



**VICTORIAN RECREATIONAL FISHING PEAK BODY
BOARD MEETING SUMMARY
Friday 25 May 2007**

1. MEETING OPEN

1.1 Welcome and Apology

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1.2 Minutes of the VRFish Board Meeting held 2 March 2007

BACKGROUND: Draft Minutes of the VRFish Board Meeting were circulated to Members.

OUTCOME: The draft Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

2. 2007-2010 VRFish Business Plan

2.1 2006-2007 Final Progress Report

BACKGROUND: Regular progress reports are to be provided to the Board on the 2006/2007 Business Plan. Report 4 – 25 May 2007 was provided.

2.2 2007-2010 Draft Business Plan

BACKGROUND: Following the outcomes of the 4 March 2007 VRFish Strategic Planning Workshop, it was agreed that a draft Business Plan be developed from these outcomes. A draft 2007-2010 Business Plan has been developed and presented to this meeting.

OUTCOME: That the Business Plan is to be completed by 1 July for distribution to Board Members, with special emphasis on measuring outcomes.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 Recreational Fisher Representation

BACKGROUND: Forum to be hosted by Fisheries Victoria.

OUTCOME: To be discussed further at State Council Meeting

3.2 Annual General Meeting Date

BACKGROUND: There has been objection to the scheduled Annual General Meeting Date as it coincides with the AFL Grand Final.

OUTCOME: That the Annual General Meeting be rescheduled to Saturday 13 October 2007 and the Board Meeting to be held on Friday 12 October 2007. It was recommended that the AGM be held at the Williamstown Anglers Club.

3.3 Review of Fisheries Regulations 1998

BACKGROUND: Fisheries Victoria is seeking preliminary stakeholder comment on the working draft 'Discussion Paper on Key Issues for Consultation' on the Fisheries Regulations 1998. The Fisheries Regulation Review Panel met on Sunday 20 May to finalise the Bag and Size Limit Review Recommendations and also the collate submissions from State Council Members

OUTCOME: Comments on Discussion Paper and the Bag & Size Limit Review were not tabled.

3.4 Board Membership

BACKGROUND: Lindsay Grenfell has resigned as a VRFish Board Member. As stated in the VRFish Constitution Item 11.9 (see attached extract) the Board can either appoint a new member until the Annual General Meeting (11.9.1) or continue as status quo (11.9.2).

OUTCOME: Due to the proximity of the AGM the Board agreed not to fill the vacant Board position.

3.5 Priority Species

BACKGROUND: It was proposed to promote to Fisheries Victoria that Murray Cod be listed as a priority species. Under the Fisheries Act, priority listed species do attract harsher penalties for breaches of regulations and also allows enforcement officers to take further measures to enforce these penalties.

OUTCOME: Draft proposal approved and to be submitted to Fisheries Victoria.

3.6 ENRC Inquiry into the Impact of Public Land Management Practices on Bushfires in Victoria

BACKGROUND: ENRC has commenced an inquiry into the Impact of Public Land Management Practices on Bushfires in Victoria and has invited VRFish to make a submission by Friday 25 May 2007 (extension has been sought until end May 2007). State Council Members were invited to submit comments on issues outlined in the Terms of Reference. A draft response has been produced.

OUTCOME: The draft response (with approved changes) was approved and submitted to ENRC.

3.7 Operations Manual

BACKGROUND: The VRFish Business Plan notes that an Operations Manual is to be produced, to outline roles, responsibilities and processes of the organisation. To achieve this, four documents are to be produced. 1. VRFish Constitution (complete), 2. Governance Guidelines (draft yet to be provided), 3. Workplace Policy (complete) and 4. Operational Procedures (draft provided).

OUTCOME: Operational Procedures to be finalised, including minor amendments.

3.8 FRAC

BACKGROUND: Bob Pearce has resigned from the Fisheries Revenue Allocation Committee (FRAC), leaving only one VRFish participant on the FRAC – Alison Gibson. Robert Krix, FRAC Executive Officer, has advised that there are two processes that can occur: 1. That VRFish awaits the Minister's invitation to put forward nominations (and there is no guarantee that the Minister will do this) or: 2. VRFish puts forwards nominations.

OUTCOME: That Rob Loats and John Hotchin (who were nominated during the initial invitation for membership) be put forward to the Minister for Agriculture as potential replacements.

3.9 Boating Infrastructure

BACKGROUND: It has been established that a means of improving Victoria's boating infrastructure is through a more interactive relationship with the Victorian Coastal Council's – Boating Coastal Action Plans.

OUTCOME: It was noted that Walkerville, Torquay and Mallacoota (Bastion Point) boat ramps facilities are inadequate. VRFish members should actively seek election to the Victorian Coastal Councils.

3.9.1 Walkerville Boat Ramp

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: Bob and Doug attended a meeting organised by Neville Clark at Walkerville on 23rd May. Some invitees, such as the Foreshore Committee and DSE did not attend. Those who attended included members of the Walkerville Blue Water Boat & Angling Club; Walkerville Ratepayers Association; and Walkerville Progress Association. The Walkerville Ratepayers Association is not in favour of the provision safe boat launching as they do not want "people with big boats" to come to Walkerville. The meeting was of benefit to enable VRFish to understand the reasons for opposition to the provision safe boat launching at Walkerville, so we can be better equipped to deal further with the issue.

3.10 Fish Relocation and Recovery Protocol

BACKGROUND: During late 2006, a meeting was held between Fisheries Victoria and Members of the Water Resources Committee regarding the update/review of the Protocol. Karen Weaver advised that a redrafted Protocol would be tabled at the Fisheries Victoria Management Meeting in May 2007 and a draft would be forwarded to VRFish for comment, this still has not occurred.

OUTCOME: Executive Officer was directed to send an email to Dr Peter Appleford seeking this draft document for VRFish comment.

3.11 Australian Salmon VRFish Policy

BACKGROUND: VRFish has been concerned for a number of years about the commercial take of Australian Salmon (Arripis Trutta) and in particular that there is no recognition of this species' value as a "sport fish" – refer to attached policy.

OUTCOME: A letter is to be drafted by Doug Evers-Buckland and sent to Fisheries Victoria, advising that the Australian Salmon should be a recreational species only.

3.12 2007 Recfish Australia Conference

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: Executive Officer attended a conference of EO's of Australian recreational fishing state-based peak bodies and provided a verbal report. A comparison report of peak bodies was produced by Recfish Australia was distributed to the Board.

3.13 VRFish Membership - AFTA

BACKGROUND: VRFish received notification from Bill Classon, President of Australian Fishing Tackle Association announcing their resignation from VRFish.

OUTCOME: Resignation received.

3.14 SEES - Public Hearing

BACKGROUND: VRFish has made its submission to the Port Phillip Channel Deepening Project – Supplementary Environmental Effects Statement, with the assistance of Dr Craig Sanderson. The next phase of the Inquiry is to conduct public hearings.

OUTCOME: Bob Pearce and Doug Evers-Buckland to be registered for the public hearings.

The Meeting closed at 5:00pm.
