

Fisheries (Western Port/Port Phillip Bay Fishery Catch Limit) Notice 2022

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

I have decided to issue a *Fisheries (Western Port/Port Phillip Bay Fishery Catch Limit) Notice 2022* for a 12-month period after undertaking consultation in accordance with Section 3A of the *Fisheries Act 1995*.

This Fisheries (Western Port/Port Phillip Bay Fishery Catch Limit) Notice continues to fix and enforce annual catch limits for the taking of certain species of fish under a Western Port/Port Phillip Bay Fisheries Access Licence.

Following consultation, the notice has included provisions for the use of a commercial registered vessel for recreational fishing if all requirements for prior reporting and log entry are completed. This removes the requirement to apply and carry a separate Exemption Certificate when recreationally fishing. Note the prohibition against recreational fishing while undertaken commercial fishing activities remains.

The notice ensures the intent of the election commitment to recreational fishers is delivered. That is, to remove nets from Port Phillip Bay and to establish a limited non-net 88-tonne snapper fishery, to grow recreational fishing in Victoria. This notice ensures that that some limited catch of species other than snapper may be caught using non-net methods, and that recreationally important species are protected.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Travis Dowling", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Travis Dowling

Chief Executive Officer

Victorian Fisheries Authority

11 / 03 / 2022