

Amelia Grant
Fishery Manager
Victorian Fisheries Authority
By email: amelia.grant@vfa.vic.gov.au

Dear Amelia,

VRFISH RESPONSE TO THE DRAFT FISHERIES (COMMERCIAL SNAPPER CATCH LIMIT) NOTICE 2019

Thank you for the opportunity provided to VRFish to comment on the proposed Fisheries (Commercial Snapper Catch Limit) Notice 2019 ("Snapper Fisheries Notice") on behalf of the Victorian recreational fishing community.

As the Fisheries Notice is a continuation of the catch limits and arrangements under previous Fisheries Notice, the position of VRFish remains unchanged. Examining historical catch data, the introduction of the Fisheries Notice has had the desired effect of restricting snapper catch within accepted limits. Unfortunately, as there are now only 4 commercial operators reporting catch we are not privy to the total catch as we have been in the past.

VRFish is satisfied that the continuation of the current commercial catch limits for snapper in the Western and Eastern zones is an equitable arrangement in the short term. We would encourage the VFA and NSW Government to better understand and define the stock status of the Eastern snapper stock which is currently 'undefined'.

With the review of the Fisheries Regulations 2009 underway, VRFish anticipates that the Snapper Fisheries Notice be transitioned into regulation. As a key stakeholder, VRFish looks forward to being engaged in the review and the co-management of the fishery moving forward, including in the development of an integrated snapper stock assessment model which captures the data needs of the recreational sector.

Yours sincerely,



Rob Loats
Chair
Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body

16 September 2018

**Let's make fishing
better, for everyone.**