



MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE
VRFISH OFFICE
JUNE 2008

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

- **2008-09 Boating Safety and Facilities Program** – The 2008-09 Boating Safety and Facilities Program (BSFP) opened on 3 June 2008 and closes on 15 July 2008.

The BSFP is a grants-based program and is funded by re-investing recreational boat operator licensing fees and vessel registration revenue.

This program, now in its eighth year, has already contributed over \$31 million to make boating safer and more accessible for all Victorians. It allocates funding to individual grant-based projects initiated by community, agency or stakeholder groups and to statewide programs initiated by Marine Safety Victoria.

\$5 million will be allocated to the 2008-09 BSFP to improve boating safety and facilities on Victoria's waterways.

The Program is divided into the following project categories:

- Boating Facilities and Community Harbours
- Search and Rescue
- Aids to Navigation
- Education and Training
- Marine Communications

The BSFP is administered by Marine Safety Victoria on behalf of Tim Pallas, Minister for Roads and Ports.

The BSFP funds projects for boating, fishing and community groups, local waterway authorities, government agencies, committees of management and marine search and rescue organisations.

For more information please contact the Grants Administration Team on freecall 1800 337 222 or by email msv.grants@transport.vic.gov.au or visit our website www.marinesafety.vic.gov.au.

- **Melbourne University Research Project** – The University of Melbourne is currently seeking people who have been angling in Port Phillip for more than 10 years. Interviews with long-time anglers aim to determine the ‘quality’ of angling back then compared to now. Have the species that are targeted changed over time? Have the ‘success rates’ changed and are the sizes of the fish caught still the same?

This research project will try to tap into the vast knowledge of the local angling community about the fish fauna in local waters. This knowledge supplements and in parts certainly exceeds data from scientific studies undertaken over the years. Interview partners remain anonymous and coffee or lunch will be paid for!

If you would like to participate please contact Chris Jung (cjung2@postgrad.unimelb.edu.au) or the VRFish office and the researcher will get back to you asap.

- **Translocation of native fish – Lake Mokoan** – One of the most significant fish relocation operations ever carried out in Victoria has been completed at Lake Mokoan, near Benalla. Golden Perch and Murray Cod were translocated from the lake to various sites along the Goulburn River, Lake Hume and Lake Benalla. The operation was conducted in December 2007 and more recently in April 2008.

The works resulted in more than 2000 Golden Perch (size 350-400mm) and 50 Murray Cod (largest cod 22kg) being translocated from the lake. The decision to translocate the fish was made due to the succession of dry years leading to water levels in the lake being at a very low level. The decision to translocate native fish species was made in consultation with Victoria’s Recreational Fishing Peak Body (VRFish), including local representative groups.



The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) engaged a highly skilled licensed operator and Fisheries Victoria to undertake the capture and translocation of the fish, with assistance from DSE, Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) and Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GB CMA) staff.

The operation was completed under permit conditions set out by Fisheries Victoria to ensure correct procedures are adhered to in the capture, transportation and release of native fish species to secure their survival. The operation was closely monitored to ensure maximum survivability of native fish from capture to release.

In addition to translocation of native fish, carp were also captured and disposed of by the contractor. This provided a great opportunity to reduce the overall population of carp in Lake Mokoan.

- **Stream Classification Tour Conclusion** – Well the public meetings have concluded for the draft stream classification model, which was well attended by recreational fishers in the North East region as well as at the Melbourne meeting. However the process does not end there. You now have the opportunity to provide input to the draft model through the 90-day public consultation process. VRFish encourages you to review the draft model and make a submission to Fisheries Victoria www.dpi.vic.gov.au/fishing.



- **Melbourne Boat Show** – The 2008 Melbourne Boat Show is happening from Thursday 3 July – Monday 7 July. Come to the VRFish stand to complete our survey on Tuna, Snapper and Shark fishing regulations and go in the draw to win a SARCA anchor. The Boat Show will be held at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre and tickets range from \$8 for children and \$17 for adults. See <http://www.biavic.com.au/boatshow/> for more details.

- **Native Fish Policy Review** – VRFish will be hosting a workshop to review its Native Fish Policy at its 5 July State Council Meeting. VRFish established an Inland Fishery Policy in March 2004, which included elements for inland, trout, native fish and environmental flows. After the recent workshop on the trout policy and subsequent development of an issues paper it's now time to turn our attention to native fish. Presenters will include Nick Thorne of Native Fish Australia and Travis Dowling, Manager Inland Fisheries. Full details and background papers will be posted on our website. If you would like to register for the workshop, please contact Alison Gibson info@vrfish.com.au or 9686 7077.



- **Thank You** – VRFish would like to thank all who made a submission to the draft trout policy, your input has been greatly appreciated. All comments will be submitted to a sub-committee who will review all submissions and amend the policy as required. The finalised policy will be tabled at the July VRFish State Council Meeting for endorsement and final inclusion into the VRFish Inland Fishery Policy.



- **Upcoming events** -
 - 24/6 – Snapper Stock Assessment Workshop @ Queenscliff
 - 3-7/7 - Melbourne Boat Show @ Melbourne Exhibition Centre www.biavic.com.au/boatshow
 - 4/7 – VRFish Board Meeting @ Marine House
 - 5/7 – VRFish State Council Meeting @ Marine House

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