

Am I your Bush Bud?

Murray River Cod

About me:

As the largest Australian freshwater fish, reaching 113.6 kg and 1800 mm length, the Murray cod is an icon of the Murray-Darling Basin. The species is important for First People's as it is believed by some communities that a huge Murray cod is responsible for forming the Murray River and all its fishes.

Generally associated with deep holes in rivers, the Murray cod prefers habitats with instream cover such as rocks, stumps, fallen trees or undercut banks. A 'sit and wait' predator, its diet contains fish, crayfish and frogs. It has only recently been discovered that Murray cod make an upstream migration to spawn. This movement can be up to 120 km and generally occurs in late winter/early spring when river levels are high. After spawning the fish move downstream again, returning to the same area they occupied before the migration, usually to exactly the same snag.



Credit: Louis Padgham

Threats:

Threats include, overfishing, particularly during the breeding season when fish are aggressive and easily caught; habitat destruction through sedimentation; and, in the lower reaches of the Murray-Darling system, river regulation (altered flows and thermal pollution) and removal of structural woody habitat (snags).

Become my Bush Bud!

Take a stand for Canberra's Nature and sign up to get the chance to walk with an expert in the habitat of the Murray River Cod!

