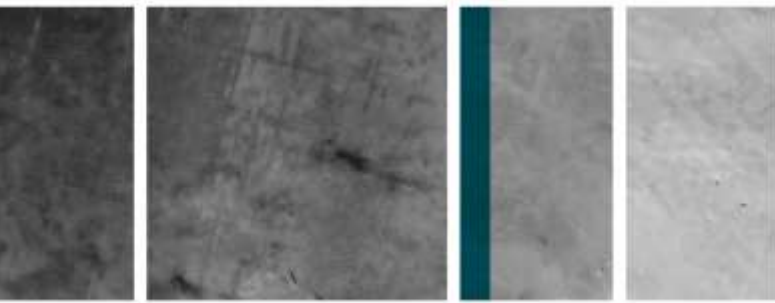
Registrations

Total registrations

- 156 adults
- 86 juniors
- 6 teams
- 266 total

Breakdown of registrations

- Friday night registration (4:30pm-7:00pm)
 - 59 adults
 - 26 juniors
 - 2 teams
- Saturday morning (before 8:30am)
 - 8 adults
 - 7 juniors
 - 0 teams
- Saturday morning (8:30am-10:00am)
 - 19 adults
 - 3 juniors
 - 2 teams
- Saturday lunch (10:00am-1:00pm)
 - 57 adults
 - 35 juniors
 - 2 teams



Prizes

Adult

- registration draw: Engle fridge
- most carp: electric motor
- mystery length: 70L esky

Junior

- registration draw: camping package
- most carp: canoe
- mystery length: tackle kit

Team

- most carp: \$400 cash
- 2nd most carp: \$200 cash

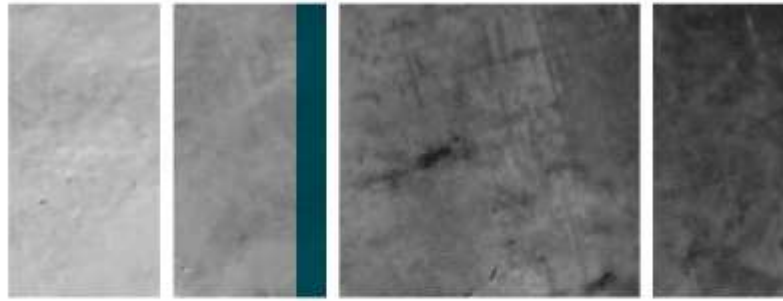
Carp catch statistics

- 149 carp were removed over the event
 - 109 carp caught by adults
 - 20 caught by juniors
 - 20 caught by teams
- largest carp was 5.29 kg (670 mm), caught from Rainbow Reserve
- total weight of carp removed was 105.07 kg (range 0.08-5.29 kg)
- fish lengths ranged from 150 mm to 670 mm fork length

One to two weeks before the competition, a three-person electrofishing team invested a total of 117 man hours and all carp caught were measured to fork length, dart tagged if the fork length was over 150 mm and released. The tagging served two purposes. Firstly, it enabled population estimates to be derived using mark-recapture techniques. Secondly, prizes were offered for the capture of tagged fish to encourage participants to fish in these areas, increasing angling pressure and facilitating an estimate of angler effort. A total of 430 carp were tagged.

Anglers caught eight tagged fish during the competition period. The overall angler tag return was 1.9 %.

Each of the 266 registered anglers averaged 18 hours fishing for a total angler effort of 4068 angler hours. The total carp catch was 149 carp giving a catch per unit effort (CPUE) of 0.037 carp per angler hour. Post-competition, a three-person electrofishing team invested a total of 117 man hours. A further two tagged fish were captured by anglers after the event but before the follow-up sampling. A total of 23 tagged carp were recaptured in the follow-up electrofishing across the competition area. The post-competition carp removal was 667 carp resulting in a CPUE of 5.701 carp per man hour.



Representation:

There were several organisations represented including:

- Queensland Murray Darling Committee, raising awareness of river health and the QMDC Carp Buster Series
- Invasive Animals CRC, raising awareness of the impacts of carp
- Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries raising awareness of pest fish
- Fishcare, raising awareness of proper fishing rules
- Macintyre Valley Cotton Growers.

Sponsors:

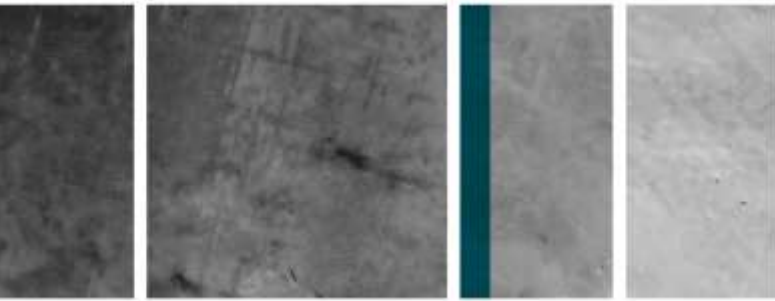
Sponsors of the event included:

- Goondiwindi Bowls Fishing club
- Queensland Murray-Darling Committee
- Goondiwindi Bowls Club
- David Ford Auto Electrical and Air Conditioning
- Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre
- The Queensland Hotel
- Gundy Sports Centre
- Mitre 10 Goondiwindi
- Mackenzie's Home Timber and Hardware Goondiwindi
- Beaurepaires
- Lisa's Screen Art
- Murray-Darling Basin Commission
- Goondiwindi Co-op
- Campbells Fuel
- Bulmers Earth moving
- Batesy Bakery.

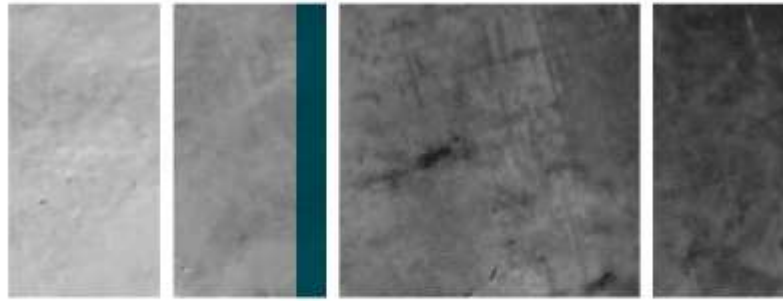
Advertising:

Advertising was comprehensive, and included:

- newspapers (Goondiwindi Argus, Balonne Beacon; Toowoomba Chronicle, The Border News)
- local radio (in conjunction with Goondiwindi District Promotions)
- ABC radio
- Sweet water fishing website
- pamphlets in the local area and catchment
- pamphlets at regional fishing shops.



- website (www.carpull.com.au)
- other fishing events (eg Thallon carp busters)
- The NRW Bugle
- QMDC Connect.



Appendix 2: Workbook

This workbook is designed to be used in conjunction with the guide to planning and running a carp fishing competition. It does not cover every item that needs to be considered, but it will help document the planning process and outline who is responsible for each activity.

Organising committee

Who will form the competition committee?

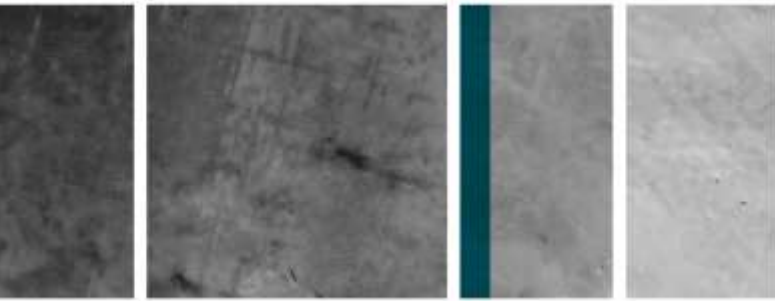
When and where will the committee meet?

Who will chair the committee? _____

Competition objectives

What are the main aims of the competition?

- raise awareness of the pest fish issue and educate people
- raise proceeds for a cause
- hold a community social event
- competition for anglers
- community participation in fishing
- stimulate a local economy
- reduce carp numbers in an area
- other, please specify



What sort of people do you want to attend?

Type of competition

What type of competition will be held?

- competitive angling
- encouraging participation
- social activity
- other, please specify _____

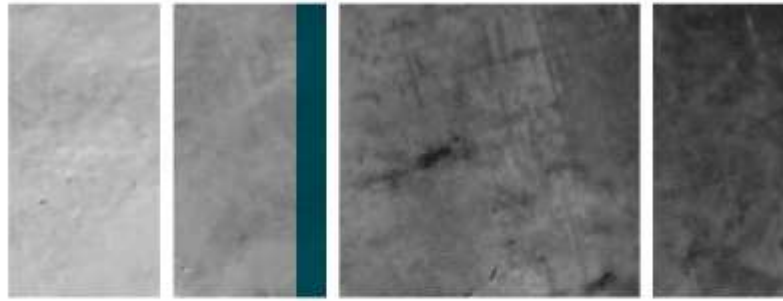
How long will the event run?

- half a day
- one day
- two days
- three days
- ongoing
- other, please specify _____

Will the event be part of a series?

Competition area

Where will the competition be held?



Is permission required? _____

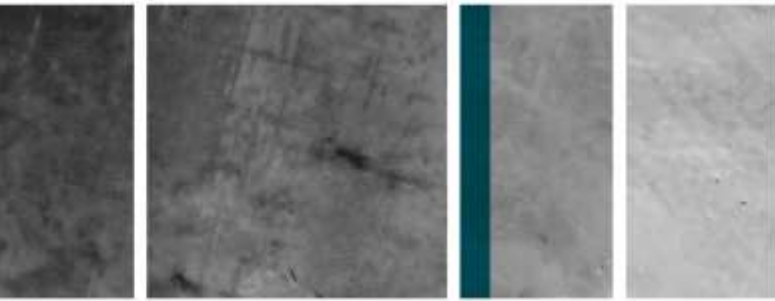
Who will action this? _____

How big will the competition area be?

Where will the competition headquarters be sited?

What facilities are available?

Will camping be allowed and where will sites be?



What facilities and work will the competition require?

- toilets
- showers
- bins
- slashing
- fencing
- power
- water
- other, please specify

Who will action each of these?

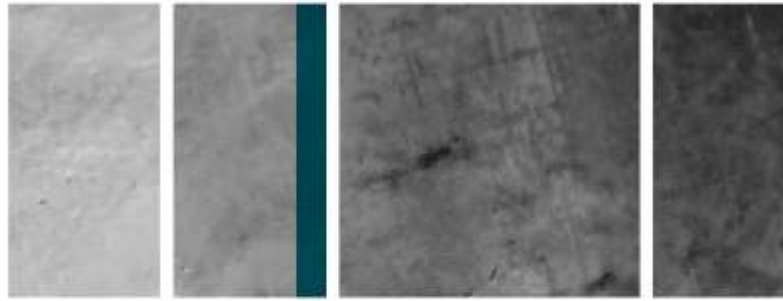
Permits

What permits are needed for the competition?

- carp possession
- liquor licence
- other, please specify

Who will follow this up? _____

Who will consult with the traditional owners of the competition area?



Insurance

Who will provide public liability insurance?

What will it cost?	Quote 1	Company
		Cost \$.....
	Quote 2	Company
		Cost \$.....
	Quote 3	Company
		Cost \$.....

Who will follow it up?

What conditions does the policy require?

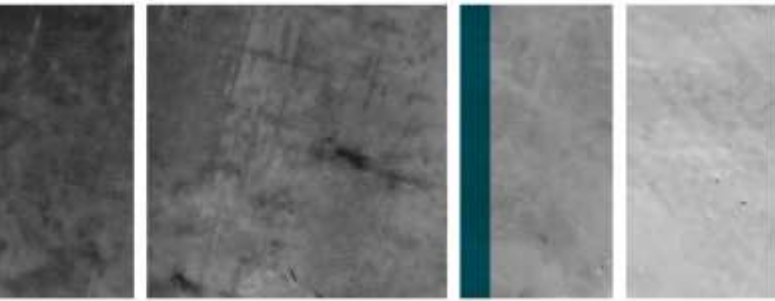
Registration

What will the registration categories be?

- Junior
- Senior
- Team
- Club
- other, please specify _____

What will be the registration fee for each category?

- Junior \$.....
- Senior \$.....



- Team \$.....
- Club \$.....
- Other \$.....

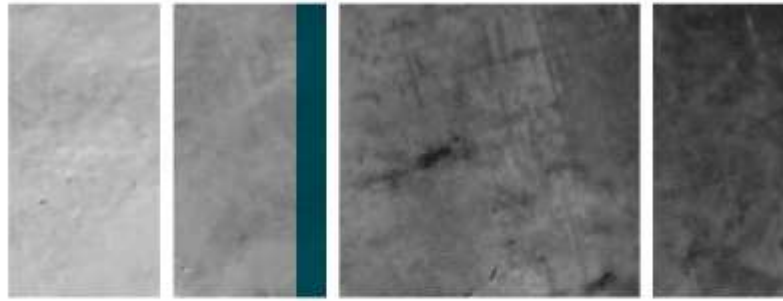
What will be on the registration forms?

How will registration numbers be assigned?

Who will organise the registration process? _____

Will show bags be given out at registration? Yes No

What will the show bags contain?



Will different show bags be given out to junior competitors? Yes No

What will be added to juniors' show bags?

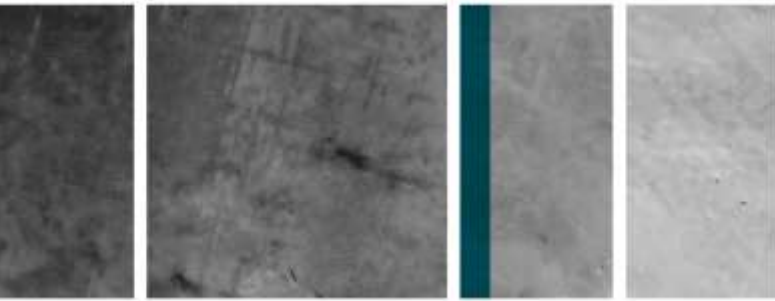
When will the show bags be prepared? _____

Who will do this?

Media and advertising

What advertising will be needed for the competition?

Which forms of media will best achieve this?



Which media outlets will the competition be advertised in/on?

Who will be the principal contact person for the media? _____

What are the main points about the competition to get across?

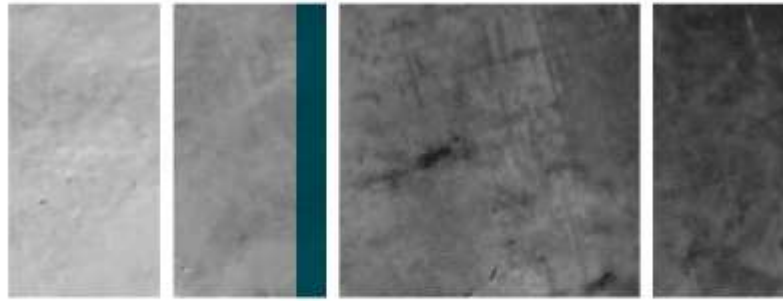
Will a website be set up for the competition? Yes No

Who will do this?

How much will it cost? \$.....

What information will go on the website?

Who will produce the map of the competition area, including fishing areas, facilities, camping zones and the competition headquarters?



Competition rules

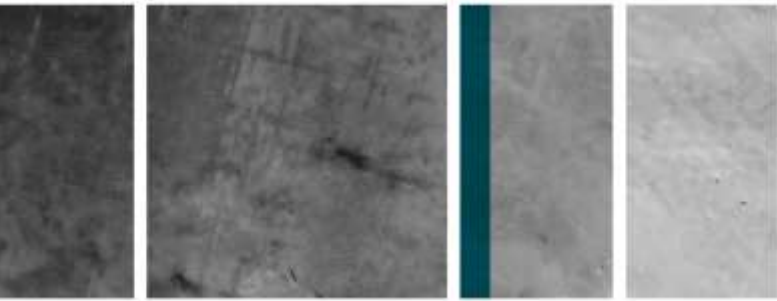
List the rules and regulations for the competition

Funding and sponsorship

Which organisations will be approached for major funding?

Who will do this? _____

Which companies will be approached for sponsorship?



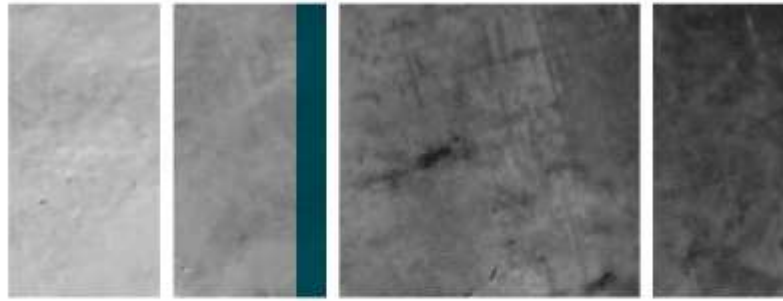
Who will do this? _____

What types of items will be sought from sponsors?

Prizes

How will prizes be distributed (eg mystery weight/length, biggest, most, random registration number, etc)?

How many prizes will be offered in each category and how will they be determined?



What will the major prizes be?

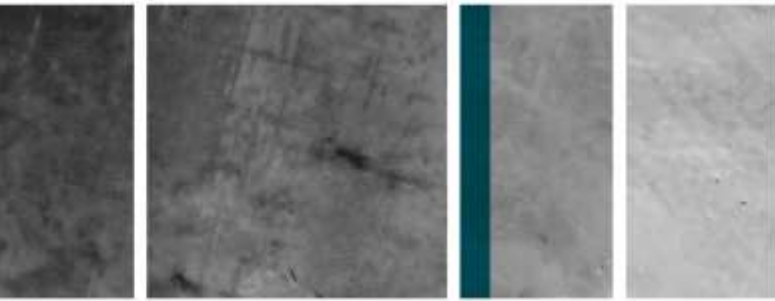
What prize(s) will be raffled?

Who will provide the prizes?

Facilities

What equipment will need to be hired?

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
<hr/>	\$.....
<hr/>	\$.....
<hr/>	\$.....
<hr/>	\$.....
<hr/>	\$.....

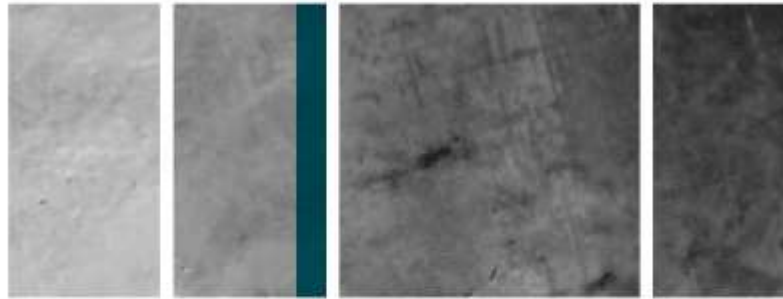


_____	\$.....
_____	\$.....
_____	\$.....
_____	\$.....
_____	\$.....
_____	\$.....
_____	\$.....
_____	\$.....
_____	\$.....
_____	\$.....
TOTAL	\$.....

Who will obtain quotes? _____

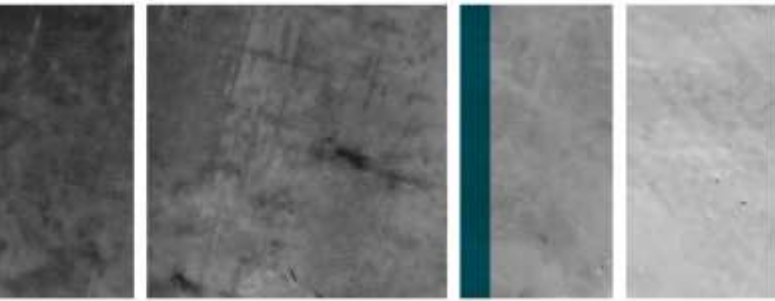
What costs are associated with venue hire?

Can the above costs be minimised in any way? How?



What items need to be purchased? (eg catering, fencing, tickets, printing, fuel, gas, etc) Do not include prizes here.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
_____	\$.....
_____	\$.....
_____	\$.....
_____	\$.....
_____	\$.....
_____	\$.....
_____	\$.....
_____	\$.....
_____	\$.....
_____	\$.....
_____	\$.....
_____	\$.....
_____	\$.....
_____	\$.....
_____	\$.....
_____	\$.....
_____	\$.....
_____	\$.....
_____	\$.....
_____	\$.....
_____	\$.....
TOTAL	\$.....



Setting up

Does the grass in any areas need to be slashed?

Who will do this?

Who will be in charge of collecting the hire equipment?

Who will distribute signage?

Who will distribute rubbish bins?

Who will put up any fencing that is needed?

Who will set up the competition headquarters?

Who will organise catering supplies and cooking facilities?

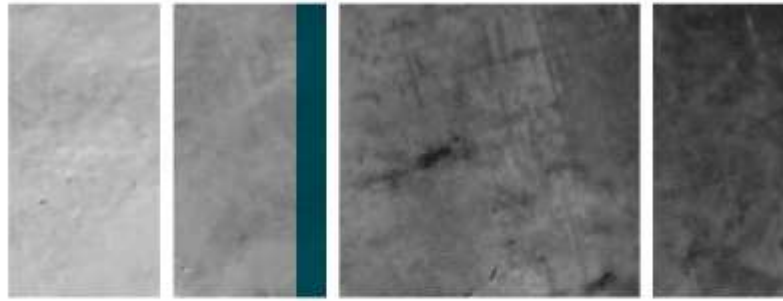
Who will set up the registration area?

Who will be responsible for setting up the weigh-in area?

Who will be responsible for getting a coolroom or coolers and ice?

Where will the prizes be stored?

Who is responsible for organising lighting?



Who is responsible for power and electricity?

Who is responsible for making till floats for:

registration

catering

bar

raffles

merchandise

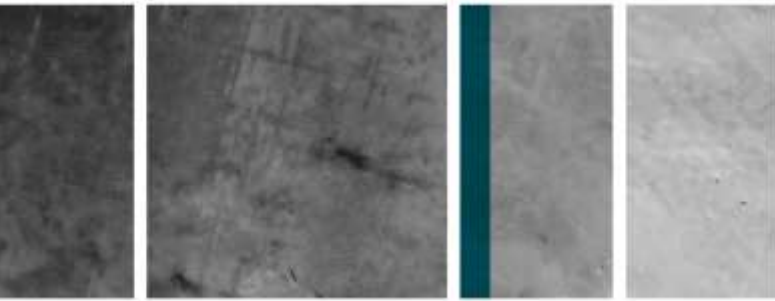
Who will set up the area for the entertainment?

What equipment is needed?

Running the competition

Who will man the registration table?

Who will the competition marshals be?



How will the marshals communicate with each other and the headquarters?

Who will man the weigh-in table?

Who will manage the catch data and determine prize winners?

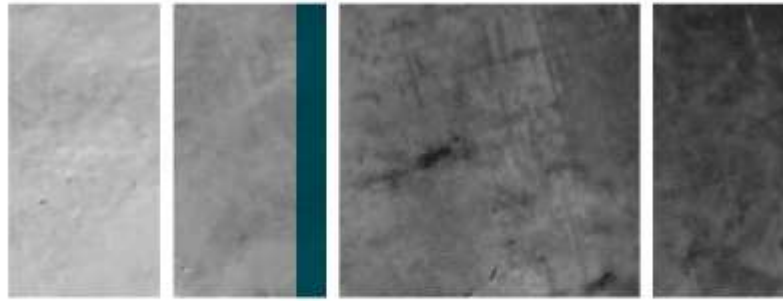
Who will speak at the prize presentation?

How long will people have to claim prizes in random registration draws?

Clean up

Who will clean the area?

Who will take hire equipment back?



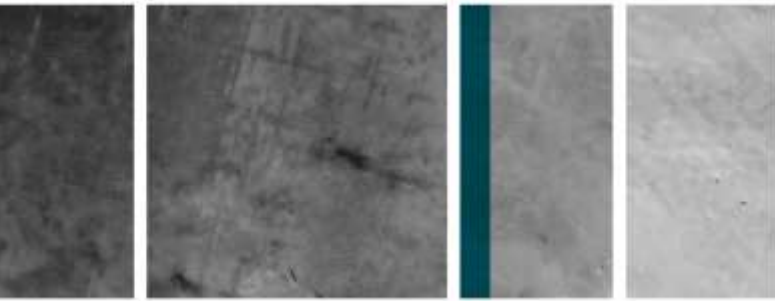
How will the dead carp be disposed of and who will do this?

Post-competition

Who will be responsible for writing thank you letters to the sponsors?

Who will be involved in the competition review?

Who will provide a report of the competition to the media, shire council and regional NRM groups?



Summary task list and timeline

Item	Due date	Person responsible
site booking		
liquor licence		
public liability insurance		
Indigenous liaison		
camping area preparation		
portable toilets		
rubbish bins		
fencing		
signage		
sponsorship		
ads in local papers		
date claimer to fishing clubs		
ads in fishing magazines		
radio advertising		
media interviews		
power		
lighting		
BBQ		
coolroom		
marquees		
PA system		
scales		
measuring board		
weigh-in station		
marshals		
show bags		
registration forms		
data filing/entry		
catering		
mystery sizes		
raffle tickets and prizes		
tables and seating		
water		
prize allocation		



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