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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Adverse weather conditions and seasonal changes at Lake Awoonga impact fish health**

Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) is urging local anglers and recreational users to remain vigilant following confirmed observations of deceased fish at Lake Awoonga.

The notification comes after reports of deceased fish found this week showing signs of a seasonal fungal infection.

Chief Executive Officer Darren Barlow said this type of fungal infection is likely due to adverse weather conditions and naturally occurring seasonal changes.

“Conditions such as unseasonal winter rain, prolonged strong westerly winds and limited access to warm water bays due to current lake levels can all impact fish health,” Mr Barlow said.

“While there is potential for more fish death sightings at Lake Awoonga, don’t be alarmed if you find a sick or dead fish.

“This event is rare and similar events have occurred at Lake Awoonga and many other impoundments in the past. Our our team will continue to monitor the lake on a daily basis,” Mr Barlow said.

Anglers and recreational users are also advised not to handle any dead and decomposing fish due to the risk of injury and potential infection.

Anglers and recreational users are urged to report any diseased fish sightings to GAWB on 4976 3000 or [gawb@gawb.qld.gov.au](mailto:gawb@gawb.qld.gov.au)

**ENDS.**