

Implementing the Plan

Priority:

Adopting a partnership approach to implementing the Freshwater Fisheries Management Plan, with oversight from a working group .

Priority:

Establishing a transparent evaluation process to report on progress toward delivering the Plan.



It's your fishery, have your say and get involved

Send us your thoughts on how to improve recreational fishing at improving.fishing@vfa.vic.gov.au



Target One Million
More Victorians fishing, more often

Published by the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA), September 2018
© The State of Victoria, VFA, Melbourne September 2018

This publication is copyright. No part may be reproduced by any process except in accordance with the provisions of the Copyright Act 1968.

Authorised by the Victorian Government,
1 Spring Street, Melbourne

Edited by Organic Editing.
Designed by Griffin Graphics.
Print managed by Finsbury Green.

Preferred way to cite this publication:
Freshwater Fisheries Management Plan Summary 2018

Author contact details:
Victorian Fisheries Authority
1 Spring Street
Melbourne VIC 3001

For more information, contact the Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

Disclaimer

This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

Accessibility

If you would like to receive this publication in an accessible format, such as large print or audio, please telephone 136 186, or email customer.service@vfa.vic.gov.au

Deaf, hearing impaired or speech impaired?
Call us via the National Relay Service on 133 677 or visit www.relayservice.com.au

This document is also available on the internet at www.vfa.vic.gov.au

vfa.vic.gov.au



Summary Freshwater Fisheries Management Plan

**Building better recreational fisheries
2018-2028**



Overview

Victoria offers wonderful and diverse freshwater fishing experiences in natural and man-made waterways.

Whether it's wading for trout in alpine streams, chasing big Murray cod and golden perch in northern waters or trolling for trophy salmon in the southwest Crater Lakes, recreational fishing makes an important social and economic contribution to Victoria.

The Freshwater Fisheries Management Plan (the Plan) is a new statewide approach to **building better recreational fisheries** by bringing together fish, water and land management. It includes five objectives and 18 priorities that direct resource investment and promote collaboration over the next decade. The Plan focuses on 15 of our most popular recreational fish species, including native and introduced species. Through the Plan, the Victorian Fisheries Authority will work more closely with recreational fishers, land and water management agencies, and Victorian Traditional Owners to further improve our fisheries.

Recreational fishers are passionate about recreational fishing and the habitat that supports their fisheries. While there is great diversity in where, how and why people fish, we all want healthy and productive fisheries. To that end, we encourage recreational fishers to get involved.



Why we need a Plan

More than 300,000 Victorians fish our inland waters each year.

Fishing is an exciting way to connect with nature with friends and families, and it makes an important contribution to regional tourism.

The performance of our recreational fisheries is shaped by the quality of our river, wetland and lake habitats. Since early settlement, our waters have been highly modified, and many of our valued fisheries have struggled to cope.

The Victorian Fisheries Authority doesn't manage water or land, but management of these resources affects the performance of recreational fisheries. As a result, we need a partnership approach to get more people and resources working to **build better recreational fisheries**.



Our objectives and priorities



1. Government, recreational fishers and the broader community working together to improve fish habitat and recreational fisheries

- Rehabilitating river habitat and improving connectivity to support healthier fish populations.
- Ensuring recreational fishing values are considered in water management policy.
- Expanding and improving the effectiveness of fish stocking to recover threatened species and improve recreational fisheries.
- Developing and implementing statewide recovery plans for 'at-risk' recreational fish species.
- Managing noxious species in freshwater environments and delivering the National Carp Control Plan in Victoria, if approved.

2. Recreational fishers, scientists and resource managers using the best available information to manage fisheries

- Monitoring and assessing the health of recreational fish populations in selected reference rivers.
- Assessing the performance of recreational fisheries by expanding the angler catch and effort program.
- Developing a harvest strategy for selected freshwater fisheries using information from fish population health monitoring and recreational fisher feedback.
- Monitoring and assessing the response of fish populations to management interventions, e.g. habitat restoration, regulations, fish stocking, etc.

3. Victorian Traditional Owners and their communities being active partners in recreational fisheries management

- Expanding consultation and looking for opportunities to partner with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians to deliver shared benefits.

4. Recreational fishers having improved fishing opportunities and experiences

- Protecting and facilitating recreational fisher access.
- Strengthening connections between government and recreational fishers to inform fisheries management.
- Promoting Victoria's premier recreational fishing destinations to encourage fishing participation and regional tourism.

5. Recreational fishers adopting and promoting responsible fishing practices

- Supporting and encouraging opportunities for angler environmental stewardship and volunteerism.
- Continuing to encourage people to participate in recreational fishing in Victoria.
- Providing opportunities for younger people to get involved and have positive experiences.
- Encouraging recreational fishers to adopt responsible recreational fishing practices.
- Communicating and enforcing fishing regulations related to sustainable and responsible fishing.

