



NATIVE FISH AUSTRALIA (Vic) Inc.

www.nativefish.asn.au

PO Box 162 Doncaster 3108

Travis Dowling
CEO
Victorian Fisheries Authority

Re. Fisheries notice for Management of Gippsland Lakes Black Bream

Dear Travis,

Thank you for giving Native Fish Australia (Vic) the opportunity to make comment on the above extension to the current fisheries notice.

Native Fish Australia (Vic) continues to fully support the existing 28-38cm slot limit for Black bream in the Gippsland lakes and its tributaries. We also support the reduction of the bag and possession limit to 5 fish per person per day.

We are troubled with the third proposed management arrangement, and believe that until there is clear evidence of a population recovery of Black bream in the lakes, no fish larger than the upper slot limit should be taken.

We hope these regulations will lead to a quick recovery of Black bream numbers in the Gippsland lakes and in turn a vibrant sustainable fishery into the future.

Furthermore, we feel that the Gippsland Lakes Black Bream populations, in contrast with other far East Gippsland populations, have been severely impacted by increasingly deteriorating water quality (siltation, turbidity, nutrient runoff, and oxygen depletion), particularly impacting on Black bream spawning areas. These problems are emanating from poor soil conservation & inappropriate land use practices, in the upper catchments of the major influent river systems of the Gippsland Lakes (the Latrobe, Thompson, Avon, Mitchell, Nicholson, and Tambo Rivers).

We would like to see the VFA and DEECA take a stronger and bolder stance for water quality, soil conservation, and land use matters, across the entire Gippsland Lakes catchment area and its tributaries, with a view to improving the recovery of Black bream populations and all native estuarine & freshwater fishes.

We can't just regulate our way to Black bream population recovery, without considering their habitat needs.

We stand ready to add our voice in support of any VFA representations for better catchment management measures, for the health of the Gippsland Lakes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Curmi', with a stylized, flowing script.

Tim Curmi
President
0417419765
president@nativefish.asn.au

28th July 2023