



Victoria Government Gazette

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SPECIAL

Subordinate Legislation Act 1994

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT Fisheries (Amendment) Regulations 2003

Notice is given in accordance with Section 11 of the **Subordinate Legislation Act 1994**, that a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) has been prepared in relation to the Fisheries (Amendment) Regulations 2003.

The reason for, and the objective of the Proposed Regulations is to amend the Fisheries Regulations 1998 to provide for continued sustainable use, protection and good management of Victoria's fish resources in particular the rock lobster, giant crab, eel, inshore trawl, school and gummy shark, and Gippsland Lakes bait fisheries, and to make other minor amendments.

Proposed regulatory changes include:

- amended entitlements and conditions for Rock Lobster and Giant Crab fishery access licences to facilitate the implementation of the Rock Lobster and Giant Crab fishery management plans, and improvements related to quota management;
- amended conditions for Eel fishery access licences to facilitate the implementation of the Eel fishery management plan;
- amended conditions for Trawl (inshore) fishery access licences to reduce the combined School and Gummy shark bycatch limit, increase the Balmain Bug bycatch limit, and to introduce a minimum size limit for one species of Bug;
- restriction of the use of certain types of commercial fishing equipment by holders of an Ocean, Western Port/Port Phillip Bay, or Gippsland Lakes fishery access licence;
- offence to possess in, on, or adjacent to Victorian waters, or to land dismembered Rock Lobster;
- offence not to mark Rock Lobster taken from a boat before it is placed into a receptacle on or attached to the boat;
- offence to possess or use a coff in Victorian waters to hold Rock Lobster unless authorised;

- increase in legal minimum length for School Shark;
- removal of legal minimum length for Eels;
- other minor amendments.

The RIS provides some possible alternatives to the Proposed Regulations including an approved industry code of practice. Whilst some of the alternatives could achieve the objective of these Regulations, it would be at a higher cost and the net benefits would be lower. Other alternatives could be introduced for less cost than the Proposed Regulations but with a much higher risk that the objectives of regulation would not be achieved.

Copies of the RIS and the Proposed Regulations may be obtained from the Information Centre, Department of Primary Industries, Ground Floor, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne 3002, or by telephoning 13 61 86 between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm or on the internet at <http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/fishing>

Public comments are invited on the RIS and accompanying Proposed Regulations. All comments must be in writing and must be sent to Serena Scopel, Senior Project Officer, Fisheries Victoria, Level 6, 232 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne 3002 by no later than 5.00 pm Wednesday 15 October 2003.

Dated 14 September 2003

BOB CAMERON
Minister for Agriculture

Gazette Services

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