

STATEWIDE RECREATIONAL FISHING ROUNDTABLE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Introduction:

The Statewide Recreational Fishing Roundtable (SRFR) is a recreational fishing stakeholder forum which provides an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss and provide input and response options with Fisheries Victoria.

Purpose:

The SRFR provides a forum for the exchange of information and specialized input about recreational fishing which will assist Fisheries Victoria in the management of Victorian recreational fishing. In order to do so, Fisheries Victoria ensures that the Statewide Recreational Fishing Roundtable Forum is kept informed about any strategic matters arising through the other fisheries consultation processes and seek advice from the Forum as necessary.

The SRFR also provides an opportunity for constructive interactions between leaders in the recreational fishing sector.

Participation:

Participation in the Statewide Recreational Fishing Roundtable Forum is based on a group of fishers who collectively cover the broad range of recreational fishing types, interests and issues across Victoria plus representatives of recreational fishing-related industries.

The Forum Chairperson and the Executive Director Fisheries Victoria will jointly determine the list of invited participants, and review the list as necessary over time. Participants will be identified based on their:

- personal knowledge of the recreational fishing sector,
- recognition amongst the recreational fishing community as knowledgeable leaders in their field,
- valued contribution to the management of recreational fishing in Victoria,
- willingness to engage in two-way communication with a broad range of recreational fishers, and
- willingness to work collaboratively with other recreational fishers, Fisheries Victoria and other individuals and organizations with an interest in the management of Victorian wild-harvest fisheries, to improve recreational fishing in Victoria, consistent with the objectives of the *Fisheries Act 1995* and associated policies.

It is expected that the participants in the Statewide Recreational Fishing Roundtable would be representative of the Victorian recreational fishing community and collectively have background knowledge covering all aspects of recreational fishing (including multicultural and aboriginal involvement) namely –

- Coastal fishing
- Estuarine fishing
- Inland salmonid fishing
- Inland native fishing
- Sport/game fishing
- Charter fishing
- Fishing instruction and guiding
- Spearfishing
- Fishing clubs
- Fishing trade
- Boating trade
- Fishing media
- Fishcare
- Fishing education
- Fishing communications
- Fishing advocacy
- Fisheries science
- Fisheries management

Participant's involvement:

- Regional residents of the Statewide Recreational Fishing Roundtable are encouraged to participate in any Regional Roundtable Forum discussions in their region. Additionally they are encouraged to be as active as possible in other recreational fishing activities in their region to broaden their knowledge of local recreational fishing and opinions, and help broaden the input of more fishers to expand opinions in the consultation process with Fisheries Victoria.

- Forum participants cannot nominate deputies to attend Forum meetings so as to maintain sufficient consistency in the overall discussions and provision of advice. However, Forum participants can submit items for discussion if they are unable to attend a meeting in person or they can make arrangements with the Chairperson to telephone-in to join the discussion on specific items.
- It will be assumed that participants who do not attend three consecutive forum meetings have decided to let their involvement in the Forum lapse, unless they provide notification of a reason for such absences to the Chairperson. This provision is necessary to help ensure that all key interests relevant to recreational fishing are actively involved in the Forum discussions.
- Where a subject for discussion requires specialist comment or information, special guests may be invited thru the Chair to participate in Roundtable forums for that specific agenda item.
- Participants may or may not be part of a recreational fishing organisation.

Objectives:

- To provide an opportunity for stakeholders to table issues of interest of Victorian recreational fishers and work directly with Fisheries Victoria and assist in developing outcomes acceptable to all parties.
- To identify information and knowledge gaps, and identify research needs relevant to recreational fishing.
- To provide an opportunity to further build effective relationships between Fisheries Victoria and stakeholders and between stakeholders themselves.

Principles:

- It is expected that SRFR Forums will be conducted in line with DEPI values and behaviours.
- The Forum provides an opportunity for a range of recreational fishery stakeholder views to be expressed;
- All Forum meeting outcomes should be reached by consensus.
- Participants will respect the confidentiality of relevant items as identified by the Chairperson or the participants.

Administration:

Fisheries Victoria will provide the administrative support for the Statewide Recreational Fishing Roundtable Forum, including engaging an independent Chairperson . The Chairperson must act in an impartial way to seek to build relationships and consensus outcomes amongst all Forum participants.

Forum participants are requested to declare any conflict of interest (ie direct financial or other potential personal benefit) with respect to any specific issue to be discussed at a Forum meeting.

Forum meetings will generally be held on a quarterly basis or at other times agreed by the Chairperson and the Executive Director Fisheries Victoria.

The Chairperson will invite all Forum members to submit items for discussion at Forum meetings so that the Chairperson can issue the proposed agenda at least two weeks prior to a meeting.

Meeting Outcomes:

The Chairperson of the Statewide Recreational Fishing Roundtable will oversee and approve the recording of Forum Minutes and produce a Chairpersons Summary reporting the mutually agreed outcomes of each Forum meeting for posting on the DEPI website.