

Fisheries Act 1995
FISHERIES NOTICE 2026

I, Travis Dowling, Chief Executive Officer of the Victorian Fisheries Authority, as delegate of the Minister for Outdoor Recreation, having undertaken consultation in accordance with section 3A of the **Fisheries Act 1995** (the Act), make the following Fisheries Notice under sections 68A, 114 and 152 of the Act:

Dated 23 December 2025

TRAVIS DOWLING
Chief Executive Officer
Victorian Fisheries Authority

FISHERIES (PORTLAND BAY COMMERCIAL FISHERY) NOTICE 2026

(1) Title

This Notice may be cited as the Fisheries (Portland Bay Commercial Fishery) Notice 2026.

(2) Objectives

The objective of this Notice is to provide for the management, development and use of the fisheries resource in an efficient and effective manner, enabling sharing of the resource between all marine users by:

- i. prohibiting the use of mesh nets, trawl nets and seine nets in specified waters of Portland Bay;
- ii. restricting the use of longlines in specified waters of Portland Bay;
- iii. prohibiting the take of yellowtail kingfish in specified waters of Portland Bay by Ocean Fishery Access Licence holders and Trawl (Inshore) Fishery Access Licence holders.

(3) Authorising provisions

This Notice is made under sections 68A, 114 and 152 of the Act.

(4) Commencement

This Notice comes into operation on 2 January 2026.

(5) Definitions

In this Fisheries Notice –

‘*specified commercial fishers*’ means holders of a Trawl (Inshore) Fishery Access Licence, or any person acting or purporting to act under a Trawl (Inshore) Fishery Access Licence, or holders of an Ocean Fishery Access Licence.

(6) Prohibition on the use of nets in specified waters of Portland Bay

- (1) For the purposes of section 114 of the Act, the use of a mesh net, trawl net or seine net in the area shown hatched in Schedule 1 is prohibited.

(7) Use of fishing lines in or on specified waters of Portland Bay

- (1) For the purposes of section 114 of the Act –
 - a) the use of more than two longlines at any one time; or
 - b) use of a longline, or a combination of longlines, with more than a combined total of 100 hooks attachedin the area shown hatched in Schedule 1 is prohibited.

(8) Catch limit for yellowtail kingfish

- (1) For the purposes of section 68A of the Act, the daily catch limit for specified commercial fishers with respect to the taking of yellowtail kingfish (*Seriola grandis*) in the area shown hatched in Schedule 1, is zero (0) fish.

- (2) Sub clause (1) does not apply to specified commercial fishers who:
- are undertaking fishing activities in accordance with the conditions of their access licence and the provisions of this Fisheries Notice; and
 - do not intentionally seek to take or target yellowtail kingfish; and
 - take all reasonable steps to immediately release any yellowtail kingfish into the waters from which it was taken with the least possible injury or damage.

(9) Application to Fisheries Reserves

For the purposes of section 152(4), this notice applies to all Fisheries Reserves.

(10) Revocation

Unless sooner revoked, this Notice will be revoked on 2 January 2027.

Notes:

It is an offence under section 68A of the Act to take or possess more fish than the catch limit for that species of fish. Various penalties apply.

Contravention of any prohibition under section 114 of the Act, as set out in this Fisheries Notice, is an offence under section 114(3) of the Act. A maximum penalty of 100 penalty units or six months imprisonment or both applies.

Schedule 1

