



VICTORIAN RECREATIONAL
FISHING PEAK BODY

Michelle Wenner,
Senior Fisheries Manager
Victorian Fisheries Authority

By email: michelle.wenner@vfa.vic.gov.au

Dear Michelle,

RE: VRFish Submission - Draft Fisheries Notice for Management of Gippsland Lakes Black Bream

VRFish, the peak recreational fishing body in Victoria, is pleased to provide the following feedback on proposed management arrangements to recover black bream stocks within the Gippsland Lakes.

VRFish has a strong partnership with Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) and recreational fishers, in delivering objectives of the Gippsland Lakes Recreational Fishery Plan (the Plan). VRFish consultation during the draft planning process (2019) received majority angler feedback on the desire to:

- leave more Bream in the water to increase abundance,
- build resilience in the spawning biomass,
- manage for quality fishing experiences, and
- to benefit from increased catch rates over time.

In line with VRFish and VFA consultation with recreational fishers, the overwhelming response from recreational fishers was to rebuild the Gippsland Lakes Black Bream fishery as quickly as possible.

While current VRFish consultation on the proposed Fisheries notice has been limited, the scope of recreational fisher response to the proposed management arrangements is similar to previous surveys and supports the current VFA survey findings. That is, majority support for slot limit retention and bag/possession limit reductions, with some recreational fishing clubs and individual support for an increased slot limit maximum size and retention of current bag/possession limits.

VRFish supports VFA modelling - impact of catch reduction and submit that the balance of fishery rebuild objectives versus risk of recreational fishing participation reduction is satisfied under proposed management arrangements, noting recreational fishers in the vast majority support conservative management arrangements during the Plan.

VRFish Comments on Draft Fisheries (Gippsland Lakes Black Bream) Notice 2023

Supported:

1. Continuation of the existing 28 – 38 cm slot limit for bream in the Gippsland Lakes and its tributaries.
2. Reduction of the bag and possession limit from 10 fish to 5 fish per person per day.

Not supported:

3. Ability to catch and retain one fish larger than the 38 cm maximum size limit

Should you require further information please contact me at any time on Mob: 0416945759.

Kind Regards

Ben Scullin
Executive Officer
VRFish

28.07.2023