

Victoria Government Gazette

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SPECIAL

Subordinate Legislation Act 1994 NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

Fisheries (Catch Limit) Regulations 2000

Notice is given that, in accordance with section 11 of the **Subordinate Legislation Act 1994**, a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) has been prepared in relation to the Fisheries (Catch Limit) Regulations 2000.

The objective of the proposed Regulations is to provide for the continued sustainable use and protection of Victoria's fish resources, and good management of recreational fisheries, by introducing new or amended restrictions on the recreational taking or possession of certain fish species.

Proposed regulatiry changes include:

- New or amended limits on recreational catches of a range of marine and freshwater fish species;
- New minimum size limits for golden perch and mulloway;
- Introduction of a prohibition on the removal of roe from sea urchins while at sea;
- Introduction of a prohibition on the use or possession of yabby pots in inland waters;
- Introduction of a requirement to mark (de-fin) recreational catches of snapper, King George whiting and bream, and a prohibition on the sale or possession on commercial premises of fish so marked;
- Minor amendments, including new or amended definitions of the terms "bait trap", "carcass", "daily bag limit" and"possession limit", and a clarification of recreational spear fishing entitlements in some marine waters.

These regulations will provide increased protection against excessive fishing pressure for some fish stocks, and will define and encourage responsible recreational fishing practices so that community benefits from recreational and other uses of fish resources can be maximised.

The RIS discusses possible alternatives to the proposed Regulations, including alternative types of regulation and voluntary 'Codes of Practice'. The proposed regulations were considered the best means of achieving the objective as they are likely to be more effective and/or less costly than the alternatives.

Copies of the RIS and the proposed Regulations may be obtained from the Information Centre, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Ground Floor, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne 3002 or by telephoning (03) 5226 4561 during business hours, or by sending an Email request to Sandra.Creighton@nre.vic.gov.au, or on the Internet at http://www.nre.vic.gov.au/fishing/.

Public comments are invited on the RIS and the accompanying Regulations. All comments must be in writing and must be sent to Mr Ross Winstanley, Manager Recreational Fisheries, Fisheries Victoria, Level 4, State Government Offices, P.O. Box 103, Geelong 3220 by no later than 5.00 p.m., Friday 18 August 2000. Dated 13 July 2000.

> CANDY BROAD Minister for Energy and Resources

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