



Media Release

FROM THE OFFICE OF VRFISH - VICTORIA'S
RECREATIONAL FISHING PEAK BODY

23 DECEMBER 2019

RECREATIONAL FISHERS CAST SUPPORT FOR GIPPSLAND LAKES FISH RECOVERY

Recreational fishers have overwhelmingly thrown their support towards boosting fish stocks in the Gippsland Lakes after VRFish released the results of a survey conducted with 683 recreational fishers.

VRFish Executive Officer, Mr. Michael Burgess said, "We are delighted recreational fishers want to play an active stewardship role in their fishery and in the implementation of a fish recovery plan."

Black bream was found to be the most popular recreational fishing species in the Gippsland Lakes with 83% of respondents targeting them, followed by dusky flathead at 74%.

"Current recreational fishing management arrangements for black bream fell way short of our sector's expectations."

"Our survey shows there is strong support to reduce the daily bag limit for black bream (80%) which currently sits at 10 fish per person, increase the minimum size limit for black bream (71%), and introduce a maximum size limit for black bream (75%)."

"Our fishers clearly want to leave more fish in the water to increase abundance, look after the breeding fish and increase their catch rates over time."

When asked what the most important actions of a fish recovery plan were, respondents' highest priorities were restoring fish habitat, establishing a fish stocking program for black bream, dusky flathead and estuary perch followed by reviewing recreational fishing management and improving environmental flows.

Fishers wanted to see additional monitoring and research of fish stocks, plus more enforcement and education programs.

"Recreational fishers have a strong conservation ethic and know that looking after the environment where our fish live is critical to having a quality fishery."



Media Contact:
(03) 5221 1104 info@vrfish.com.au

PO Box 4574 GEELONG VIC 3220
t: (03) 5221 1104 e: info@vrfish.com.au w: www.vrfish.com.au
ABN 47 068 111 624

Habitat



Water



Promote



Access



Best
Practice





Media Release

FROM THE OFFICE OF VRFISH - VICTORIA'S
RECREATIONAL FISHING PEAK BODY

"The data endorses VRFish's policy position for the Gippsland Lakes, including the compulsory buy-out of commercial netting, with 7 out of every 10 respondents not satisfied with the quality of the fishery."

VRFish supports the Victorian Government's decision to buy-out commercial net fishing in the Lakes from 1 April 2020 and is fully committed to working with government agencies to boost fish stocks and create a premier fishing destination.

Media Contact: 0427 005 434



Media Contact:
(03) 5221 1104 info@vrfish.com.au

PO Box 4574 GEELONG VIC 3220
t: (03) 5221 1104 e: info@vrfish.com.au w: www.vrfish.com.au
ABN 47 068 111 624

Habitat



Water



Promote



Access



Best
Practice

