



12 March 2009

## Fisheries Officers live high life on the high seas

Fancy a job where the water is your workspace? Where the traffic you encounter on your daily travels is marine life swimming alongside your boat?

A career as a Fisheries Officer with the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) offers freedom, excitement and an important role in the protection and conservation of the state's precious fisheries resource.

NSW DPI Senior Fisheries Investigator Tony Chen and District Fisheries Officer Emma Corfield have been selected to represent NSW Fisheries at the Launch of National Career Development Week 2009.

NSW DPI Manager Special Operations Tony Andrews said Mr Chen and Ms Corfield were the modern faces of an exciting, challenging, unique and highly skilled profession.

"There is tremendous variety and diversity in the role of a NSW DPI Fisheries Officer," Mr Andrews said.

"Their general role is to assist in the conservation, sharing and management of the state's fisheries resources which is played out via law enforcement, education and advisory roles.

Senior Fisheries Investigator Tony Chen works with the specialist Statewide Operations and Investigations Group and has enjoyed a ten year career with the NSW DPI after graduating with a Bachelor of Science majoring in Environmental and Resource Management.

"I always wanted to do something outdoors and on the water that had an environmental and conservation influence," he said.

"I also enjoy the operational aspect of the role, particularly with the Statewide Operations and Investigations Group.

"We get to play with some pretty cool toys in our line of work including high powered watercraft, thermal imagers and night vision goggles in the process of carrying out compliance investigations and special operations.

"Nothing beats the thrill of a good apprehension because at the end of the day my passion is the protection and conservation of the fisheries resource for future generations to enjoy."

District Fisheries Officer Emma Corfield agrees one of the highlights of her role is the passion and vision shared by her colleagues.

“I value the chance to work with like minded people, Fisheries Officers are very passionate about their work and it’s inspiring to come to work each day with people who genuinely care about their role and the difference they can make,” she said.

“Working in conjunction with other agencies such as NSW Police, NSW Maritime, Customs and volunteer groups such as Coast Guard in an effort to educate the public and help protect our valuable fisheries resources is very satisfying.

A Bachelor of Science graduate with a Biology major, Ms Corfield said her role as a Fisheries Officer had afforded her some amazing experiences.

“Working in nature and seeing sunrises and sunsets, witnessing whales breaching in front of your boat, seeing dolphins and turtles swim along side you, it’s all in a days work for us.”

There are over 90 DPI Fisheries Officer positions in NSW, located in 26 locations in coastal and inland areas.

Included in that number are specialist conservation Officers and approximately one quarter of the Officers are female.

**Media contact: Rebecca Bowman 6391 3785 or 0438247 571**