

Your permit requirements

The Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) is undertaking a two-year trial of a permit-based fishery to increase the availability of yabbies that can be supplied to bait and tackle stores throughout Victoria.

The trial will commence on 1 September 2026 and will conclude on 1 September 2028.

A summary of the management arrangements under the trial are provided below.

Summary of your permit conditions under the trial

Requirement	Description
Legislative framework	<i>Fisheries Act 1995</i> (the Act). Fisheries Regulations 2019. The authorisation will be granted via general permits, issued under section 49 of the Act.
Trial objectives	To increase supply of yabbies as bait for recreational fishing in Victoria.
Applicant eligibility	All applicants must be fit and proper.
Permit fee	\$171.46 per annum (in 2025/26) – please note this is subject to annual indexation. Applicants under the age of 18 will be provided with a permit free of charge.
Species authorised	Common yabby (<i>Cherax destructor</i>)
Catch limits	A daily catch limit of 250 whole yabbies. A possession limit of 500 whole yabbies. Female with eggs (in berry) or with young attached must not be sold or possessed. Eggs or young from a female must not be removed at any time. Females in berry or carrying young must be returned to the water immediately and without further harm.
Gear	Up to 10 baited lines (no hooks) Up to 5 labelled hoop nets in the streams, tributaries and impoundments of the following waters: • Carrol's Creek • Ryan's Creek • Wodonga Creek • The Ovens River System • The Tarra River System • The Latrobe River System • The Kiewa River System • The Mitta Mitta River System (excluding Lake Dartmouth) • The Glenelg River System (excluding Rocklands Reservoir) • The Goulburn River System (excluding Lake Eildon) • Waranga Basin

Requirement	Description
	Up to 10 recreational hoop nets or open top lift nets or combination thereof in all other inland waters, including Lake Eildon, Rocklands Reservoir, Lake Dartmouth and private waters such as farm dams.
Gear labelling	Hoop nets and open top lift nets must be attached to a tag that remains above the water's surface with the permit holder's full name and permit number clearly and legibly written.
Gear checking	All gear set under the permit must be lifted and cleared once every 12 hours.
Location and duration	Public and private waters where fishing is permitted will be defined on the permit. The permit holder will be required to obtain permission from landholders to enter and fish in any private waters. In relation to public waters, the VFA reserves the right to refuse permit applications where multiple applications occur for the same waters and where multiple permits may unduly impact on public amenity, the sustainability of the resource or the interests of existing licence holders. Each permit will be issued for a period of 12 months only. Applicants wishing to participate in the second year of the trial will be required to re-apply for a permit at the conclusion of their initial permit.
Storage and transport	Permit holders will be authorised to transport yabbies to the point of sale or to place up to 500 yabbies into holding facilities at their normal place of residence, until they can be sold.
Sale requirements	Yabbies can be sold to tackle shops or directly to fishers, providing they are live and clearly labelled as bait, and not for human consumption. Yabbies must only be sold for bait purposes. Sales must be accompanied by a sales receipt for each transaction.

Enjoy fishing