**RFGWG Meeting #39 of 17 July 2019**

**Recreational Fishing Grants Working Group Meeting #39**

**Location: 1 Spring Street Melbourne**

**Chairperson's Summary**

This was the 39th meeting of the Recreational Fishing Grants Working Group.

Key items discussed included:

* RFL Communications Update and Proposed Two Year Plan
* Marine and estuarine finfish monitoring program
* Transitioning to Digital Licencing
* VFA Freshwater Fisheries Management Update
* Recreational Fishing Licence Review

**RFL Communications Update and Proposed Two Year Plan**

Following a presentation on the work of the VFA Marketing and Communications team to promote the Recreational Fishing Grants Program and demonstrate how completed RFL funded projects result in improving recreational fishing in Victoria, the Working Group supported funding of up to $76,000 from the RFL Trust Account to deliver a similar Communication Plan for the next two years.

**Marine and estuarine finfish monitoring program**

The Working Group were provided a presentation on how funds from the RFL Trust Account are used by the VFA to monitor recreational catches of key species of finfish through the 'Marine and estuarine finfish monitoring' and 'Statewide angler diary' programs.

**Transitioning to Digital Licencing**

Staff from Services Victoria provided a presentation on the transition that the Victorian Fisheries Authority is undertaking towards a digital licencing system, which will reduce expenses associated with the current plastic and paper-based licencing system.

**VFA Freshwater Fisheries Management Update**

The Working Group were provided with a presentation on the progression of several projects that are funded with Recreational Fishing Licence fees including the Maribyrnong River Native Fishery Revival project, Wild Trout Management Phase 2, Population Status and Report Cards for Key Native Recreational Fisheries, and recent work to harvest large Murray cod from irrigation channels.

**Recreational Fishing Licence Review**

The Working Group were informed of a forthcoming independent review of the Recreational Fishing Licence Program (including the Recreational Fishing Grants Program) which has been requested by the Minister for Fishing and Boating in response to calls for a review from VRFish and through the Statewide Recreational Fishing Round Table.

**Next meeting:** TBC

David Grisold

Chairperson

Recreational Fishing Grants Working Group