

Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account 2021-22

A report to each House of Parliament on the disbursement
of Recreational Fishing Licence Revenue



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Cover image: An upgraded all-abilities jetty which was installed by the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority at Pritchards Landing on the Glenelg River, which now extends 1.5 metres further into the river for greater depth during low tide. The new floating pontoons enable boats to be tied up safely, making the boat ramp more efficient on busy days.

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Foreword

A report to each House of Parliament on the disbursement of Recreational Fishing Licence Revenue from the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account, 2021-22

Every year the Victorian Government provides revenue from the sale of recreational fishing licences to a range of programs and projects that make substantial improvements to recreational fishing in Victoria.

As the Chief Executive Officer, Victorian Fisheries Authority, I recognise the significant contribution that recreational fishing makes to the State's economy and the social wellbeing it brings to all those who participate in this popular activity.

I would like to thank the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Advisory Committee, who have continued to provide valuable and timely advice on how RFL funds should be disbursed through the Recreational Fishing Grants Program.

The 2021-22 round of the Large Grants Program will see over \$916,883 allocated to 10 new projects. These projects include continuation of the Victorian Wild Trout Fisheries Management program, research into the residency and movement of yellowtail kingfish, a new floating fishing pontoon and walkway at Ouyen Lake, an upgrade of the Kalimna jetty at Metung, and habitat restoration in the Gippsland Lakes, Lake Eppalock, and several locations in the Tullaroop catchment to improve habitat for river blackfish.

A further \$396,450 was allocated via the Commissioning Grants Program; \$257,450 to produce a range of popular education and communication products that assist recreational anglers to understand and comply with fishing regulations, and \$139,000 for the monitoring of recreational fisheries at key locations in Port Phillip Bay, Western Port, the Gippsland Lakes, Corner Inlet and the coastal Lakes Entrance fishery.

In addition, two Intermediate Grant applications were also approved. The Association of Geelong and District Angling Clubs will receive \$51,865 for a project that will improve access for recreational fishers to the Painkalac Creek at Airey's Inlet, and the Alpine Fly Fishers will receive \$38,402 for habitat works to enhance the value of the Ovens River as a recreational fishery, in an area close to Bright.

The Small Grants Program saw over \$23,960 provided to angling clubs to run events and activities. This program has funded over 400 projects worth more than \$1 million since its inception in 2010.

During 2021-22, Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account funds were also committed or disbursed to fund:

- increased fish stocking into hundreds of lakes and rivers, including iconic native species such as Murray cod, golden perch and Australian bass, and the highly sought brown trout, rainbow trout and chinook salmon;
- the deployment of Fisheries Officers to boost enforcement and education and protect our valuable fisheries;
- programs and projects to get more Victorians fishing, which has included even more fish stocking as well as the staging of the Hooked on Festival at Lakes Entrance and the VicFish Kids events at various locations.
- VRFish, to provide advice to the Victorian Government about the broad range of recreational fishers' views on the management of the State's fisheries resources;
- the Victorian Fishcare program, which delivers responsible fishing education and events to the community;
- projects approved through previous rounds of the Recreational Fishing Grants Program; and
- the costs incurred in the administration of the Recreational Fishing Licence and Grants Program.

I'm sure that all recreational fishers would be very happy to know that their licence fees go towards increased fish stocking, better facilities, improved habitat, fisheries research, and more enforcement and education. It goes a long way towards keeping recreational fishing in Victoria in great shape and preserving it for future generations to enjoy.

I have pleasure in providing to each House of Parliament this report on the receipts and disbursements from the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account for 2021-22.



Travis Dowling
Chief Executive Officer
Victorian Fisheries Authority
24 October 2022

Fisheries Act 1995

Pursuant to Section 151B(4) of the *Fisheries Act 1995*, the Minister (responsible for Victoria's fisheries) must cause a report on how amounts paid into the Recreational Fishing Licence (RFL) Trust Account were disbursed:

- (a) to be prepared by 1 October each year; and
- (b) to be laid before each House of Parliament on or before the seventh sitting day of that House after the report has been prepared.

For the information of Honourable Members, the RFL Trust Account came into effect on 1 April 2001.

The role of the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) is to administer the Recreational Fishing Licence Program and manage the amounts determined by the Minister for Fishing and Boating for the purpose of improving recreational fishing.

The VFA also administers the Recreational Fishing Grants Program and provides support to the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Advisory Committee which provides advice to the Minister for Fishing and Boating on how funds from the sale of licences should be spent to improve recreational fishing in Victoria.

The 2021-22 financial year is the twenty first full year of the RFL Trust Account's operation.

The Victorian Auditor-General's Office has audited the receipts received, and disbursements made from the RFL Trust Account in 2021-22.

Enforcement & Education

In 2021-22, RFL Trust Account receipts contributed \$2,053,896 to the VFA's compliance budget.

RFL Trust Account receipts, when added to ongoing recurrent funding of fisheries compliance (education and enforcement) activities, contributes substantially to the delivery of recreational fisheries compliance services in Victorian coastal and inland locations.

Fisheries Officers have continued to have good contact with recreational fishers in the field during the last year. Table 1 summarises yearly totals for contacts in the recreational fishing sector. The work is divided into categories based on species, locations or other activities. Over 58,140 total contacts were made with recreational fishers by Fisheries Officers during the reporting period. Compliance contacts with Fisheries Officers totalled over 52,200, with Table 1 showing the number of offenders, verbal warnings, official warnings, infringement notices, and briefs of evidence for the year.

In addition, Fisheries officers conducted 5,897 Transport Safety Victoria inspections resulting in 1,207 offenders, 650 verbal warnings, 610 official warnings, 313 Infringement Notices and 2 briefs of evidence.

Fisheries Officers also attended 28 recreational fishing related shows, forums, clinics and events (including angling club meetings) for over 1,908 contacts

All Fisheries Officers provide services to the recreational fishing sector and interact with recreational fishers through:

- contact with recreational fishers in the field;
- attending angling club meetings;
- attending recreational fishing-related shows, family fishing events, forums and clinics;
- attending fish stocking events;
- liaising with grant recipients regarding the successful completion of infrastructure projects under the annual Recreational Fishing Grants Program (Large Grants);
- advising fisheries management on issues relating to recreational fishing;
- assisting Fisheries Management, Policy, Science and Licencing Branch on matters relating to recreational fishing;
- responding to recreational fishing issues raised from the 13FISH Offence Reporting Line;
- producing recreational fishing-related media releases/distributing booklets and pamphlets;
- investigating recreational fishing-related offences and prosecuting where necessary;
- collecting intelligence related to recreational fishing offences;
- participating in recreational fishing-related educational activities with school groups and the broader recreational fishing community; and
- engaging with culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

The VFA in conjunction with the recreational fishing community strives to achieve high levels of voluntary compliance amongst recreational fishers. By working collaboratively and by continuing to promote responsible and ethical fishing, we are better positioned to ensure both fish for now and fish for the future.

Table 1.

Recreational	Contacts with recreational fishers	Number of offenders	Verbal warnings issued	Official warnings issued	Infringement notices issued	Briefs of evidence compiled
Abalone Central Waters	1,052	141	40	81	95	3
Abalone (intertidal zone)	275	116	27	91	129	7
Abalone (other waters)	347	44	6	25	23	0
Bass yabbies	41	0	0	0	0	0
Bay & Inlet - other	2,704	163	55	43	19	0
Bay & Inlet - Gippsland Lakes	1,222	46	15	10	21	2
Bay & Inlet - Lakes Tyers	399	23	5	12	7	0
Bay & Inlet - Snowy River	188	9	4	2	3	0
Bay & Inlet - Port Phillip	16,313	1,065	268	461	344	1
Bay & Inlet - Western Port	1647	121	30	58	29	0
Corner Inlet	901	66	28	20	19	0
Estuary	2,450	219	63	99	49	2
Freshwater	7,638	425	151	161	90	1
Golden perch	3,924	81	18	36	20	1
Intertidal - other	136	31	13	17	5	0
Intertidal - pipis	599	18	8	9	2	0
Intertidal - Port Phillip	232	83	31	59	32	0
Intertidal - red shore crab	44	1	0	1	0	0
Marine Parks	220	120	26	36	66	2
Murray cod	2,618	131	35	37	46	0
Ocean	4,953	377	95	169	117	0
Rock lobster	447	34	5	18	27	0
Salmonids	1,913	165	46	64	50	0
Sand crabs	181	7	0	4	4	0
Scallops	16	0	0	0	0	0
Spearfishing	411	22	8	10	3	0
Spider crab	4	0	0	0	0	0
Spiny Cray	453	40	11	26	15	0
Squid - cephalopods	219	3	0	1	2	0
Tourism Operators	7	1	0	1	0	0
Trout cod	5	2	0	0	0	1
Tuna	516	17	3	5	9	0
Yabbies - freshwater	149	30	9	15	1	0
Totals	52,224	3,601	1,000	1,571	1,227	20

Fish Production and Stocking

In 2021-22, RFL Trust Account receipts contributed \$1,698,497 to the VFA's fish production and stocking budget. This includes \$977,081 of the base amount (approved by the Recreational Fishing Grants Working Group in May 2012, ongoing) to support fish production and stocking from Snobs Creek and Arcadia, and an additional \$721,416 from the Go Fishing Victoria initiative to boost fish stocking to over 10 million fish. Additional funding was provided by the State Government which contributed towards achieving this year's record fish stocking.

RFL Trust Account receipts, when added to state government funding of fish stocking and production activities, contributes significantly to the delivery of recreational fisheries state-wide stocking program.

The combined funds are used to operate the fish hatchery at Snobs Creek, meet costs associated with the delivery of fish across the state and for the purchase of additional fish.

In 2021-22 the VFA grew 1,351,600 native fish and 1,855,115 salmonid fish that were stocked into public waters. In addition to these fish the VFA purchased 7,007,433 mixed species of fish that were picked up and delivered to various locations across the state.

During 2021-22 VFA staff associated with the production and delivery of fish carried out activities such as:

- management of broodstock across all species;
- harvesting of eggs from all species;
- feeding fish of all ages;
- careful movement of fish as they develop;
- animal health monitoring and management; and
- our stocking vehicles travelled 232,372 km's which took 577 person days to undertake.

The VFA works closely with anglers and other key stakeholders to coordinate the successful breeding and delivery of fish across the state.

A list of all waters stocked can be found at <https://vfa.vic.gov.au/stockingdatabase>

Species	Barwon South West	Gippsland	Grampians	Hume	Loddon Mallee	Port Phillip	Grand Total
Australian Bass	10,000	431,000	-	-	-	1,000	442,000
Dusky Flathead	-	10,600	-	-	-	-	10,600
Estuary Perch	113,700	140,000	-	-	-	125,000	378,700
Golden Perch	440,000	-	478,000	1,280,770	1,304,500	43,300	3,546,570
Macquarie Perch	-	-	-	145,600	-	-	145,600
Murray Cod	618,200	-	132,300	1,214,500	1,188,800	17,000	3,170,800
Silver Perch	-	-	135,000	135,150	239,300	87,000	596,450
Trout Cod	-	-	-	6,100	-	-	6,100
Natives Total	1,181,900	581,600	745,300	2,782,120	2,732,600	273,300	8,296,820
Brown Trout	380,000	104,500	82,202	347,731	201,191	10,500	1,126,124
Cheetah Trout	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chinook Salmon	100,730	-	-	-	-	-	100,730
Rainbow Trout	206,375	69,650	104,600	171,870	64,500	60,979	677,974
Tiger Trout	12,500	-	-	-	-	-	12,500
Salmonids Total	699,605	174,150	186,802	519,601	265,691	71,479	1,917,328
Total	1,881,505	755,750	932,102	3,301,721	2,998,291	344,779	10,214,148

Go Fishing Victoria

In 2021-22, RFL Trust Account receipts contributed \$1,663,717 towards the VFA's implementation of the Go Fishing Victoria initiative to grow participation and provide more fishing opportunities.

RFL Trust Account receipts, when added to state government funding, contribute significantly to the delivery of the Go Fishing Victoria initiative. The State Government has extended its commitment to recreational fishers in Victoria, with Phase 2 of the Go Fishing Victoria initiative. The renewed plan invests over \$35 million to continue to grow participation and fishing opportunities around the state.

The RFL investment has contributed significantly to several aspects of the plan including improved access, fish stocking, events and engagement, the Go Fish Vic app, and the rock lobster tagging program. A summary of achievements in each of those areas is presented below.

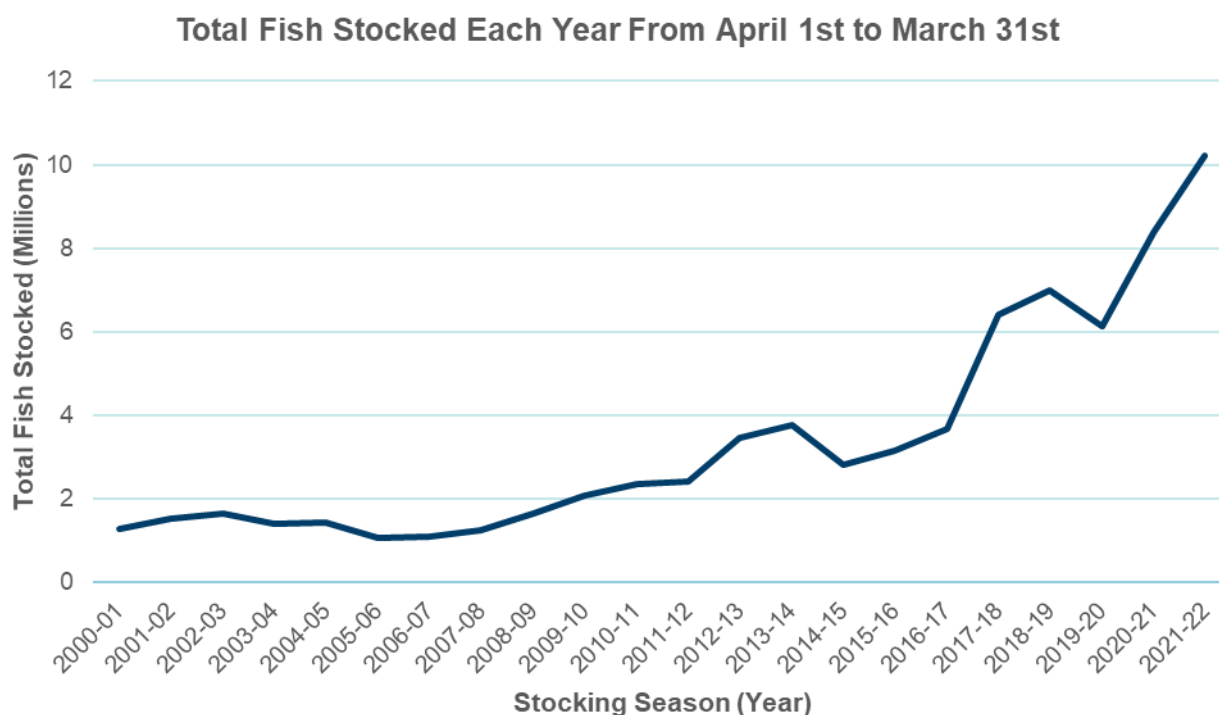
Improved Access for Anglers

A total of \$135,025 has been spent on improving access in 2021-22. Projects included: resurfacing five high priority fishing and river access tracks on the Goulburn River, providing funding to the Dartmouth Progress Association to undertake maintenance of the Lake Banimboola fishing area, contributing funds to Gippsland Ports Committee of Management for the replacement of the existing McLoughlins Beach Jetty with a new DDA compliant jetty with public berthing facilities, and providing funds to the Goulburn Valley Association of Angling Clubs to hire an expert consultant to develop a fish habitat installation plan suitable for Waranga Basin.

Fish Stocking

In 2021-22 the VFA reached a major milestone with a record 10 million fish stocked into Victoria's lakes and rivers in the 2021/22 season. This is not just a state record, but a national fish stocking record as well.

This year over \$720,000 of Go Fishing Victoria RFL dollars purchased an additional 1.5 million fish that were stocked into Victorian waterways.



Events and Engagement

In 2021-22 it was great to see events returning to the main stage. Some of the highlights included the return of the annual Murray Codference which saw several hundred participants gain a deeper understanding of this iconic species and learn some new techniques whilst networking with other likeminded anglers. The VFA was also able to deliver the ongoing Vic Fish Kids Program at locations such as Nagambie, Williamstown, Bendigo, Karkarook and Seymour. Over 500 children were provided with the opportunity to go fishing and learn skills such as casting and how to rig their rod, and for many this was a new experience. We also saw the return of the popular 'Hooked On' events at Portland and Lakes Entrance, both attracting thousands of visitors and showcasing the fishing and tourism activities specific to those regions.

The VFA is continuing to endeavour to make fishing more inclusive to all. The Women in Recreational Fishing (WIRF) network continues to inspire and empower more females to give fishing a go. The network currently has over 3,800 members and the VFA was able to host the annual WIRF Leadership Program at Australian Fishing Trade Association Trade show in 2022 following postponement in 2020 and 2021. The VFA welcomed 7 new women to the leadership group. The Leadership Program offers WIRF leaders the opportunity to share their views and ideas with some of the fishing industries most influential leaders.

The Fishing for All program provides opportunities for people living with or affected by a disability and/or from marginalised communities to experience the benefits of fishing. Fishing for All events were staged in Shepparton and Williamstown and were well attended and enjoyed by all. Bachar Houli, one of our ambassadors joined the team at Williamstown and chatted with kids and parents about his passion for fishing and shared some of his fishing tips and tricks with them.

The VFA also provided recreational fishing forums around the State, including locations such as Boort, Ballarat, Nagambie, Albert Park, St Leonards, Torquay, Mitcham, Port Albert and Portland. These forums provide recreational fishers with the opportunity to discuss their ideas and ask questions while hearing from local Fisheries Officers, Better Boating Victoria and a range of fisheries management staff. Topics covered at these sessions included better fishing and boating access, boat ramp upgrades and new fish cleaning tables, fisheries science and research, enforcement, and education. The forums are a great way for the VFA to connect face to face with local clubs and discuss the many ways the VFA can help make fishing and boating better than ever.

The Go Fishing Victoria RFL investment towards this was \$393,398.

GoFishVic App

The GoFishVic App project is a new way of recording recreational fishing data that will allow fishery managers to make more informed decisions about fish stocks into the future, whilst giving recreational anglers a convenient way of logging their personal catches for their own reference.

To date the App has successfully engaged about 7,500 participants, this is an increase from 2,800 since the last update. The App has also successfully integrated with the Rock Lobster tag app, which occurred in September 2021. This merger will help reduce operational cost and ensure compliance for rock lobster fishers.

In future years, the rollout of the GoFishVic App will be centred on a concentrated effort to prioritise the App's data collection functionality to collect catch details from recreational fishers to then assist the VFA to make informed fishery management decisions.

Rock Lobster Tagging Program

The ongoing Recreational Rock Lobster Tagging Program entered its 5th season in November 2021 and has made a big step in transitioning away from plastic tags to go entirely digital. GoFishVic, a smartphone app from the Victorian Fisheries Authority, now allows fishers to allocate a digital tag for rock lobster catch, making reporting catches even easier for recreational fishers.

The transition to digital has removed the requirement for fishers to order, possess and affix plastic tags to rock lobster catch. It has successfully reduced the environmental footprint of the program and allows fishers to upload a photo of their catch via the app.

The VFA continues to monitor the success of the program and improve functionality of the GoFishVic app so that fishers can more easily record their fishing experience and improve their future success.

Data collected under the program improves the accuracy of annual stock assessments and is building our capacity to make robust fishery management decisions to maintain a healthy, sustainable, and well managed fishery into the future.

Financial Report

Report concerning how amounts paid into the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account were disbursed in 2021-22 financial year

Receipts 2021-22		\$
Total receipts from Recreational Fishing Licence sales		7,699,130
217,213 RFL's sold including: 34,910 three-year licences, 99,940 one-year licences, 6,727 28-day licences, and 75,636 three-day licences.		
Interest – investments	9,199	<i>Fisheries Act 1995, S. 151B(5) enables money standing to the credit of the Account to be invested in any manner in which funds may be invested under the <i>Trustee Act 1958</i>.</i>
GST Receipts		0
Total receipts for the year		7,708,329

Disbursements 2021-22		\$
Recreational Fishing Grants Program and other projects	928,834	Payments to 33 projects - see Note 2.
Go Fishing Victoria Implementation	1,663,717	
Fisheries Enforcement & Education Branch	2,053,896	
Fish Stocking	977,081	
The purchase and stocking of native and salmonid fish.		
VRFish	484,621	This includes a refund from VRFish of \$10,211 from Project LG1718156 - Pilot study of striped trumpeter in western Victorian waters through citizen science.
Fishcare Victoria Inc.	293,467	
Community Information	15,478	
Recreational Fishing Grants Program/Recreational Fishing Licence disbursement reporting related advertising & publicity.		
Recreational Fishing Licence (RFL) 6% sales commissions	9,592	
Applicable to sales commissions incurred during 2020-21, paid in 2021-22 financial year.		
Costs and expenses incurred in the administration of RFLs		
Salaries and business, corporate & other levies.	515,347	
Professional and contract services (includes printing and distribution of plastic licences, storage of communication products).	351,378	
Postal expenses, parking, vehicle hire, accommodation, printing, stationery, telephones, banking charges, office equipment, external learning and IT assistance.	18,169	
Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Advisory Committee	21,925	
Sitting fees, sustenance, accommodation, vehicle hire, and venue hire.		
Snobs Creek Advisory Board	3,848	
Sitting fees, sustenance, accommodation, vehicle hire and venue hire.		
	7,337,353	
Adjustments/Recoupment	104,005	
Total RFL expenses for 2021-22	7,441,358	
Timing impacts of differences between expenses and the drawdown of payments from the RFL Trust Account	(554,703)	
Net cash inflow/(outflow)	(287,732)	
Cash as at 1 July 2021	8,852,542	
Cash as at 30 June 2022	8,564,810	Provision to fund previously approved Recreational Fishing Grants Program projects extending into 2022-23 and beyond as applicable and other items totalling \$1,648,559 - see Note 3. Cash balance includes \$2,553,522 which has been invested – see Note 4.

Amounts are net of applicable GST

Notes to the Financial Report

These notes form part of and should be read in conjunction with the financial report of the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account.

Note 1 - Statement of Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

This special purpose financial report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Fisheries Act 1995*.

The Recreational Fishing Licence Trust operates under section 151B of the *Fisheries Act 1995* to distribute revenue derived from the sale of Recreational Fishing Licences to projects that will further improve recreational fishing opportunities in Victoria, and to fund costs incurred in the administration of recreational fishing licences.

Funds received by the Trust include:

- all levies and fees in respect of recreational fishing licences;
- all income from the investment of funds within the Trust; and
- any other money authorised to be paid to the Trust by the Minister.

These are reported as receipts in the Financial Report.

Disbursements from the Trust include improvements to recreational fishing as determined and the costs incurred to administer the recreational fishing licences.

The report has been prepared on a cash basis to report on how levies and application fees received in respect of recreational fishing licences have been disbursed from the Trust Account.

Note 2 - Payments to Recreational Fishing Grants Program and other projects during 2021-22

Projects initially announced in 2012-13		
Large Grants Program		
Develop and implement a consistent method for assessing the sustainability of Murray cod in the Murray Darling Basin. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$165,000.00	\$16,500	Greenfish Consulting Pty Ltd
Sub-Total	\$16,500	
Projects initially announced in 2016-17		
Large Grants Program		
A state-wide recreational tagging program to investigate mullock movements. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$51,272.73.	\$5,127	Nature Glenelg Trust
Sub-Total	\$5,127	
Projects initially announced in 2017-18		
Large Grants Program		
Maribyrnong River Native Fishery Revival. Partial year two funding. Balance of funding. Total project funding of \$200,000.00.	\$102,883	Victorian Fisheries Authority
Victorian Game Fishing: knowledge, movement and best practice for catching and releasing shortfin mako sharks. Balance of funding. Total project funding of \$165,000.00.	\$13,276	Victorian Fisheries Authority
Establishing a Southern River Blackfish spawning and recruitment monitoring network in the Gellibrand River Catchment. Balance of 10% funding.	\$3,135	Deakin University
Sub-Total	\$119,294	
Projects initially announced in 2018-19		
Large Grants Program		
All Ability Clinics - Fishing is for Everyone program. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$115,636.36.	\$11,545	Fishcare Victoria
Gippsland Lakes Habitat Restoration project. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$100,000.00.	\$10,000	East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority
Sub-Total	\$21,545	
Projects initially announced in 2019-20		
Commissioning Grants Program		
Informing sustainable management of Victoria's wild catch fisheries. Balance of funding. Total project funding of \$163,000.00.	\$21,708	Victorian Fisheries Authority
2020-21 Communication and Compliance Products. Balance of funding. Total project funding of \$290,000.	\$101,574	Victorian Fisheries Authority
Sub-Total	\$123,282	
Large Grants Program		
Report cards for key native recreational fisheries. Balance of funding. Total project funding of \$120,000.00	\$54,545	Victorian Fisheries Authority
Fishcare Responsible Anglers Academy. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$54,545.45	\$5,455	Fishcare Victoria
Katie Peters Reserve River Restoration Project, Mitta River. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$35,801.09	\$3,580	North East Catchment Management Authority
Rainbow Recreational Fishing Lake Access Improvements. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$22,655.45	\$2,241	Hindmarsh Shire Council
Sub-Total	\$65,821	
Projects initially announced in 2020-21		
Commissioning Grants Program		
2021-22 Communication and Compliance Products. Partial Year One funding. Total project funding of \$259,749.60	\$16,149	Victorian Fisheries Authority
Informing sustainable management of Victoria's wild catch fisheries. Partial Year One funding. Total project funding of \$138,000.00.	\$97,232	Victorian Fisheries Authority
Sub-Total	\$113,381	

Large Grants Program		
Waranga Basin Fish Habitat Installation Project. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$100,000.00	\$90,000	Goulburn Valley Association of Angling Clubs Inc.
Gippsland Lakes Habitat Restoration. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$100,000.00	\$90,000	East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority
Pritchards Landing Jetty Replacement, Glenelg River. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$77,118.18	\$69,406	Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority
Victorian Wild Trout Fisheries Management Program/Strategic Plan 2020-2025. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$73,850.00	\$66,465	Australian Trout Foundation
Increasing fish habitat in the Little Murray River - Phase Three. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$37,264.55	\$33,538	North Central Catchment Management Authority
Increasing fish habitat in Pyramid Creek near Hird and Johnson Swamp. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$31,385.00	\$28,247	North Central Catchment Management Authority
Eildon Waters Habitat Enhancement. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$28,365.46	\$25,529	Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority
Lower Goulburn River Habitat Enhancement - Wyuna. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$25,249.09	\$22,724	Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority
Goulburn River Habitat Enhancement - Trawool. 90% instalment of year one funding. Total project funding of \$15,570.00	\$14,013	Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority
Sub-Total	\$439,922	
Small Grants Program		
Come Try Fishing Day	\$5,000	Nathalia Angling Club
Talk Night Series	\$4,500	Mitcham Angling Club
Know Your Limits Signage	\$2,800	Lake Purrumbete Angling Club
Ron Nelson Memorial Junior Fishing Clinic	\$2,723	Association of Geelong & District Angling Clubs
Come Fish Day	\$2,650	Strathbogie-Euroa Angling Club
Catch, Clean, Cook Program	\$1,982	Inverloch Community House
Family Fish Fun Day	\$1,900	Black Dog Creek Fishing Club
Bemm River Kids Fishcare Day	\$1,728	Bemm River Angling Club
Gone Fishing Day 2021	\$679	Casterton Angling Society
Sub-Total	\$23,962	
Disbursements net of GST	\$928,834	

Note 3 - Proposal to fund 2021-22's approved Recreational Fishing Grant Program projects, and other items in 2022-23 and beyond as applicable

Proposal to fund previously approved Recreational Fishing Grants Program projects extending into 2022-23 financial year and beyond as applicable, and other items

Project No.	Region	Project category	Proponent	Project site	Type of waters	Project duration	Proposal	Funding (Exclusive GST)	Other contributions/comments
CG21221	State-wide	Commissioning Grant	Victorian Fisheries Authority	State-wide	State-wide	1yr	2022-23 Communication and Compliance Products. Total project funding of \$257,450.00	\$257,450	VFA in-kind project management.
CG20-211	State-wide	Commissioning Grant	Victorian Fisheries Authority	State-wide	State-wide	1yr	2021-22 Communication and Compliance Products. Total project funding of \$259,749.60	\$243,601	VFA in-kind project management.
LG212211	State-wide	Research	Deakin University	State-wide	State-wide	3yr	Understanding residency and movement of Yellowtail Kingfish (Seriola lalandi) in Victorian waters using acoustic and satellite tracking. Total project funding of \$196,571.82	\$196,572	Total in-kind = \$729,886
CG21222	State-wide	Commissioning Grant	Victorian Fisheries Authority	State-wide	State-wide	1yr	Informing sustainable management of Victoria's wild catch fisheries. Total project funding of \$139,000.00.	\$139,000	VFA in-kind project management.
LG212222	Northern	Access & Facilities	Ouyen Inc	Northern	Inland	1yr	Ouyen Lake Floating Fishing Pontoon and Walkway Project. Total project funding of \$100,000.	\$100,000	Ouyen Lake Committee - \$25,000 in-kind
LG212218	Gippsland	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority	Gippsland Lakes	Estuarine	1yr	Gippsland Lakes Habitat Restoration – River Mouths and Bays. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$100,000.00	\$100,000	Annual works to improve waterway health (\$5M/year).
LG21222	State-wide	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	Victorian Fisheries Authority	State-wide	Inland	2yr	Report cards for key native recreational fisheries. Total project funding of \$85,000.00	\$85,000	VFA in-kind \$80,000 DELWP in-kind \$80,000
LG212223	Northern	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	Australian Trout Foundation	Northern	Inland	1yr	Victorian Wild Trout Fisheries Management Program and The Victorian Wild Trout Strategy 2022 - 2023. Total project funding of \$73,762.73	\$73,763	ATF: 4,300 in-kind hours @ \$25 per hour = \$107,500
LG212225	Northern	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	Ozfish unlimited	Northern	Inland	1yr	Increasing fish habitat in Lake Eppalock. Total project funding of \$72,727.27	\$72,727	Total in-kind (Ozfish, NCCMA, Goulburn Murray Water = \$73,464.40
LG21224	Gippsland	Access & Facilities	Gippsland Ports Committee of Management	Gippsland	Estuarine	1yr	Improve the Kalimna Jetty at Metung. Total project funding of \$72,272.73.	\$72,273	\$19,500 in associated works and \$8,000 in project management

Project No.	Region	Project category	Proponent	Project site	Type of waters	Project duration	Proposal	Funding (Exclusive GST)	Other contributions/comments
LG21225	Northern	Access & Facilities	Gannawarra Shire Council	Northern	Inland	1yr	Upgrade of the boat ramp and jetty at Kangaroo Lake. Total project funding of \$63,636.36	\$63,636	Gannawarra Shire Council - \$20,000
LG212215	State-wide	Research	University of Melbourne	State-wide	Inland	1yr	Fish stock assessments in key waterways. Total project funding of \$53,613.64	\$53,614	Total in-kind contribution of \$438.7K.
CG20-212	State-wide	Commissioning Grant	Victorian Fisheries Authority	State-wide	State-wide	1yr	Informing sustainable management of Victoria's wild catch fisheries. Total project funding of \$138,000.00.	\$40,768	VFA in-kind project management.
LG21227	Northern	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	North Central Catchment Management Authority	Northern	Inland	1yr	Increasing fish habitat for river blackfish in the Tullaroop Catchment. Total project funding of \$23,672.73	\$23,673	Tullaroop Catchment Restoration Project - 3-year state funded project (\$918,000)
2021LG15	Gippsland	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority	Gippsland Lakes	Estuarine	1yr	Gippsland Lakes Habitat Restoration. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$100,000.00	\$10,000	Annual works to improve waterway health (\$5M/year).
LG192015	Gippsland	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority	Gippsland Lakes	Estuarine	1yr	Gippsland Lakes Habitat Restoration. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$100,000.00	\$10,000	Annual works to improve waterway health (\$5M/year).
LG192033	Northern	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	Australian Trout Foundation	Northern	Inland	1yr	Victorian Wild Trout Fisheries Management Program and the Victorian Wild Trout Strategic Plan 2020 - 2025. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$100,000.00	\$10,000	VFA: \$280,000 over 3 years. ATF In-kind \$255,000.
LG1819052	Northern	Access & Facilities	GWM Water	Northern	Inland	1yr	Creating two new recreational fishing lakes at Rainbow and Yaapeet. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$100,000.00.	\$10,000	GWM Water project contribution up to \$46,200.
2021LG22	Northern	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	Goulburn Valley Association of Angling Clubs Inc.	Northern	Inland	1yr	Waranga Basin Fish Habitat Installation Project. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$100,000.00	\$10,000	VFA fish stocking commitment - \$262,500. GVAAC in-kind \$27,500.

Project No.	Region	Project category	Proponent	Project site	Type of waters	Project duration	Proposal	Funding (Exclusive GST)	Other contributions/comments
16/17/48	State-wide	Research	IMAS - University of Tasmania	State-wide	Marine	1yr	Assessing post-release survival of Swordfish from recreational fishing. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$80,549.09.	\$8,055	\$68,580 - Fisheries Research and Development Corporation. \$30,000 - Tasmanian State Government. \$5,000 - Game Fishing Association of Australia. \$9,000 – TarFISH.
2021LG36	Southwest	Access & Facilities	Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority	South West	Estuarine	1yr	Pritchards Landing Jetty Replacement, Glenelg River. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$77,118.18	\$7,712	Parks Victoria - Great Outdoors program - \$2M investment within the Lower Glenelg National Park.
2021LG11	Northern	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	Australian Trout Foundation	Northern	Inland	1yr	Victorian Wild Trout Fisheries Management Program/Strategic Plan 2020-2025. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$73,850.00	\$7,385	VFA in-kind contribution: \$85,000. ATF in-kind: \$85,000.
LG1718120	Port Phillip & Western Port	Access & Facilities	Corinella Foreshore Reserve Inc.	Corinella	Marine	1yr	Stair Access to Corinella Foreshore. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$64,909.09.	\$6,491	Corinella Foreshore Reserve Inc. \$14,240.
2021LG33	Northern	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	North Central Catchment Management Authority	Northern	Inland	1yr	Increasing fish habitat in the Little Murray River - Phase Three. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$37,264.55	\$3,726	North Central Catchment Management Authority project management costs in-kind: \$5,600.
2021LG31	Northern	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	North Central Catchment Management Authority	Northern	Inland	1yr	Increasing fish habitat in Pyramid Creek near Hird and Johnson Swamp. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$31,385.00	\$3,139	
2021LG18	Northern	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority	Northern	Inland	1yr	Eildon Waters Habitat Enhancement. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$28,365.46	\$2,837	
2021LG28	Northern	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority	Northern	Inland	1yr	Lower Goulburn River Habitat Enhancement - Wyuna. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$25,249.09	\$2,525	

Project No.	Region	Project category	Proponent	Project site	Type of waters	Project duration	Proposal	Funding (Exclusive GST)	Other contributions/comments
LG192008	Gippsland	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	OzFish Unlimited	Gippsland Lakes	Estuarine	1yr	Fish Castles in the King. Gippsland Lakes. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$20,909.09	\$2,091	Ozfish: \$10,000 contribution for additional incurred costs. In-kind: Volunteers \$15,000, Ozfish \$17,160.
2021LG24	Northern	Sustainability & Habitat Improvement	Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority	Northern	Inland	1yr	Goulburn River Habitat Enhancement - Trawool. Balance of 10% funding. Total project funding of \$15,570.00	\$1,557	DEWLP – Arthur Rylah Institute to complement this project with research.
							Sub-total	\$1,617,595	

Other items

Project No.	Region	Project category	Proponent	Project site	Type of waters	Project duration	Proposal	Funding (Exclusive GST)	Other contributions/comments
Not applicable	State-wide	Not applicable	Fishcare Victoria Inc.	State-wide	State-wide	1yr	2020-21 Base funding. Total project funding of \$234,145.72. Balance of 10% funding.	\$30,006	Nil financial contributions.
							Sub-total	\$30,006	
							Sub-total	\$ 1,647,601	

Proposal to fund RFL sales commission not claimed

Proposal									Funding (Exclusive GST)
									\$958
							Sub-total	\$958	Excludes RFL sales commission receipts not submitted by licence sellers.
							Sub-total	\$1,648,559	

Note 4 - Cash assets


Cash as at 30 June 2022 of \$8,564,810 shown in the financial statement includes \$2,553,522 which has been invested pursuant to Section 151B(5) *Fisheries Act 1995*.

Statutory Certification

I certify the attached Financial Report for the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account has been prepared in accordance with the *Fisheries Act 1995*.

I further state that, in my opinion, the information set out in the Receipts and Disbursements Report and notes to the financial report, presents fairly the financial transactions during the year ended 30 June 2022

At the time of signing, we are not aware of any circumstance which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.



Travis Dowling
Chief Executive Officer
Victorian Fisheries Authority
24 / 10 / 2022



Paul Younis
Secretary
Department of Transport
26 / 10 / 2022

Independent Audit Report from Auditor-General



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Secretary of the Department of Transport

Opinion	<p>I have audited the special purpose financial report of Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account (the trust) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• financial report as at 30 June 2022• notes to the financial report• statutory certification <p>In my opinion the special purpose financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the receipts into and disbursements from the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust account for the year ended 30 June 2022 in accordance with the <i>Fisheries Act 1995</i>.</p>
Basis for Opinion	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the trust in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 <i>Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
Emphasis of Matter - Basis of accounting for financial report	<p>Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to Note 1 Statement of Accounting Policies to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the financial reporting obligations under the <i>Fisheries Act 1995</i>. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.</p>
Other Information	<p>My opinion on the financial report does not cover the Other Information and accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion on the Other Information. However, in connection with my audit of the financial report, my responsibility is to read the Other Information and in doing so, consider whether it is materially inconsistent with the financial report or the knowledge I obtained during the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude there is a material misstatement of the Other Information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.</p>

Secretary's responsibilities for the financial report	<p>The Secretary of the Department of Transport is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the <i>Fisheries Act 1995</i> and for such internal control as the Secretary determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p>
	<p>The Secretary of the Department of Transport has determined that the financial report is appropriate to the needs to the Minister for Fishing and Boating.</p>
Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report	<p>As required by the Audit Act 1994, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.</p>
	<p>As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. • obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the trust's internal control • evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Secretary • evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
	<p>I communicate with the Secretary regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.</p>

MELBOURNE
23 November 2022



Sahchu Chummar

as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

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