

**Fisheries Act 1995**  
**FISHERIES NOTICE 2026**

I, Luke O’Sullivan, Director Fisheries Management, Science, Policy, Licensing and Communications Division of the Victorian Fisheries Authority, as delegate the Minister for Outdoor Recreation and having considered the outcome of consultation in accordance with Section 3A of the *Fisheries Act 1995* (the Act), make the following Fisheries Notice under Section 152 of the Act:

Dated: 7/04/2026



Luke O’Sullivan

**Director of Fisheries Management and Boating**  
**Victorian Fisheries Authority**

**FISHERIES (SMALL LAKES MURRAY COD) NOTICE 2026**

**1. Title**

This Notice may be cited as the Fisheries (Small Lakes Murray cod) Notice 2026

**2. Objectives**

The objective of this Notice is to remove the Murray cod closed season within Eildon Pondage (Eildon), Ouyen Lake (Ouyen), Lake Lascelles (Hopetoun) and Willow Lake (Hopetoun) to enable Murray Cod fishing the whole year, allowing anglers to target and retain Murray cod between 1 September to 30 November, providing they comply with other recreational fishing regulations including minimum and maximum size, daily catch and possession limits.

**3. Authorising provision**

This Notice is made under sections 67 and 152 of the Act.

**4. Commencement**

This Notice comes into operation on the day it is published in the Victoria Government Gazette.

**5. Definitions and interpretive provisions**

(1) In this Notice –

‘*Murray cod*’ means *Maccullochella peelii*

‘*the Act*’ means the **Fisheries Act 1995**

‘*Eildon Pondage*’ means the upper and lower Eildon pondage.

**6. Open season for Murray cod in Eildon Pondage, Ouyen Lake, Lake Lascelles and Willow Lake**

(1) For the purposes of section 67(1) of the Act, the open season for the taking of Murray cod from Eildon Pondage, Ouyen Lake, Lake Lascelles and Willow Lake is the whole year.

(2) Despite regulation 164(1) and 164(2) of the Fisheries Regulations 2019 –

(a) the taking of Murray cod within Eildon Pondage, Ouyen Lake, Lake Lascelles and Willow Lake – during the open season is allowed; and

(b) the possession of Murray cod within Eildon Pondage, Ouyen Lake, Lake Lascelles and Willow Lake – during the open season is allowed.

***7. Revocation***

Unless sooner revoked, this Notice will be automatically revoked 12 months after the day on which it comes into operation.

**Notes:**

Section 152(3) of the Act provides that if a Fisheries Notice is inconsistent with any regulations, management plan, Ministerial direction, licence or permit, the Fisheries Notice prevails to the extent of the inconsistency.