
2007 – 2008 Business Plan

2nd quarter report to the 2007-2008 VRFish Business Plan against the corporate key performance indicators

Summary –

The most significant event of the last quarter has been the release of the, new look, "Fishing Lines" magazine at our Annual General Meeting. The magazine was formally launched by the Minister for Agriculture, Joe Helper, who, once again, clearly stated his support for VRFish as the recreational fishing peak body. This was a great opportunity for the newly elected Chairman, Geoff Cramer, and new Board to meet with, not only the Minister, but members of his staff and senior managers in Fisheries Victoria.

The magazine was widely distributed at the Fishing & 4WD Show and was met with enthusiastic acceptance from not only members of the State Council but also the broader recreational fishing community. It should be noted that, thanks to the efforts of our volunteer members, "Fishing Lines" was also circulated throughout the State's fishing clubs and retail fishing outlets.

A number of VRFish committees have met this quarter and already they are on track to deliver positive outcomes. VRFish's strong relationship with the Boating Industry Association has enabled the organisation to commence its search for a Grants Officer which is a key deliverable in the 2007-08 Business Plan.

Another key milestone in the Business Plan is the review of VRFish policies. This has already commenced with the very successful Trout Workshop. A discussion paper from this will be released to VRFish members early in the third quarter. There are plans in place to complete further policy reviews over the next six months.

Christopher Collins and Alison Gibson

Assist in the introduction of Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management to Victorian Fisheries

Progress

Advocate availability of fish resources through resource management and stocking programs

- Participate in CONS Meetings

Responsible entity (CC/AG)	Timing	Progress
State Council	March 2008	CONS Meeting dates set – seeking participants

- Participate in the Fisheries Victoria review of the Translocation Protocols

Responsible entity (CC)	Timing	Progress
State Council	Ongoing	15/9 TEP Guidelines Workshop Draft Policy expected

Advocate environmental flows of Victoria's waterways to maintain healthy habitat:

- Assist Fisheries Victoria develop its Drought Contingency Plans

Responsible entity (CC/AG)	Timing	Progress
Water Resources Committee	Ongoing	7/9 Meeting held with Fisheries Victoria 1/11 Commented on Draft Policy Awaiting Final Policy – expected end 2007

Evaluate the impact of diverted water i.e. pipelines, on fish resources

- Participate on steering committee for the Wimmera/Mallee Pipeline to secure environmental flows for fish species.

Responsible entity (AG)	Timing	Progress
Water Resources Committee	Ongoing	10/9 Submission made to Review of Reservoirs 19/10 Preliminary Review of Submissions released

Promote that "iconic" fisheries are managed on an EBFM basis (participate in the development of Fishery Management Plans)

Responsible entity (CC/AG)	Timing	Progress
State Council	Ongoing	Abalone (Review) – commenced, steering committee member John Hawkins Rock Lobster (Review) – commenced, steering committee member Lawrence Moore

		<p>Corangamite – commenced, steering committee members John Hotchin & Keith Ridsdale</p> <p>West Gippsland – draft plan released, steering committee members Peter Murray & Max Fletcher</p> <p>Port Phillip – commenced, steering committee members Franz Grasser & Ron Lewis</p> <p>Wimmera – commenced, steering committee members Ken Flack & Chris Spence</p>
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Key Area

2

Participate in the roll-out of the Government's Recreational Fishing and Boating Policy

Progress

Install fish cleaning tables

- Develop an assistance package for grant applicants, including standard table specifications and handy tips

Responsible entity (CC/AG)	Timing	Progress
Infrastructure	December 07	<p>Draft flyer developed – not required following meeting with Fisheries Victoria</p> <p>Project Manager appointed</p> <p>20/12 met with Project Manager – program to be launched mid third quarter</p>

Establishing new fisheries and fishing opportunities, such as Devilbend Reservoir and Trout Cod

- Participate on Parks Victoria steering committee for Devilbend Reservoir

Responsible entity (CC/AG)	Timing	Progress
State Council	Ongoing	<p>Management Plan commenced, steering committee member Tom Camp</p> <p>Recreational Fishing Working Group formed</p> <p>25/11 Parks Victoria Community Workshop</p> <p>Awaiting draft Management Plan</p>

- Work with Native Fish Australia to investigate the introduction of Trout Cod fishery

Responsible entity (CC/AG)	Timing	Progress
State Council	Ongoing	DSE released draft Flora & Fauna Guarantee Statement for comment

- Investigate the establishment of an estuary perch fishery at Lake Bolac

Responsible entity (CC)	Timing	Progress
State Council	Ongoing	Fisheries Victoria have committed to undertake a risk assessment , awaiting report outcomes 24/10 Governance Group Meeting 8/11 letter of support sent to Fisheries Victoria for Action List for Risk Assessment

Meeting the demand for boat launching facilities

- Publish boat ramp report

Responsible entity (CC)	Timing	Progress
Infrastructure	December 07	Funding application lodged with MSV (awaiting outcome)

- Evaluate and prioritize Victoria's boat ramps and promote to Marine Safety Victoria

Responsible entity (CC)	Timing	Progress
Infrastructure	June 08	Report complete and presented to Ministers and MSV Organising joint Forum with BIA

Develop a classification for Victorian rivers and streams

- Work with Fisheries Victoria, Native Fish Australia, Council of Victorian Fly Fishing Clubs and the Australian Trout Foundation to classify Victorian rivers and streams

Responsible entity (CC)	Timing	Progress
State Council	Ongoing	Working group has been established – Peter Appleford, Travis Dowling & Duncan Hill (DPI), Pat Sheridan & Wally Cubbin (VRFish), Ron Lewis & Nick Thorne (NFA), Merv McGuire & Mick Hall (ATF) Regular meetings are occurring and positive progress is being made

Implement actions defined in the Access for Recreational Fishing Policy Paper

Progress

Define and action access issues annually

- Access with obligations campaign

Responsible entity (AG)	Timing	Progress
Access	Ongoing	Outline of content identified Initial discussions held with Fisheries Victoria regarding development of a joint grant application with Parks Victoria on recreational fisher interactions with marine fauna Initial discussions held with Keep Australia Beautiful regarding development of grant applications for Clean Marine campaign

Key Area
3

Deliver proactive policy directions which improve recreational fishing

Progress

Participate in the review of the Fisheries Act and Fisheries Regulations

- Provide input to the Fisheries Regulations Regulatory Impact Statement

Responsible entity (CC/AG)	Timing	Progress
State Council	March 08	22/6 Comments submitted on Discussion Paper 17/12 Comments submitted on RIS Fisheries (Fees, Royalties and Levies) Regulations 2008 Release of RIS has been delayed, not anticipated until early 2008

Conduct an audit of policies and prepare a renewal program

- Workshop policy gaps

Responsible entity (CC)	Timing	Progress
State Council	March 08	23/11 VRFish Trout Policy Workshop Workshop Outcomes produced Working Group to meet February 2008 to develop revised policy for consultation 1/3 Rock Lobster Policy Workshop

Key Area
4

An active well informed membership drawn from diverse experiences

Progress

Build an increased, active and better informed membership base

- Develop and promote partnerships with kindred organisations and stakeholders

Responsible entity (CC)	Timing	Progress
VRFish Board	Ongoing	Nomination received from Charter Boat Operators

Fill all unaffiliated member positions

- Evaluate 'why' unaffiliated members joined and develop communications strategy targeting these reasons

Responsible entity (CC)	Timing	Progress
Communications & Publicity	December 07	5 positions available as at June 07, 4 filled

Introduce and promote the adoption of VRFish's Governance Guidelines

- Finalise and publish Governance Guidelines and run a information session

Responsible entity (AG)	Timing	Progress
State Council	October 07	13/10 Guidelines have been finalized, published and presented to State Council and adopted Finance Committee to meet regularly to ensure document up-to-date Declarations of understanding to be completed and returned to Secretariat

Strengthen relations with fishing associations and clubs

- Attend regular fishing association and club meetings

Responsible entity (CC)	Timing	Progress
Secretariat	Ongoing	Aim to attend 15 meetings p.a., 11 completed to date

Implement actions identified in Fishery Management Plans

Progress

Identify and encourage responsible recreational fishing behaviour

- Distribute the Victorian Recreational Fishing Code of Conduct through outlets in the regions via the Recreational Fishing Guide

Responsible entity (AG)	Timing	Progress
Access / Communications & Publicity	October 07	Guide released – 300,000 copies produced and circulated

Reference Group to coordinate activities and projects in support of each plan's actions, strategies and objectives

Responsible entity (AG)	Timing	Progress
Reference Groups	Within the life of the Fishery Management Plan	Anderson Inlet Fisheries Reserve – commenced, steering committee member Max Fletcher

Strengthen operation of Research and Development Committee

Progress

Create a Research and Development Plan for recreational fisheries

- Conduct a workshop to identify the research and development needs of recreational fishers for the next five years

Responsible entity (CC/AG)	Timing	Progress
Research & Development	March 08	Committee has commenced planning 1 st Draft Developed

Implement actions defined in the Communications Plan

Progress

Define and implement communication projects annually

- Website

Responsible entity (AG)	Timing	Progress
Communications & Publicity		Membership network loaded to website Working group formed to develop grant application

- Email Database

Responsible entity (AG)	Timing	Progress
Communications & Publicity		Change Database to 4 key groups – complete

- Fishing Lines

Responsible entity (AG)	Timing	Progress
Communications & Publicity		Aim to publish 1 edition – complete 17/10 Minister launched magazine

- Annual Report

Responsible entity (AG)	Timing	Progress
Communications & Publicity	October 07	Complete

Key Area

5

A well resourced Peak Body capable of service delivery

Progress

Review funding formula and diversify funding source

Responsible entity (CC)	Timing	Progress
VRFish Board / Finance Committee	Ongoing	2007-2008 budget allocation has increased by \$65,000. Year-to-date budget \$5,000 underspent, however this figure will change when new budget is developed New revenue streams:- Fishing Lines Magazine \$12,680 Grants received:- Recreational Fishing Guide \$3,640 & Fishing Pontoons \$28,000 (both yet to be received)

- Secure funding for a Project Officer

Responsible entity (CC)	Timing	Progress
Finance Committee	October 07	Joint co-funding option for Project Officer / Grant Officer identified between VRFish and BIA Project Plan developed and approved Position advertised

Undertake a biennial review of the recreational fishing representation model

- Document and review model to ensure that VRFish is meeting expectations and needs of the broader recreational fishing community

Responsible entity (CC/AG)	Timing	Progress
VRFish Board / State Council	June 08	Victorian Fisheries Consultative Arrangements Review 8/8 Peak Body Forum 4/9 Recreational Fishing Forum Forums have developed new structure, whereby a Fisheries Advisory Board will replace the Fisheries Co-management Council. Process not complete, further consideration required by Board and Steering Group