**RFLTAC Meeting #51 of 16 November 2022**

**Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Advisory Committee Meeting #51**

**Location: 1 Spring Street Melbourne**

**Chairperson's Summary**

This was the 51st meeting of the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Advisory Committee (previously known as the Recreational Fishing Grants Working Group).

Key items discussed included:

* Presentation: Education and Enforcement: Update
* Presentation: VRFish: Advocating for Rec Anglers
* Presentation: World Recreational Fishing Conference
* Presentation: Macquarie Perch Recovery
* Presentation: NCCMA - Improving and building recreational fisheries
* 2021-22 RFL Trust Account Report to Parliament

**Presentation: Education and Enforcement: Update**

The committee was provided with provided a presentation on the complexity of the work that is undertaken by Fisheries Officers is their daily roles, and this was highlighted with an overview of various strategic operations such as the one recently conducted on the Werribee River.

**Presentation: VRFish: Advocating for Rec Anglers**

The committee was provided with a presentation by Ben Scullin, Executive Officer, VRFish about the current priorities and activities of VRFish.

**Presentation: World Recreational Fishing Conference**

The Advisory Committee was provided with an overview of the planning for the 10th World Recreational Fishing Conference which will be hosted by Melbourne from 19-23 February 2023 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. The Conference will be led by the VFA in partnership with a range of other recreational fishing organisations.

**Presentation: Macquarie Perch Recovery**

The Advisory Committee were provided with a presentation on the commitment that the VFA, under the Freshwater Fisheries Management Plan, has made to the recovery of this unique and endangered freshwater fish species. The VFA, together with key partners, is working to rebuild and re-establish Macquarie perch populations and this requires ongoing investment of resources into production and stocking, habitat restoration, and research to better understand the species.

**Presentation: NCCMA - Improving and building recreational fisheries**

Dr Peter Rose of the North Central Catchment Management Authority provided the committee with a presentation provided a presentation which summarised the RFL-funded habitat projects that the North Central CMA has undertaken in recent years and explained why this work is so important to river health and the flow on effect of improved recreational fishing.

**2021-22 RFL Trust Account Report to Parliament**

The committee were advised that audit of RFL Trust Account finances by the Victorian Auditor-General’s Office was largely complete and that the VFA was waiting for the Audit Opinion to be released so the report can be finalised. The Report will be tabled in Parliament once a new Government is formed, and that will most likely be early in 2023 once Parliament resumes.

**Next meeting:** To be advised

Julia Menzies

Chairperson

Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Advisory Committee