



MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE
VRFISH OFFICE
APRIL 2007


Welcome to the Monthly Report from the VRFish Office.

This newsletter should be sent on to all clubs and members of associations that you represent. Anyone wishing to receive this newsletter directly can e-mail Alison at alison@vrfish.com.au or phone (03) 9686 7077 to be added to the distribution list. If you have any difficulty reading or receiving this Report, this month's edition is also now on our website at http://www.vrfish.com.au/news_index.htm

- **Channel Deepening Project** – VRFish has released its position paper on the Channel Deepening Project http://www.vrfish.com.au/media_releases.htm which outlines VRFish's concerns about the likely impact of the project on the Bay's ecology. A submission has been made to the Department of Sustainability and Environment on the Supplementary Environmental Effects Statement on 7 May 2007 outlining these concerns <http://www.vrfish.com.au/Submissions.htm>.
- **Port Campbell Parking Strategy** – The Corangamite Shire has finalised its Parking Strategy for Port Campbell, with some excellent results for recreational fishers. Rob Loats, VRFish Board Member, worked closely with fellow locals and have achieved an increase in the number of parking spaces available to fishing boats and trailers. For a full copy of the Parking Strategy, check out www.corangamite.vic.gov.au.
- **Angel Rings Installed** – Eight Angel Rings for the pilot project were installed along the George Bass Coastal Walk and at Wilson's Promontory on 21 and 22 April 2007. Well done to Brian Hayes, VRFish Member and Australian National Sportfishing Association (ANSA) Victoria and Doug Evers-Buckland for all their hard work in seeing this project through. VRFish commends the efforts of ANSA, Life Saving Victoria and Parks Victoria. This is a great project working toward safer recreational fishing.
- **You Wouldn't Read About It** – Sometimes fish pop up in the most unusual of places. During the month of April there have been some amazing reports of fish being sighted or caught outside their natural range, two such reports are a Marlin in Port Phillip Bay and a Mahi Mahi (Dolphin Fish) was caught at Portland, source www.wildblue.com.au "Bob's Fishing Report". But a fish that's not outside its natural range is the Southern Bluefin Tuna and VRFish has been receiving some amazing reports about large



fish being caught of Portland.

- **What its Real Name?** – Fish species sometimes go by many different names, as we just saw in the abovementioned article a Mahi Mahi is sometimes commonly known as a Dolphin Fish. Well the Fish Names Committee has worked very hard with the fishing community to clear up some of this confusion and have developed a website www.FishNames.com.au that will let you know 'What's its Real Name!'
- **Snapper Discussion Paper** – Fisheries Victoria has released a discussion paper about the management arrangements for Victoria's recreational snapper fisheries and is encouraging anglers to have their say. The discussion paper identifies issues arising from increased recreational snapper catches, particularly in Port Phillip Bay and Westernport. Submissions must be received by 15 June 2007. For more information check out www.dpi.vic.gov.au/fishing. To assist in making your submission a questionnaire has been developed for you to submit your comments on (this is also available online).
- **Devilbend Update** – As reported in the March 2007 report, both Christopher Collins and Tom Camp have submitted their nominations to participate on the Devilbend Reserve Advisory Group. Parks Victoria has advised that the nominations will be referred to Minister Thwaites before final announcement of Group Members. VRFish anticipates that an announcement will be made later this month.
- **Walkerville North** – VRFish has organised a meeting of key stakeholders to discuss safe boat launching facilities at Walkerville North. VRFish has been approached by the local angling clubs to assist them improve the facilities at Walkerville North. This meeting will be held at the Walkerville North Hall on 23 May 2007. Chairman - Bob Pearce, Executive Officer - Christopher Collins and VRFish Member - Neville Clarke will report back on the outcomes of the meeting.
- **Desalination Plant** – It was reported in The Age and Channel 7 earlier this week that the Minister for Water, John Thwaites, had announced that a desalination plant was inevitable for Melbourne, and that a feasibility study was in progress to examine cost and possible locations for a plant. VRFish has learned that the panel of experts from Melbourne Water have not ruled out Port Phillip Bay as a possible location. This is despite the risks that the dispersal of the salty discharge, including heated water, may have negative environmental effects on the bay. It was also announced in The Age that Western Port Bay may also be an alternative location. Whilst there is no doubt that an urgent solutions needs to be found for Melbourne's looming water crisis VRFish has deep concerns for the effect that this may have on recreational fish stocks in Port Phillip Bay and Western Port. VRFish will be closely monitoring this emerging issue.
- **Upcoming events** -
 - 19/5 – [Eildon Pondage Family Fishing Day](#)
 - 25/5 – VRFish Board Meeting @ Marine House, South Melbourne