

Melissa Schubert (VFA)

From: Robert Caune <robertnt312@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 25 July 2023 2:20 PM
To: Michelle L Wenner (VFA)
Subject: Re: For comment: Black bream management in the Gippsland Lakes
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.png

Hi Michelle,

Hope you have been well.

I was very pleased to see the proposed management changes for Black bream in the Gippsland Lakes.

The rationale behind the banning of netting in the Gippsland Lakes was based on two principles. Firstly, that the end of commercial fishing, that was operating with no catch quota, would help rebuild Black bream stocks. Secondly, that the economic return to Victorian economy would be much higher if there was a recreational only harvest.

In my view, the proposed changes to the Black bream management plan better aligns policy with the outcomes envisaged from the banning of commercial netting.

The reduced bag and possession limits, together with the allowance of one fish over 38 cm, maintains the commitment to rebuilding stocks and returning to a normal age structure.

More importantly, the proposed changes better facilitate the attainment of the economic benefits that the banning of commercial netting would likely bring.

Access, success and economic reward

Firstly, the most important factor in motivating recreational anglers and visiting tourists to try recreational Angling, is the perception of likely success. Maintaining a strong commitment to growing fish stocks is essential in achieving this.

Secondly, in terms of access and success, the proposed management changes simplify the access to fishery. The first fish that the visiting angler catches is bound by only one rule. The minimum size.

Being able to keep the first Black bream that is over legal size, greatly increases the perception of likely success that the visiting angler will consider, before choosing to spend money to catch Gippsland Lakes Black bream.

The loss to Victorian consumers of not being able to buy commercially caught fish needs to be quickly replaced by a growing recreational tourist economy.

In my view, the proposed changes to the management of Black bream for the Gippsland Lakes, will better facilitate achievement of this objective.

Rob Caune

On Mon, 24 July 2023, 10:25 am Michelle L Wenner (VFA), <michelle.wenner@vfa.vic.gov.au> wrote:

Good morning all,

I hope this email finds you well and warm!

Please see **attached** letter from the VFA CEO, Travis Dowling, in relation to the management of the black bream recreational fishing in the Gippsland Lakes.

Attached along with this letter is a DRAFT Fisheries Notice for comment by this coming Friday 28th July 2023.

Many of you would have likely received an email about the survey that we currently have running. If you haven't, please feel free to complete it and share with your members and networks. The link to the online survey is included below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VFAGippslandbream2023>


The VFA very much appreciates and values your input.

Kind regards,

Michelle



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 ***I acknowledge the traditional Aboriginal owners of country throughout Victoria and the traditional owners of the lands on which I live and work. I pay my respect to them and their Elders past, present and emerging and commit to working respectfully and responsibly to honour their ongoing cultural and spiritual connection to land, ocean and rivers.***