



MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE
VRFISH OFFICE
AUGUST 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

- **River Red Gum Forests Investigation** – The submission closing date to the Draft Proposals Paper is coming quickly (21 September 2007), VRFish recently outlined some of its concerns with the Paper in a recent media release, http://www.vrfish.com.au/media_releases.htm, such as access, boat launching facilities, existing management practices and resourcing. The VRFish Access Committee will meet on 8 September 2007 to form its submission, following which VRFish will post comments on the Paper on its website. VRFish encourages all recreational fishers to make a submission to the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC). Feel free to utilise VRFish's comments. Details on how you make a submission are available at www.veac.vic.gov.au.
- **No Moratorium is a Good Moratorium** – It has been confirmed that South Australian fisheries will no longer be considering a moratorium (closure) on recreational fishing for Murray cod in the South Australian section of the Murray River. VRFish wrote to Minister Rory McEwen back in December 2006 outlining their concerns about this proposal, expressing that there are several other scientific management initiatives and plans being implemented to manage Murray cod across the entire Murray-Darling Basin. It was welcomed news when SA advised that they are in consultation with fishery managers in Victoria and NSW to develop alternative management arrangements to offer better protection for Murray cod. The closed season for Murray cod fishing in South Australia commenced on 1 September 2007.
- **Snapper Discussion Paper Results Released** – Fisheries Victoria received 384 public submissions during the April 2007 Snapper Discussion Paper. The consultation process also included interviews with 1152 anglers in Port Phillip Bay and Westernport and 600 telephone diarists. The analysis from these three sources provided the following results:
 - The single most popular preference (40%) is to retain the 27cm limit;



- However, a majority of respondents (56%) want the size limit increased above 27cm;
- A large majority of respondents (70% indicated a preferred size limit in the range 27cm to 30cm);
- A large majority of respondents (71%) indicated a preference to retain the current limit of 10 snapper;
- A large majority of respondents (65%) indicated a preference for a two tier limit of 3 snapper more or equal to 50cm, and
- The next most popular option (16% to 18%) was a reduced to a limit of 3 fish more or equal to 40cm.


VRFish submitted comments to Fisheries Victoria on the draft Fisheries Notice to make changes to the recreational snapper management arrangements. VRFish will publish the final Fisheries Notice on its website when released.

- **Fishing Show is on again** – It's that time of year again, the Melbourne Outdoor Expo and Fishing Show is fast approaching. The doors will open on Thursday 25 October until Sunday 28 October 2007. VRFish will be making an appearance again to meet and chat with you. It will be worth your while dropping by our stand to pick up the latest 'hot off the press' copy of the Fishing Lines magazine. It's been too long since the last edition, and VRFish is excited to be presenting this new high quality edition. There will be also some great prizes on offer!



- **Catch/Possession Limit for Bass Yabbies** - Fisheries Victoria have introduced a catch/possession limit for Bass yabbies in Victorian waters. A daily limit of 100 Bass yabbies has been introduced to address compliance issue of excessive take of Bass yabbies in Port Phillip Bay and Westernport. For a copy of the Fisheries Notice, check out http://www.vrfish.com.au/Angler_Info.htm
- **CONS Report Released** – The Regional Fisheries Consultations Meeting Outcomes have been released by the Department of Primary Industries. This report provides information on fishing stocking, fish population surveys and other management issues for recreational fishing stakeholders that have been discussed at annual consultative meetings throughout the state. To read the CONS report, go to www.dpi.gov.au/fishing; follow the 'Quick Links' through 'Fish Stocking'.
- **Masters Games include Fishing** – The 2008 Port Pirie Pura Light Start Masters Games will include for the first time – fishing! The Masters Games will be held between 5 April 2008 and 13 April 2008. It is still unknown when exactly the fishing competitions will take place; this will not be known until in 2008 when the tide times are established. There is to be an estuary competition, off-shore competition, land-based competition and a scale fish competition. For more details on the Master's Games, check out www.portpiriemastersgames.com.au. If a Victorian team decides to enter – let me know, we would love to do a profile on you!
- **RIS Delayed** – The Regulatory Impact Statement outlining changes to fisheries regulations will not be released in August as originally planned; it is now anticipated for late September / early October 2007. VRFish will continue to keep you informed and will notify the recreational fishing community as soon as they

become available.

- **New Inland Fisheries Manager** – Fisheries Victoria have recently appointed Travis Dowling as the new Inland Fisheries Manager. Travis is a keen recreational fisherman who grew up in North East Victoria where he fished for Cod, Yellowbelly, Trout and Redfin and anything else he could catch in the many streams and lakes North of the Divide. Travis has also lived and worked in the Northern Territory where he was on the Executive Committee of the Amateur Fishermans Association of the NT (AFANT) and spent many weekends chasing Barra, Mangrove Jacks and big Northern Australia Jewie's. Travis has worked at senior levels of Government in Victoria and the NT and has developed recreational fishing policies and strategies. He is an avid recreational fisherman who looks forward to promoting and increasing recreational fishing opportunities in Inland waters in Victoria and working closely with VRFish.
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- **Grants Program Open** – The 2007-08 Boating Safety and Facilities Program (Grants) is open until 28 September 2007. The Program will allocate \$5 million in funding to applicants for the upgrade of facilities, safety training, search and research vessels and equipment, boating safety signage and the enhancement of marine communications, for full grant details check out www.marinesafety.vic.gov.au
 - **Attention Groups in the Port Phillip & Westernport Area** – Melbourne Water and the Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority have just released a three grant programs to implement actions to address priority issues of the Regional Catchment Strategy and the Regional River Health Strategy – Group Support Grants, Group Promotion and Development Grants and Project Grants. Applications close 5 October 2007 for full details regarding these grants programs, check out www.ppwcm.vic.gov.au or www.melbournewater.com.au and follow the links to the grants information.
 - **Devilbend Reservoir, a natural features reserve** – Tom Camp, VRFish delegate to the Devilbend Reservoir Advisory Group provides an update for our readers. A recent media release from the Minister for Planning, Justin Madden confirmed that Devilbend has been classified as a natural features reserve. The Minister said 'The Mornington Peninsula is a popular tourist destination due in large part to its natural beauty'. Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries Division has engaged into the process with VRFish and Parks Victoria to establish the necessary research required for a recreational fishery. At a recent field day, Parks Victoria facilitated some lively discussions which established the vision for Devilbend. The next steps for VRFish will be to organise an angler forum to gauge what type of fishery they would like!
 - **Upcoming events** -
 - 14/9 – VRFish Board Meeting @ South Melbourne
 - 22/9 – Lilydale Family Fishing Day
 - 12/10 – VRFish Board Meeting @ Marine House
 - 13/10 – VRFish Annual General Meeting @ Williamstown Angling Club
 - 20/10 – Eildon Family Fishing Day