



Media Release

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

How little is too little?...

We all know Australia is suffering from one of the worst droughts. We also know that our water storages are at low levels.

So how much water is needed to sustain fish stocks before the removal of fish is needed? VRFish is concerned that there have been suggestions that agencies are considering killing resident fish stocks under the guise of “biomass reduction”.

VRFish believe that fish stocks in some water storages that have not been recently stocked are well below the numbers put forward by some inexperienced observers.

There is every potential that in open uncontrolled waters less than 10% of stocked fish make it through to the following season. These mortalities occur from either natural causes, predation of birds, animals, larger fish or angler intervention.

VRFish fully understand the difficult challenges in managing water storages to meet the demands of a broad user base, however we do not support the removal of fish as we believe it is an ill conceived and in general an ineffective control measure.

VRFish has made a plea to select Water Authorities and Fisheries Victoria to firstly consult with all Stakeholders to ensure a more informed decision is made.

Recreational fishers do not want to see a repeat of the Lake Fyans netting project, as this was a prime example of just how ineffective the practice is and also an example of the animosity it can generate in the wider angling community.

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