



Media Release

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

SUB TROPICAL FISH SPECIES BEING CAUGHT IN BASS STRAIT....

Victoria has become a mecca for Big Game fishing with big numbers of anglers travelling to Portland from many parts of Australia, where they are catching Southern Bluefin Tuna of well over 100kg in weight in some cases.

The Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body (VRFish) Chairman, Bob Pearce, said “Victorian anglers who would normally be heading to such places as Bermagui to go fishing at this time of the year are actually finding better fishing virtually on their own doorsteps in Victoria.

The excellent game fishing on offer has meant that tourist dollars are staying in Victoria, instead of heading over the border into New South Wales. “Portland is experiencing a tourist boom because of the excellent game fishing on offer. There are not many places in Australia, in fact the rest of the world, where Tuna weighing over 100Kg can be caught, yet we have them right here in Victoria”.

An unexpected bonus to anglers targeting Southern Bluefin Tuna has been the capture of quite a number of Dorado, a sub tropical fish species that is also referred to as Mahi Mahi or Dolphin Fish (although they are not in any way related to Dolphins). It is relatively rare for Dorado to be caught in waters south of Sydney. It is a fish that is noted for its excellent eating qualities, as well as being highly regarded as a sporting fish.

Pearce said, “it is not really understood why Dorado are venturing into the cooler waters of Bass Strait, but they are obviously finding something to their liking in the waters off Portland and no-one is complaining about them being such a long way from their normal homes. We hope that they will continue to visit Victoria.”

Portland local, Bob McPherson said that although anglers are successfully catching good numbers of Southern Bluefin Tuna, the majority are being released after capture, which is in accordance with Victoria’s Recreational Fishing Code of Conduct to ‘carefully return unwanted catch back to the water’.

VRFish – Victoria’s Recreational Fishing Peak Body
Marine House, Ground Floor, 24 York Street, South Melbourne Vic 3205
Telephone: 9686 7077 Facsimile: 9682 1066 www.vrfish.com.au