

# Have your say on the Draft Plan

The Victorian Fisheries Authority encourages you to read the Draft Plan and provide your feedback by **22 March 2018**.

To find out more and read the detailed Draft Freshwater Fisheries Management Plan, please visit:  
[vfa.vic.gov.au/freshwaterplan](http://vfa.vic.gov.au/freshwaterplan)



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**Target One Million**  
*More Victorians fishing, more often*

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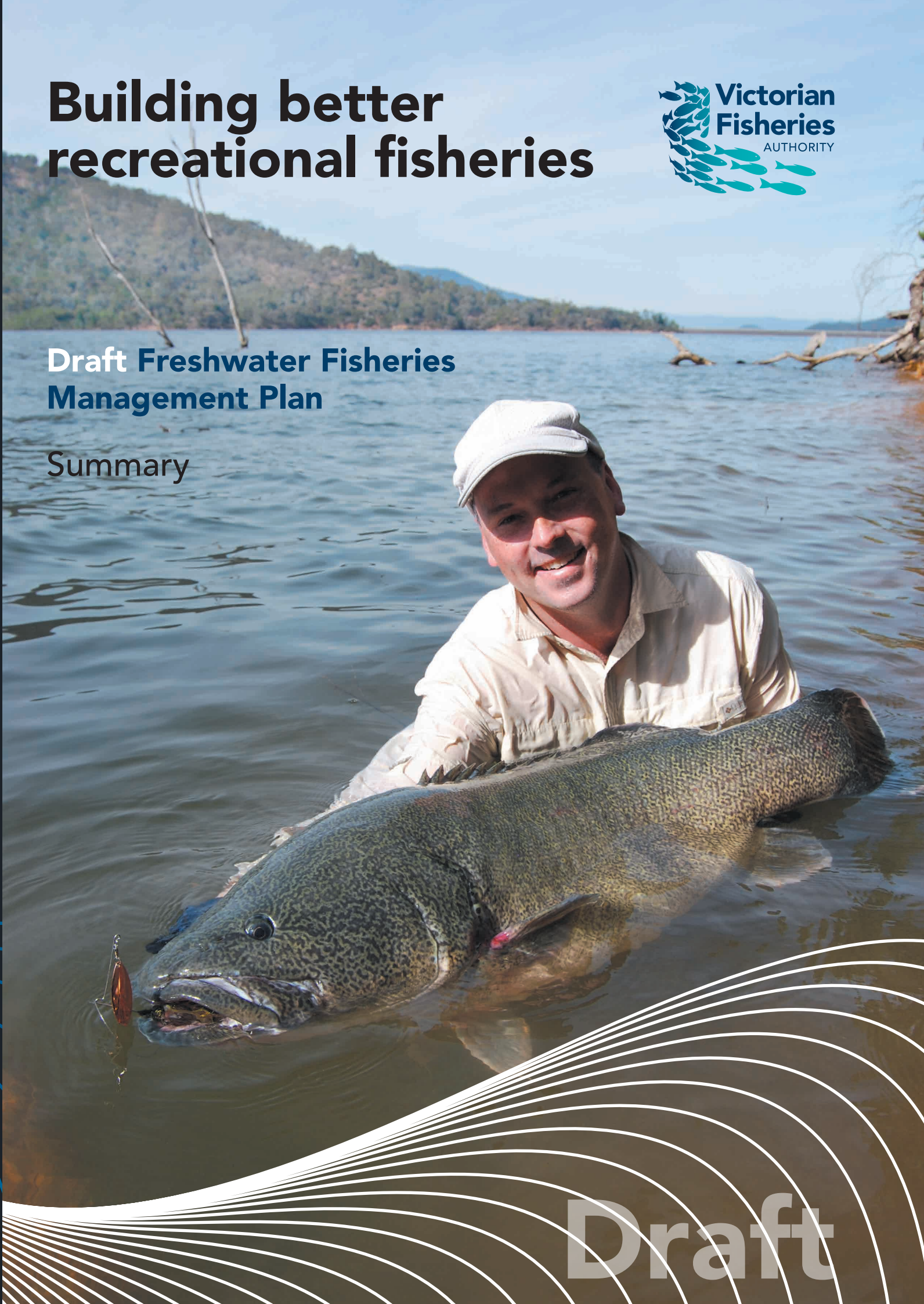
# Draft

# Building better recreational fisheries



## Draft Freshwater Fisheries Management Plan

### Summary





# Overview

Victoria offers wonderful and diverse freshwater fishing experiences in natural and man-made waterways.

Whether it's wading for trout in alpine streams, chasing big Murray cod and golden perch in northern waters or trolling for trophy salmon in the southwest Crater Lakes, recreational fishing makes an important social and economic contribution to Victoria.

The Draft Freshwater Fisheries Management Plan (the Draft Plan) is a new statewide approach to **building better recreational fisheries** by bringing together fish, water and land management. It includes five objectives and 18 priorities that direct resource investment and promote collaboration over the next decade. The Draft Plan focuses on 14 of our most popular recreational fish species, including native and introduced species. Through the Plan, the Victorian Fisheries Authority will work more closely with recreational fishers, land and water management agencies, and Victorian Traditional Owners to further improve our fisheries.

Recreational fishers are passionate about recreational fishing and the habitat that supports their fisheries. While there is great diversity in where, how and why people fish, we all want healthy and productive fisheries. To that end, we encourage recreational fishers to get involved and have their say on the Draft Plan.



## Why we need a Plan

More than 300,000 Victorians fish our inland waters each year.

Fishing is an exciting way to connect with nature with friends and families, and it makes an important contribution to regional tourism.

The performance of our recreational fisheries is shaped by the quality of our river, wetland and lake habitats. Since early settlement, our waters have been highly modified, and many of our valued fisheries have struggled to cope.

The Victorian Fisheries Authority doesn't manage water or land, but management of these resources affects the performance of recreational fisheries. As a result, we need a partnership approach to get more people and resources working to **build better recreational fisheries**.

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# Our objectives and priorities



### 1. Government, recreational fishers and the broader community working together to improve fish habitat and recreational fisheries

- Rehabilitating river habitat and improving connectivity to support healthier fish populations.
- Ensuring recreational fishing values are considered in water management policy.
- Expanding and improving the effectiveness of fish stocking to recover threatened species and improve recreational fisheries.
- Developing and implementing statewide recovery plans for 'at-risk' recreational fish species.
- Managing noxious species in freshwater environments and delivering the National Carp Control Plan in Victoria, if approved.

### 2. Recreational fishers, scientists and resource managers using the best available information to manage fisheries

- Monitoring and assessing the health of recreational fish populations in selected reference rivers.
- Assessing the performance of recreational fisheries by expanding the angler catch and effort program.
- Developing a harvest strategy for selected freshwater fisheries using information from fish population health monitoring and recreational fisher feedback.
- Monitoring and assessing the response of fish populations to management interventions, e.g. habitat restoration, regulations, fish stocking, etc.

### 3. Victorian Traditional Owners and their communities being active partners in recreational fisheries management

- Expanding consultation and looking for opportunities to partner with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians to deliver shared benefits.

### 4. Recreational fishers having improved fishing opportunities and experiences

- Protecting and facilitating recreational fisher access.
- Strengthening connections between government and recreational fishers to inform fisheries management.
- Promoting Victoria's premier recreational fishing destinations to encourage fishing participation and regional tourism.

### 5. Recreational fishers adopting and promoting responsible fishing practices

- Supporting and encouraging opportunities for angler environmental stewardship and volunteerism.
- Continuing to encourage people to participate in recreational fishing in Victoria.
- Providing opportunities for younger people to get involved and have positive experiences.
- Encouraging recreational fishers to adopt responsible recreational fishing practices.
- Communicating and enforcing fishing regulations related to sustainable and responsible fishing.



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