

Scott Hanger  
Fishery Manager  
By email: [scott.hanger@vfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:scott.hanger@vfa.vic.gov.au)

Dear Scott,

### **VRFISH RESPONSE TO THE DRAFT FISHERIES (VICTORIAN PIFI) NOTICE 2018**

Thank you for providing VRFish the opportunity to comment on the proposed Fisheries (Victorian Pifi) Notice 2018 (“Pifi Fisheries Notice”) on behalf of Victoria’s recreational fishing community.

VRFish continues to support the use of flexible and authorising regulatory mechanisms to support the growth of the pifi fishery prior to transitioning it across to a more secure and certain regime under the Victorian Pifi Management Plan.

As such and to support increased flexibility and transition the fishery to the new arrangements under the Management Plan, VRFish supports the proposed Pifi Fisheries Notice in terms of the increase in the number of commercial fishing days (from 8 days/month to 16 days over 2 months) and the additional access point for Discovery Bay.

However, VRFish is not supportive of a reduction in the upper catch limits for SA/Vic border to Sutton Rocks and for Sutton Rocks to the Discovery Bay Marine National Park without the scientific evidence that concludes that this is required for sustainability reasons. VRFish is of the view that any changes in catch limits should be postponed pending updated biomass estimates for these areas.

With the review of the Fisheries Regulations 2009 (“the Regulations”) flagged to commence 2019, VRFish would expect, based on the principles of good governance and transparency, that the Pifi Fisheries Notice be transitioned into regulation. As part of this process, it is anticipated that the Regulations be subject to extensive consultation and examined for their impact and ability to deliver on their intended objectives and expectations of the community.

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

VRFish invites contact if you like to discuss our submission further.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Loats', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rob Loats

Chair

**Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body**

14 September 2018