

---

# 2007 – 2008 Business Plan

---

## 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report to the 2007-2008 VRFish Business Plan against the corporate key performance indicators

### Summary –

A key event of this reporting period was the highly successful VRFish Regional State Council Meeting and Research & Development Workshop hosted by the Department of Primary Industries marine research centre at Queenscliff. The weekend was very well attended and State Council members received a number of very interesting presentations from a variety of speakers including a very timely warning on the environmental risks posed by marine pests. As a result of the very informative workshop the organisation has now a clear vision going forward of R&D priorities for the future.

VRFish continued to take a leadership role in the development of Fishery Management Plans (FMP) and this quarter saw the commencement of the Port Phillip and Wimmera FMP's. This now brings the number to six FMP's currently in development.

Another key deliverable for this quarter has been the ratification by the VRFish State Council of the VRFish Governance Guidelines. The purpose of this document is to ensure that members and staff have clearly articulated responsibilities when engaged in the operation of the peak recreational fishing organisation.

This quarter has also seen the publication of issue 2 of the new-look Fishing Lines magazine. Thanks to the efforts of our hard working members Fishing Lines has been broadly circulated throughout Victoria. The Secretariat has received a large number of requests from the broader recreational fishing community to be placed on a mailing list to receive future copies of our publication.

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	Complete

- Participate in the Fisheries Victoria review of the Translocation Protocols

Responsible entity (CC)	Timing	Progress
State Council	Ongoing	15/10 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 Policy received, next step is the development of the priority listing of waters to be stocked

- Assist in the development of CMA Stream Flow Management Plans and other Water Management Plans

Responsible entity (AG)	Timing	Progress
Water Resources Committee	Ongoing	King Parrot Creek Water Supply Protection Area Management Plan – commenced, steering committee member Ray Butterworth Yea River Water Supply Protection Area Management Plan – commenced, steering committee member Ken Ely

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	<p>Abalone (Review) – commenced, steering committee member John Hawkins</p> <p>Rock Lobster (Review) – commenced, steering committee member Lawrence Moore</p> <p>Corangamite – draft plan released and comments submitted, steering committee members John Hotchin &amp; Keith Ridsdale</p> <p>West Gippsland – draft plan released and comments submitted, steering committee members Peter Murray &amp; Max Fletcher</p> <p>Port Phillip – commenced, steering committee members Franz Grasser &amp; Ron Lewis</p> <p>Wimmera – commenced, steering committee members Ken Flack &amp; Chris Spence</p>

## 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> <p>Proposed locations promoted to Fisheries Victoria (top 3 identified)</p> <p>Service Delivery Agency appointed and Manufacturer appointed</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	Management Plan commenced, steering committee member Tom

		<p>Camp</p> <p>Recreational Fishing Working Group formed</p> <p>25/11 Parks Victoria Community Workshop</p> <p>Options Paper developed and presented to Parks Victoria Advisory Committee</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	<p>Fisheries Victoria has stocked Lake Kerford with a small number of Trout cod</p> <p>Fisheries Victoria are negotiating details with DEH to change listed status</p>

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

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

#### Meeting the demand for boat launching facilities

- Publish boat ramp report

Responsible entity (CC)	Timing	Progress
Infrastructure	December 07	<p>MSV grant application unsuccessful</p> <p>Components of report included in website grant application</p>

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

Responsible entity (CC)	Timing	Progress
Infrastructure	June 08	<p>Report complete and presented to Ministers and MSV</p> <p>20/2 Chair met with Minister Pallas to discuss boat launching facilities in Western Port. A follow up meeting was held with MSV. Parks Victoria has been approached to assist with grant applications.</p>

#### 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	<p>Working group has been established – Peter Appleford, Travis Dowling &amp; Duncan Hill (DPI), Pat Sheridan &amp; Wally Cubbin</p>

		<p>(VRFish), Ron Lewis &amp; Nick Thorne (NFA), Merv McGuire &amp; Mick Hall (ATF)</p> <p>Regular meetings are occurring and positive progress is being made</p> <p>Public consultation meetings to occur, Bright 7 May, Wodonga 8 May, Corryong 21 May and Melbourne 29 May. Followed by a 90-day public consultation period</p>
--	--	---

## 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	<p>Outline of content identified</p> <p>Initial discussions held with Fisheries Victoria regarding development of a joint grant application with Parks Victoria on recreational fisher interactions with marine fauna – project delayed until the review of the Wildlife Act has been completed</p> <p>Joint grant application with Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria has been submitted to FRAC for an education campaign for litter free fishing</p> <p>Joint grant application with Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria has been submitted to Sustainability Victoria for an education campaign for cigarette butt litter</p>

### 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	<p>22/6 Comments submitted on Discussion Paper</p> <p>17/12 Comments submitted on RIS Fisheries (Fees, Royalties and Levies) Regulations 2008</p>

		Release of RIS has been delayed, not anticipated until mid 2008
--	--	---

Evaluate proposed initiative government/industry etc to response to climate change and its effects on recreational fishing

- Provide input to the Government's Out Environment Our Future Policies and Our Water Our Future Policies

Responsible entity (AG)	Timing	Progress
State Council	Ongoing	17/3 Comments submitted on the Northern Region Sustainable Water Strategy (Our Water Our Future)  DSE has released the Land and Biodiversity at a time of climate change Green paper (Our Environment Our Future) for public comment until 30 June 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 developed revised policy for consultation, comments due 16/5  1/3 Redfin Policy Workshop, comments due 16/5  1/3 Remuneration Policy, revised policy submitted to Finance Committee for approval 21/4

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, awaiting interview

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	1 position available, nomination received, awaiting interview

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 (majority received)

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 per annum, 14 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	Complete

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  Glenelg Hopkins – commenced, steering committee members Doug MacIntre and Henry Rantail

## 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	1/3 Draft presented to State Council for comment 2/3 R&D Priorities Workshop

Use analysis and research to support advocacy efforts

- Plan and develop a model to establish the true economic value of recreational fishing in Victoria

Responsible entity (CC)	Timing	Progress
Research & Development	June 08	Grant application submitted to FRAC

## 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 Grant application submitted to FRAC

- Email Database

Responsible entity (AG)	Timing	Progress
Communications & Publicity		Change Database to 4 key groups – complete Merged into a excel spreadsheet and anomalies removed

- Fishing Lines

Responsible entity (AG)	Timing	Progress
Communications & Publicity		Aim to publish 1 edition – complete 17/10 Minister launched October 2007 magazine April 2008 edition published and distributed

- Annual Report

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

## 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	Year-to-date budget \$2,155 overspent  New revenue streams:- Fishing Lines Magazine \$12,680 - October 2007 & \$9,420 - April 2008  Grants received:- Recreational Fishing Guide \$3,640 & Fishing Pontoons \$54,000

- 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 - no longer being pursued  Position description & business plan has been developed and position advertised on SEEK  Expressions of interest close 9 May

#### 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  Position Paper expected mid 2008