



Media Release

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FROM THE OFFICE OF VRFISH – VICTORIAS' RECREATIONAL FISHING PEAK BODY

VRFish says “It’s time to establish a Blue-nose cod fishery”

“...Blue-nose offer an exciting potential for “family fishing” opportunities for drought affected Victorians.”

At the recent Native Fish Australia (NFA) ‘Trout Cod Proposal Workshop’ 9 other recreational fishing organisation, including the Australian Trout Foundation (ATF) & the Council of Victorian Fly Fishing Clubs (CVFFC) & other VRFish members were united in their call to establish a viable inland recreational fishery for trout cod, also known as ‘Blue-nose cod’.

NFA have proposed to create a blue-nose fishery at Kerford Lake and/or Sambell Lake as well as various specified rivers including the Ovens & the Mitta Mitta.

“With the North East of Victoria still suffering the effects of prolonged drought plus a downturn in visitor numbers due to the recent bush fires this proposal could provide a much-needed boost for tourism” VRFish Executive Officer, Christopher Collins said.

“Regional Victoria needs the dollars that recreational fishers bring” Collins added. “A new fishery like this could bring in much needed revenue to rural towns and communities”

Collins also said “We have received advice that there is already a provision in the draft ‘National Trout Cod Recovery Plan’ for the establishment of a recreational fishery for Blue-nose cod.

“It would appear that there is no Commonwealth impediment for our new Minister responsible for fisheries, Mr Joe Helper, to move this initiative forward and commence discussions with his Federal counterparts.”

The Victorian Labor Government has made it clear that they are supportive of initiatives to boost participation numbers in recreational fishing and also to develop new fisheries. \$12 million has been set aside over 4 years to improve recreational fishing opportunities for all Victorians

“We look forward to Minister Helper getting behind this exciting new initiative.”

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