Victorian Fisheries Authority

Stocking fish in research facilities (Secure RAS)

(Non-Commercial)

Application for exemption from s42(1)(ba) of the *Fisheries Act 1995*

1. **Applicant details.**

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| Name:       |
| Contact Person (if company name provided above):       |
| Postal address:       |
| City/Suburb:       | State:       | Postcode:       |
| Phone:       | Email:       |

1. **Where will the fish be stocked?**

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| Address where stocking facility is located and details on holding system :         |

1. **Species, life stage, size and number of fish to be stocked.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Species *(common and, if known, scientific names)*** | **Life stage (i.e. fingerling, adult)** | **Size (length and / or weight)** | **Number of fish**  |
|       |       |       |       |
|       |       |       |       |

1. **Where will the fish be sourced from?**

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You will be exempted from section 42(1)(ba) of the *Fisheries Act 1995* (the Act) provided:

1. fish are sourced from:
* an aquaculture facility or commercial fisher licensed under the Act or aquaculture facility or commercial fisher with equivalent interstate authorisation; or
* Victorian government facility; or
* non-commercial research facility; or
* the wild under a General Permit under the Act; or
* from the wild for the purpose of conservation stocking; and
1. the fish are stocked indoors in a secure research facility sufficient to prevent the escape or release of fish, disease and associated species; and
2. the fish will not be used for sale or other commercial purposes; and
3. untreated effluent is only discharged to the sewage system or discharged on the premises where it will not enter any surface waters or the stormwater drainage system and only after obtaining any relevant authority to discharge from the relevant regulatory authority; and
4. only treated effluent may enter surface waters or the stormwater drainage system and only after obtaining any relevant authority to discharge from the relevant regulatory authority; and
5. fish are transported to the facility in a secure container sufficient to prevent release of fish, disease, associated species and transport media; and
6. all transport containers and equipment are cleaned and disinfected after use or disposed to landfill; and
7. solid transport media is disinfected or disposed to landfill; and
8. conservation stocking fish species may be returned to their source waterway after the fish are certified disease free by a suitably qualified veterinarian; and
9. relevant authorisation is obtained under Victorian legislation for noxious aquatic species, protected aquatic biota and threatened or protected species; and
10. the applicant must not stock the fish into any public waters unless it is a conservation stocking conducted under item (i) above.

**I hereby declare that the information contained in this form is true, accurate and complete and that I will comply with the above conditions for stocking.**

**Name:**       **Signature:**       **Date**      **/**     **/**

*Please note: Section 148(7) of the Fisheries Act 1995 provides for penalties if the applicant provides false or misleading information.*

*By not complying with the above controls no exemption applies, leaving the applicant in breach of S.(42)(1)(ba) of the Fisheries Act 1995*

**Office use only**

Receiving officer: ………………………………………………….………Date received ………./…….…./………

**Application Explanatory Notes**

**Submit application via** p**ost to:** Translocation Administration Officer, Victorian Fisheries Authority, PO Box 114 Queenscliff, Vic 3225; **email** to Fish.Translocations@vfa.vic.gov.au **General Translocation** **Enquiries**: (03) 5258 0231

**Notes on conditions**

All the conditions must be complied with in order to manage the biosecurity risks associated with stocking fish. If the conditions are not complied with then the applicant will be in breach of S. 42(1)(ba) of the *Fisheries Act 1995* (the Act). Heavy penalties and possible imprisonment can apply for breaching this section of the Fisheries Act.

Non commercial research means live fish stocked for research purposes at a Victorian Government agency, primary school, secondary school, tertiary education facility or other non-commercial aquatic research centre in Victoria.

Conservation stocking means the translocation by the Victorian Government of wild native fish populations in order to conserve the population.

Fish has the same meaning as the definition under section 5 of the Act.

Public waters has the same meaning as the definition for inland and marine waters under Section 5 of the Act. Effectively any public waterway, stream, creek, lake, river, billabong, lagoon, water storage, channel, bay, inlet etc.

1. Fish can only be acquired from the sources indicated in item a above.
2. Fish can only be stocked in a secure indoor facility that is able to prevent the escape or release of all life stages of the fish, diseases and any associated species.
3. The fish must not be used for sale or other commercial purposes.
4. Untreated effluent means any discharge water that the fish are transported or stocked in that has not been disinfected in accordance with the Australian AQUAVETPLAN Decontamination Operational Procedures Manual or World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) procedures. This water can’t enter public waters or the stormwater system. This water may be discharged on the premises where it will not reach public waters or contravene any EPA regulations. It may also be suitable for discharge to the sewage system but only after obtaining authorisation from the relevant regulatory authority.
5. Treated effluent means any discharge water that the fish are transported or stocked in that is disinfected in accordance with the Australian AQUAVETPLAN Decontamination Operational Procedures Manual or World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) procedures. This water may be suitable for discharge to public waters or the stormwater system but only after obtaining authorisation from the relevant regulatory authority.
6. Fish must be transported in secure containers to ensure escape or accidental release of fish, diseases, associated species and transport media (e.g. water, ropes, rocks, sand etc) does not occur.
7. Any containers or equipment used to transport the fish should be disposed to landfill or disinfected (to the standards in item e) if they are to be used again to reduce the risk associated with disease or disposed to landfill if they are no longer required.
8. Any solid media (for example: sand, ropes, rocks) that the fish may have been transported with must be disinfected to standards in item e) or disposed to landfill.
9. Conservation stocking conducted by the Victorian Government will require a stock health certificate from a suitably qualified veterinarian for fish destined for return to their source location.
10. The applicant may also need to apply for a General Permit under the Act to stock certain species (for example: noxious aquatic species, protected aquatic biota). There may be other permits required under other Victorian legislation such as the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988.*
11. Fish must not be stocked into public waters unless it is a conservation stocking conducted by the Victorian Government under item i).