

Mr Rob Loats
PO Box 4574
GEELONG VIC 3220

Dear Mr Loats

FISHERIES NOTICES FOR THE WESTERN PORT/PORT PHILLIP BAY FISHERY HAVE BEEN FINALISED

I write to advise you that I have carefully considered all submissions and information provided to me during the periods of consultation and have now finalised the following instruments.

- *Initial Quota Order for Snapper Fishing in the Western Port/Port Phillip Bay (Commercial) Fishery (Attachment 1)*
- *Further quota order for Snapper Fishing in the Western Port/Port Phillip Bay (Commercial) Fishery (Attachment 2)*
- *Fisheries (Western Port/Port Phillip Bay Fishery Catch Limit) Notice 2022 (Attachment 3).*

The ***Initial Quota Order for Snapper Fishing in the Western Port/Port Phillip Bay (Commercial) Fishery (Attachment 1)*** has been finalised without amendment. This Order:

- establishes the Western Port/Port Phillip Bay (WP/PPB) Fishery as a quota managed snapper fishery;
- declares that the number of individual snapper quota units in the WP/PPB Fishery will be equal to the total allowable commercial catch (TACC) of snapper divided by the value of an individual quota unit, as determined in a Further Quota Order;
- specifies that individual snapper quota units will be allocated evenly to those licence holders holding a WP/PPB Fishery Access Licence on 1 April 2022; and
- enables snapper quota to be transferred permanently or temporarily to licence holders in the WP/PPB fishery.

The ***Further Quota Order for Snapper Fishing in the Western Port/Port Phillip Bay (Commercial) Fishery (Attachment 2)*** has been finalised without amendment. This Order:

- Sets the TACC of snapper for the fishery at 88 tonnes from 1 April 2022; and
- Establishes that an individual quota unit for the Westernport/Port Phillip Bay fishery is 1,000kg of snapper

The Initial and Further quota orders implement Section 153E of the Fisheries Act 1995 which provides that the Minister (or delegate) must not make an order in relation to the commercial fishery operating in Western Port and Port Phillip Bay (WP/PPB) for the 12-month period commencing on 1 April 2022 that:

- Sets a total allowable catch (TAC) that exceeds 88 tonnes of snapper, or
- Allocates quota units to each holder of a WP/PPB Fishery Access Licence that are other than the equivalent of 11 tonnes of snapper.

The **Fisheries Notice (Western Port/Port Phillip Bay Fishery Catch Limit) 2022** (the Notice) (**Attachment 3**) has been finalised with one amendment. Specifically, the Notice:

- Specifies a 2 tonne per licence annual combined catch limit for fish other than snapper and shark; and
- Specifies a 1 tonne per licence annual catch limit for shark; and
- Specifies a zero catch of King George whiting, calamari, yellowtail kingfish and mullet; and
- Revokes the Fisheries (Western Port/Port Phillip Bay Fishery Catch Limit) Notice 2021.

There has been one amendment to the Notice following consultation. The final Notice includes a provision for the use of a commercial registered boat for recreational fishing if all requirements for prior reporting and log entry are completed. This removes the requirement to apply and carry a separate Exemption Certificate when recreationally fishing. Note the prohibition against recreational fishing while undertaken commercial fishing activities remains.

An explanatory Statement has been prepared to describe the intent of the final Notice (**Attachment 4**).

These 3 notices are now published in the Government Gazette and will be available on the VFA website and will come into effect on 1 April 2022. They have been finalised following consideration of several proposals and submissions from all fishing sectors. The arrangements that are established by these instruments recognises the transition of the WP/PPB Fishery from a net fishery to a limited 88-tonne long line snapper fishery, allowing some limited catch of species other than snapper using non-net methods.

If you have any questions about these notices or the management arrangements for this fishery, please contact Kylie Wohlt on kylie.wohlt@vfa.vic.gov.au or on 0472873311.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Travis Dowling".

Travis Dowling

Chief Executive Officer

Victorian Fisheries Authority

15 / 03 / 2022