

June 2026

# Recreational Fisheries Management Update



**Southern Bluefin Tuna**  
on the Chew

**Murray Spiny Gray**  
Season Kicks Off

**Snapper Survey**  
The Next Generation

**Care for Cod**  
Campaign Triumph



Cover photo: Mez Fletcher with a Southern Bluefin Tuna she caught while spearfishing



## Contents

<u>Southern Bluefin Tuna on the Chew</u>	4
<u>Cray Season Officially Open</u>	5
<u>Tracking the Next Generation: Snapper Surveys</u>	6
<u>Care for Cod Triumph</u>	7
<u>Fish Habitat Fund Wraps Up</u>	8
<u>Bonus Trout Boosts Fishing Prospects</u>	10
<u>Kingfish Caught Around the Aireys Inlet and Lorne FADs</u>	11
<u>Women in Recreational Fishing and Boating</u>	12
<u>Stocking Program Update</u>	13
<u>Arcadia Hatchery Update</u>	14
<u>Snobs Creek Hatchery Update</u>	15
<u>Conservation Hatchery Update</u>	16
<u>Recreational Fishing Licence Grants Update</u>	17
<u>Murray-Darling Carp Action Summit</u>	19
<u>Better Boating Victoria Update</u>	20

# Southern Bluefin Tuna on the Chew

It's peak Southern Bluefin Tuna season and across the Victorian coast anglers are reeling in trophy fish! These highly valuable fish can reach top speeds of 75km and they are partially endothermic. Catching a barrel sized tuna is every fisher's dream and right now that dream is a very real reality!

Whilst it's great to celebrate the abundance of school and barrel tuna in our waters it's the perfect time to reflect on the history of the fishery and how recreational anglers helped to bring this species back with a bang!

Historically, Southern bluefin tuna have been subject to extreme overfishing from the commercial sector between the 1960s – 1980s. This led to a severe depletion of stocks as the fishery ultimately collapsed. Solving the crisis became a global issue as numbers kept falling with spawning biomass hitting its lowest point of 5% in 2011. This is where recreational anglers stepped in to help save the species!

By adhering to reduced bag and size limits, participating in citizen science surveys and tagging programs, and supporting sustainable fisheries management, recreational fishers played an important role in the recovery of Southern bluefin tuna populations. A contributing factor was also the adoption of improved fish-handling techniques and increased use of catch-and-release practices.

Increased stewardship has resulted in thriving populations of Southern bluefin tuna with the total spawning biomass now at 23%. In September 2025, the species was removed from the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 Threatened List!

With populations now flourishing, there's never been a better time to get out on the water, wet a line and potentially reel in a catch of a lifetime!



Photo credit: Jack Wighton from the South Sydney Rabbits reeled in this 95kg barrel with help from Gawaine at Salt Guide

# Cray Season Officially Open

Winter is here and so is the open season for Murray spiny freshwater crayfish! For the next three months you can recreationally fish for crays across all Victorian waterways.

Fishing for crays can be great fun for fishers of all ages and you don't need heaps of gear to catch them! Chucking some steak, chicken drumsticks and even pumpkin on a baited line or in a hoop net will do the trick!



Before you get rugged up and ready to get amongst it there are a few key things to remember so you can do your bit and look after our cray populations...

- A slot limit of 10cm – 12cm applies (any cray outside of this range must be returned to the water without harm).
- The daily bag limit is 2 per fisher with a statewide possession limit of 4 per person.
- Measure from the rear of the eye socket to the nearest part of the rear edge of the carapace (main body shell).
- Use thick gloves when handling to help avoid a run in with their razor-sharp claws!



Photo credit to Codie Lee Photography (top right & bottom right)

# Tracking the Next Generation: Snapper Surveys

The VFA's annual pre-recruit snapper trawl survey in Port Phillip Bay has again produced encouraging results, with juvenile snapper numbers above the long-term average. This year class indicates a promising outlook, with most of these fish expected to recruit into the fishery by reaching the legal minimum length of 28 cm in around 3–4 years.



The VFA has conducted annual nighttime snapper pre-recruit trawl surveys in Port Phillip Bay since 1993 to monitor spawning success and provide early indications of future fishery recruitment and performance.

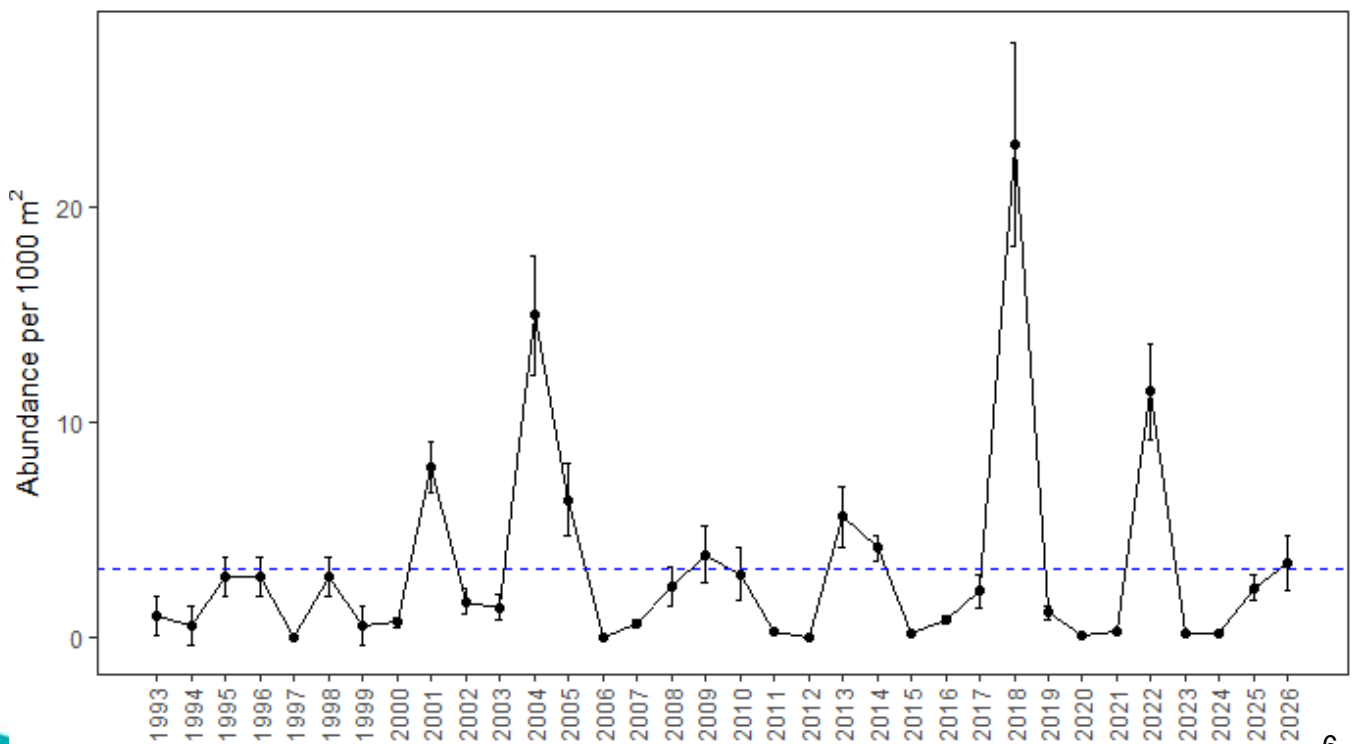
Surveys are undertaken using a fine knotless three-meter-wide beam trawl net which is designed to catch juvenile snapper. In March 2026, as in each survey year, five 10-minute tows are conducted at the same seven sites throughout the bay, ensuring results are directly comparable across the entire time series. Survey data are analysed, modelled and integrated with information from both commercial and recreational fisheries that includes catch rates and size/age composition data. Together, these data are used to assess the sustainability of the fishery and to forecast the expected performance of the snapper fishery in future years.

Improving numbers of juvenile snapper over the past two years are a good sign for the fishery, that build on the excellent 2022 spawning season. With this continued momentum, snapper fishing looks set to remain strong for years to come.



While the long, dark nights spent working at sea can be challenging, data collected over the past 32 years have formed a highly valuable database to track long term variation in snapper abundance. This monitoring program now represents one of Australia's longest-running and most consistent single-species recruitment surveys for a recreationally significant fish species, and it plays a critical role in informing the sustainable management of Victoria's snapper fishery.

**0+ snapper abundance**



# Care for Cod Campaign Triumph

The Murray Cod (*Maccullochella peelii*) is considered one of the most iconic native freshwater fish in Australia. Once thriving, populations plummeted following years of overfishing, habitat degradation and the introduction of invasive species like carp. This ultimately led to the listing of Murray cod as a Vulnerable, Threatened, and Endangered species under state and national legislation in 1988.

However, through a combination of fisheries management actions including large scale hatchery production and stocking, habitat restoration, slot limits and improved handling of Murray cod, our lakes and rivers now support a flourishing recreational fishery which continues to grow! The VFA initiated the Care for Cod campaign in 2017 to educate and improve anglers handling practices to ensure fish are always released in excellent condition!

A recent study in the international journal of Fisheries Research surveyed more than 3,500 anglers and found over 90% believed handling practices are important to the welfare of released cod, and that our 'Care for Cod' campaign has assisted anglers to engage in better handling practices.

Surveyed anglers also identified blackwater events and noxious carp as major threats, and ranked fish stocking and current regulations, including the slot limit, as the most important management interventions for sustaining the cod fishery into the future.

One of the key findings was high angler satisfaction with cod fishing in Victoria and their belief that the quality of the cod fishery has improved since the 1970's-1990's to now, consistent with population recovery.

These results can help inform the ongoing development of the 'Care for Cod' campaign, as well as the development of similar initiatives to better engage recreational anglers and improve the impact of education and outreach strategies.

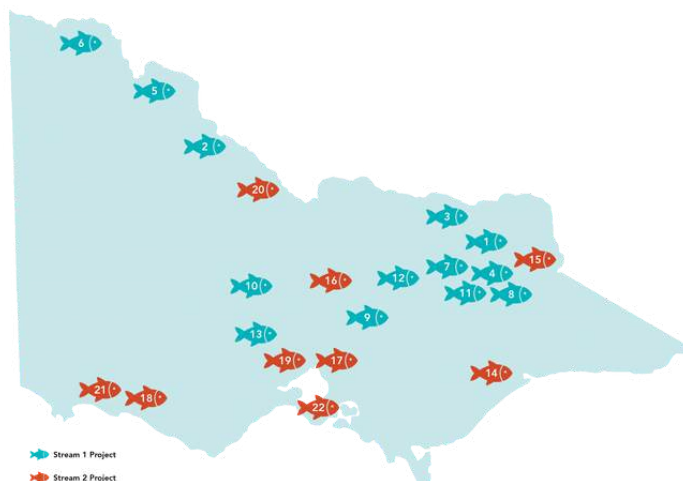
To learn more about the study visit: <https://bit.ly/4ejFjM7>

For more info on our Caring for Cod campaign, check out [www.vfa.vic.gov.au/careforcod](http://www.vfa.vic.gov.au/careforcod)



# Fish Habitat Fund Wraps Up

With nearly \$2.5M distributed across 22 projects, Victoria's fresh, estuarine and marine ecosystems have received a major boost to their health and productivity. All this is thanks to the Victorian Government's Go Fishing Victoria plan, working with recreational fishers and partnering organisations to create better fish habitat across Victoria's waterways!



## What Was Funded and Where?

Funds were distributed across two separate funding streams. Stream 1 projects were targeted at smaller scale local projects of up to \$50,000, and Stream 2 projects aimed at larger scale strategic projects of up to \$200,000. Here's the full list:

### Stream 1 Projects (up to \$50,000):

1	<b>Australian Trout Foundation</b>	Mayfly Rise 2.0, Ovens River
2	<b>OzFish Unlimited</b>	Willow Warriors: OzFish River Repair Bus and Recreational Fishers Unite to Control Willows Within the Little Murray
3	<b>Wangaratta Landcare and Sustainability</b>	Wangaratta Landcare & Sustainability in partnership with Bangerang Traditional Owners
4	<b>Kiewa Valley Fishing Club</b>	Fish Habitat Construction – Maddisons, Kiewa River
5	<b>Mallee CMA</b>	Narcooyia creek fish habitat improvement project
6	<b>Mallee CMA</b>	Sandilong Creek carp removal and waterway improvement project
7	<b>North East CMA</b>	'Bridging Waters' A project for better fish passage, Ovens River
8	<b>Omeo Angling Club</b>	Macquarie Perch Habitat Restoration - Livingstone Creek, Omeo
9	<b>Taungurung Land and Waters Council</b>	Molesworth Lagoons Enhancement
10	<b>North Central CMA</b>	Tullaroop catchment enhancement for river blackfish
11	<b>Australian Trout Foundation</b>	Bridging Waters 2.0
12	<b>Goulburn Broken CMA</b>	Hollands Creek Habitat Project
13	<b>Southern Rural Water</b>	Melton Reservoir Habitat Project - Phase 1

### Stream 2 Projects (up to \$200,000):

14	<b>East Gippsland CMA</b>	Gippsland Lakes Estuaries Habitat Improvement
15	<b>North East CMA</b>	River Resurgence: A fish-friendly endeavour in the Lower Livingstone Creek
16	<b>Goulburn Broken CMA</b>	Supporting Hughes Creek Macquarie Perch
17	<b>Albert Park Yachting and Angling Club</b>	Kicking Goals for Kayakers' Reef, Hobsons Bay
18	<b>Glenelg Hopkins CMA</b>	Nursery fish habitat for the Hopkins River Estuary
19	<b>The Nature Conservancy</b>	Helping Kelp: A Fisher's Friend
20	<b>North Central CMA</b>	Improving Murray cod habitat in upper Gunbower Creek
21	<b>Glenelg Hopkins CMA</b>	Brucknell Creek and Merri River Blackfish Habitat Project
22	<b>OzFish Australia</b>	Shellfish Revolution: Mornington Reef

## In Focus: Habitat Fund commitment to maximising Port Phillip's restoration.

Port Phillip Bay is a phenomenal asset to the fishing community of Melbourne, and beyond, but how many know just how good it will be? Historic dredging and destruction of the Bay's natural shellfish reefs has all but eliminated this ecosystem. The Habitat Fund has invested around half a million dollars across three projects to help fast-track the recovery of these shellfish reefs and kelp habitat in Port Phillip, showing what can be done if we all work together!

The **Albert Park Yachting and Angling Club's** Kayakers Reef project has constructed a brand new "artificial reef", just off the end of the Kerferd Road Pier. Pre-seeded "oyster triangles" and fish towers are already full of marine life, with everything from snapper to mussels moving in to call the new reef home.



*Thriving native Angasi Oysters on the new Kayakers Reef.*



*Volunteer diver "planting" Golden Kelp seeded rocks after urchin removal. Photo Credit: Streamline Media.*

Elsewhere in the Bay at Mordialloc and Point Gellibrand, The Nature Conservancy has harvested over 100,000 urchins and planted out even more golden kelp seedlings, grown on small rocks and then placed out into the bay by volunteer divers.

Meanwhile, at Mornington Reef, OzFish Unlimited will place approximately 400 Robust Oyster Baskets, or "ROBs" into the Bay. ROBs are made by volunteers using recycled oyster shells from Melbourne's restaurants, otherwise destined for landfill, in biodegradable baskets to create instant structure for marine life.



## Bonus Trout Boosts Fishing Prospects

Around 200,000 extra rainbow trout are being released into Victorian waterways, providing a boost to new and experienced fishers seeking to snag a tasty catch this spring.

From Horsham to Gippsland, 19 lakes across the state are being stocked with more trout including Rocky Valley Reservoir, Lake Wendouree, Blue Rock Lake, and Lake Fyans. The rainbow trout being released are advanced yearlings weighing approximately 50 grams! They are ready to catch now or wait to reel in some thumpers come spring! These bonus stockings provide a variety of fishing opportunities, from wilderness experiences for seasoned anglers to family-friendly adventures for beginners and novices.

An extra 35,000 trout will be stocked in Blue Rock Lake on top of the 80,000 trout it will receive this year. Similarly, Tullaroop Reservoir will be stocked with 10,000 more trout in addition to its 2026 allocation of 42,000. Backed by the Victorian Government's \$96 million Go Fishing and Boating plan and fishing licence fees, Victoria stocks more fish than all other states and territories combined. These rainbow trout are just some of the 30 million fish the VFA has released into the state's waters over the past three years, as part of the Victorian Government's record-breaking stocking program.

The VFA partnered with the Australian Trout Foundation (ATF), VRFish, Victorian Fly Fishers' Association, Ballarat Fly Fishers, and Sale Fly Fishers to identify a range of ideal locations to stock the trout. President of the ATF Paul Stolz said these bonus trout releases complement the VFA's extensive stocking plan for still-waters in 2026 and would be welcomed by anglers hoping for a good catch. The stocking at Rocky Valley and Pretty Valley reservoirs will also aid competitors at the 2027 Commonwealth Fly Fishing Championship at Falls Creek in November next year.

For the complete list of bonus stockings head to <https://vfa.vic.gov.au/about/news/bonus-trout-boost-fishing-prospects>



# Kingfish Caught Around the Aireys Inlet and Lorne FADs.

The seasonal Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs) deployed off the Surf Coast have now been removed ahead of winter whale migrations and the onset of larger seasonal swells. The FADs, located off Aireys Inlet, Lorne and Torquay, were retrieved after another productive offshore fishing season.

FADs are floating structures made up of a buoy, chain, line and anchor system designed to attract pelagic fish species in open water environments. They create shelter and structure that encourages baitfish and larger predatory species to aggregate around them.

According to feedback received by the VFA from the Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club, anglers experienced great catches around the FADs. Anglers caught several good-sized yellowtail kingfish around The Aireys Inlet FAD 7 while smaller kingfish were reported around the Lorne FAD 6. Other fish caught around the Lorne FAD were plenty of mackerel, yellowtail scads, snapper, nannygai, Australian salmon and gummy sharks

The FAD program is aimed at getting more of the state's residents out enjoying coastal and waterways. All FAD equipment will now be cleaned, inspected, repaired and any worn hardware will be replaced prior to future deployments.



# Women in Recreational Fishing and Boating



## The Beginning

The Women in Recreational Fishing Network began in 2018. It started with a small number of like-minded women with a shared aim to increase the inclusion and upskilling of female fishers. From there, it expanded to an online community providing women a space to learn more about fishing and now boating. To broaden the scope, early 2023 saw the addition of boating to the network's core mission and the name was changed to the Women in Recreational Fishing and Boating (WIRFAB) Network.

## WIRFAB Leaders

The WIRFAB Leadership Team is made up of women from the community. The main roles of the team include guiding and advising on what is needed to pave the way for females in this industry and to inspire and empower other women to take up and enjoy fishing and boating.



## The Role of the VFA

The WIRFAB Network is supported by the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA). This online community and the general running of the network is coordinated by the VFA and guided by the WIRFAB Leadership Team. The VFA continues to work with the WIRFAB Leadership Team to promote and support the WIRFAB Network.

## Our Actions So Far:

- A dedicated online community – Facebook group (Women in Rec Fishing and Boating online community) and a website ([wirfab.com.au](http://wirfab.com.au)).
- A broader social media presence, particularly on Facebook and Instagram, that provides tailored information to women across Victoria and further afield.
- The community-based “WIRFAB Locals” program where people can meet up and go fishing together and that is currently active in 5 areas - Bass Coast/Gippsland, Metro, North East, Mornington and Geelong/Surf Coast/Bellarine.
- A biennial “WIRFAB Leadership Program” that has resulted in 49 Victorian women taking up professional development opportunities and advancing their leadership skills, then going on to represent the VFA and WIRFAB at industry events and advocating for female fishers and boaters needs. Some participants have also gained careers in the industry, including representing women in popular fishing media and working in tackle stores.
- A variety of events held across Victoria each year to improve female inclusion and to provide a platform for female fishers and boaters to be heard.



For more information head to our website <https://www.wirfab.com.au>



# Stocking Program Update



As cooler weather arrives, the native fish stocking season is drawing to a close and attention is shifting toward salmonid production and stocking. Only a small number of golden and silver perch fingerlings remain to be stocked in far west Victoria over the coming weeks. Dry conditions and low rainfall have created challenges this season, particularly for stocking smaller waterways across the state.

So far this season, more than 8.4 million native fish have been stocked, including over 3 million Murray cod, nearly 4 million golden perch, more than 500,000 silver perch, and over 100,000 each of Macquarie perch and trout cod. Total fish stocked statewide has now exceeded 9 million.

Rocklands Reservoir received more than 1 million native fish this season, while Lakes Eildon and Eppalock each received over 800,000, primarily Murray cod and golden perch. Several new waterways also received golden perch through partnerships with organisations including Goulburn Valley Water, Burnanga Indigenous Fishing Club, Mallee CMA and Traditional Owners.

The focus is now turning to salmonids, with more than 1.3 million fish to be stocked into over 150 waterways between now and November 2026. Most will be produced at Snobs Creek Hatchery and include brown and rainbow trout yearlings, catchable-sized rainbows and the ever-popular stonker rainbows, alongside Chinook salmon destined for Lakes Bullen Merri and Purrumbete.



# Arcadia Hatchery Update



We've wrapped up another rewarding and challenging production season at Arcadia, producing over 1 million Murray cod, 300,000 golden perch and 60,000 silver perch stocked across Victoria. Our focus is now shifting to broodstock management, including developing new Murray cod lineages to support the next five years of the program.

As water temperatures cool, fish become more vulnerable to pathogens and parasites due to slower metabolism and immune responses. To help maintain broodstock health and condition ahead of next season, we have been administering preventative treatments to reduce parasite loads and support egg development.



Arcadia also hosted another successful Open Day in March, welcoming visitors from across Victoria to see firsthand how native fish are produced. The day included hatchery tours, fishing clinics, cooking demonstrations and opportunities to speak with VFA staff. We look forward to welcoming visitors again in 2027.

Our team have also been busy collecting Murray cod and golden perch broodstock from waterways across Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia in collaboration with agencies including Goulburn-Murray Water, the Arthur Rylah Institute and SARDI.



In April, Arcadia staff worked alongside SARDI to collect golden perch from the Murray River near Walkers Flat in South Australia. These fish were transported back to Arcadia to strengthen the genetic diversity and resilience of Victoria's golden perch breeding program.



# Snobs Creek Hatchery Update

The recent Snobs Creek Open Day in May was another great success, attracting anglers and community members from across the region. Staff always value the opportunity to speak with visitors about the work being done at the VFA, and it was fantastic to receive such positive feedback from the recreational fishing community and stakeholders.

A major milestone this season has been the completion of the new Macquarie Perch Recovery Centre (MPRC). Macquarie perch previously housed in the old native fish building, along with fish held at Deakin University for long-term nutrition trials, have now been returned to site and are performing strongly in the new system.

Broodstock management continues to be a major focus across the trout cod program, with regular rotation and genetic management helping maintain healthy and diverse populations. Trout cod broodstock collections have now wrapped up, with all fish undergoing tagging, health checks and quarantine before entering brood ponds. As Murray cod production transitions to Arcadia, Snobs Creek is expanding trout cod broodstock capacity with a goal of producing up to 500,000 fish annually by 2030.

To support broodstock condition, 300 kg of yabbies were recently introduced into trout cod ponds as a natural food source, supplemented with feeds including Chinook salmon, carp and chicken necks.

Attention is also turning toward the upcoming trout spawning season, with brown and rainbow trout spawning expected from late May through to early July.



# Conservation Hatchery Update

Since March, the Conservation Hatchery has achieved several significant milestones. In 2025, we became the first team to successfully breed river blackfish using hormone induction, and in 2026 we replicated that success. River blackfish bred at the hatchery were stocked into the Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park in partnership with the Wimmera CMA and Barengi Gadjin Land Council. Remaining fish from the 2025 year class were retained to monitor juvenile growth and behaviour in captivity.

Other important stocking achievements included Yalmy galaxias, McDowall's galaxias, West Gippsland galaxias, tapered galaxias and Moroka galaxias. This marked the second successful breeding and release of McDowall's and Moroka galaxias, and the first successful breeding and release of Yalmy, tapered and West Gippsland galaxias back into the wild. Selected fry from each species have been retained as future broodstock while also contributing to husbandry research and development of species-specific care manuals.

The hatchery also provided temporary refuge for alpine spiny crayfish and Murray spiny crayfish rescued following bushfires near Walwa, where blackwater events posed a major risk. Murray spiny crayfish have since been returned, while alpine spiny crayfish will remain in care for ongoing captive husbandry research. Bushfire-rescued Moroka galaxias have also adapted well to captivity and will strengthen future breeding efforts through increased genetic diversity.



# Recreational Fishing Licence Grants Update

Applications received under the 2025-26 round of the Large Grants program have been assessed by the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Advisory Committee and their recommendations for funding will soon be put to the Minister for Outdoor Recreation for his consideration and approval. Projects which receive funding through the large grants program make significant improvements to recreational fishing across the state.

Applications for Intermediate and Small RFL Grants are open year-round. Both programs are well subscribed in 2025-26 with 39 Small Grant applications and 6 Intermediate Grant applications approved for funding.

Here are some examples of recently completed projects showing how your recreational fishing licence fees are being used:

## Small Grants Glenelg River Litter Project

Ozfish Unlimited led a project to install seven tangle bins at the following locations along the Glenelg River in SW Victoria - Kellett St Nelson, Old bridge Rd Nelson, Isle of Bags Nelson, Sapling Creek Lower Glenelg National Park (LGNP), Sandy waterholes LGNP, Fort O'Hare Dartmoor and Ess Lagoon Casterton. Prior to installation, litter surveys were undertaken at each location and the data recorded. The bins feature custom made stickers featuring the RFL grants logo. Ozfish social media and local ABC radio assisted in promoting the project, which was also supported by the Casterton Angling Society and Nelson Coastcare.



## Intermediate Grants Ovens River Habitat and Access Improvement

The North East River Alliance led a project to repair habitat and access points along Ovens River at Markwood Reach by utilising existing fallen vegetation and rocks to repair the eroded river banks. Fallen trees that were blocking the river flow were repositioned parallel to the banks and rocks were added to stabilize the bank and to provide fish habitat. The project has restored access in the river for small fishing boats, kayaks etc. and will prevent further bank erosion.



## Large Grants

### Maribyrnong River Fishing Platform Upgrades

Parks Victoria led a project to upgrade 7 fishing platforms that desperately needed attention, making them a great asset to recreational fishers that frequent this productive river. The Canning Reserve platform was on the verge of failing and has been completely rebuilt, including lifting it higher so that it won't be continually inundated with water. Five other platforms have had significant timber decking and capping replaced and were then laid with FRP Mesh that won't rot or rust and will keep the platforms up and running for many years to come. Finally, the Lynch's bridge fishing platform was improved, with timber bench seats, rod holders and fresh oil to the capping.



## Round 2 of the Stronger Fishing Clubs Grants In-progress!

Round 2 of the Stronger Fishing Clubs Grants program closed for applications on 30 November 2025. Many applications were received from clubs right across Victoria and applications from 68 clubs and associations have been approved for funding for a total of just over \$600,000. Leopold Angling and Aquatic Club have already put the \$8,965 that they received to good use. The club has upgraded their speaker system and purchased bluetooth microphones. They have also updated their TV information screens to make it easier to put out messages and information to members, and have also purchased outdoor furniture for the members to use on the lawns and under the clubhouse verandah.

These grants of up to \$10,000 are being offered to help clubs flourish and strengthen, attract and retain membership, and support and promote fishing in local communities throughout Victoria. Funds are being provided for a wide range of activities and equipment including upgrades to clubrooms and facilities, uniforms and promotional materials, IT equipment and new furniture, membership drives and events, safety equipment, fishing tackle and various forms of training.

The program is expected to open for one last call for applications in the course of this calendar year



# Murray-Darling Carp Action Summit



In April, eighty delegates from across the Murray-Darling Basin attended the Murray-Darling Basin Carp Action Summit at Nagambie. The Summit was co-hosted by the VFA and the Australian River Restoration Centre to drive mean coordinated action on European carp, one of Australia's most significant aquatic environmental challenges. The Summit brought together people representing 41 community, farming, fishing, processing, research, and natural resource organisations and leaders. The Summit was convened to reflect growing community concerns about carp.

Summit delegates agreed to support the establishment of a Carp Action Alliance. The Alliance will create a diverse network of fishing, farming, research, conservation from government and non-government organisations with an expertise on carp to work together to secure investment and mobilise action on carp where it is most needed. The VFA is currently consulting on the terms of reference from the alliance, membership, and funding arrangements. We expect to make an announcement on this initiative soon.

For more than fifty years, carp have degraded our river ecosystems, water quality, native fisheries, impacted communities, agriculture, and cultural values. While there has been a focus on carp biocontrol research for at least 20 years culminating in the National Carp Control Plan, there is still no federal carp control programs in place and no clear timelines for a decision on carp biocontrol. By contrast, over this period billions of dollars have been directed to controlling a dozen other invasive pests like feral pigs, rabbits, deer, cats, goats, fire ants, and others.

The summit included a bus tour of our Arcadia Native Fish hatchery and, an electrofishing demonstration on the Goulburn River where lots of carp and a few healthy golden perch were eclipsed by a magnificent 1.1 metre Murray cod.

For more information about the Murray- Darling Carp Action Summit and to view speakers and there PowerPoint presentations, please go to <https://www.vfa.vic.gov.au/carpsummit>



# Better Boating Victoria (BBV) Updates



- Works concluded at the Lang Lang boat ramp with the new (and existing) ramp reopened in March. Key features of the upgrade include the construction of a new, raised and longer concrete ramp with an adjacent jetty with space for up to five boats. The old ramp will be retained for on-water access by non-powered vessels.
- Works concluded at the Mountain Dam Rd boat ramp at Rocklands Reservoir, with a new gravel extension allowing boaters to launch/retrieve their vessels when the water level drops to 27%.
- Construction is underway on the Tooradin boat ramp. Upgrades will include replacement of the concrete ramp with three new lanes extending deeper into the water, longer pontoons to increase the ramp's capacity and improved access roads.
- Construction is underway for Lake Eildon's newest boat ramp at Howqua Inlet. A dual-lane concrete ramp complete with a turn-around area and 18 car-trailer parks will allow more boaters access to the water from full capacity down to 78%.
- Construction is underway on the Schnapper Point boat ramp. Upgrades will include new jetties to provide more space to tie up and better access to boats, a new widened and lengthened boat ramp to increase launching capacity and ease of use, a new concrete manoeuvring area to make navigating the carpark easier for all users, and a Hansa hoist to facilitate all abilities access.
- Construction is expected to commence mid-year on a new boat ramp at Tarago Reservoir, opening up this amazing natural brown trout fishery for recreational fishing and boating.
- The Port Welshpool, Werribee South, Lake Colac, Mildura Karadoc and Limeburners Point boat ramps will also be upgraded in 2026, with Tullaroop Reservoir expected to be upgraded in 2026/27.
- Through our Structural Maintenance Grants Program, recent repairs have been completed at the Kirrang Point boat ramp at Lake Eppalock, with two 40-metre sections of concrete ramp replaced. The Simsons Landing boat ramp in Nelson in the State's far west also saw improvements to the car-trailer park with new asphalt laid.
- Through our Dredging Grants Program, works are underway to complete dredging at the Alan Drive boat ramp in Mallacoota, and Bayside City Council is investigating opportunities to dredge at the North Road boat ramp in Brighton.
- Boat launching clinics are being delivered statewide, with women only and all gender sessions. The first event in Queenscliff saw 50+ women get their marine licence, practice trailer reversing and learn vessel handling. Seven more clinics are confirmed.





