



Victoria Government Gazette

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Subordinate Legislation Act 1994

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

Fisheries (Recreational Abalone) Regulations 2004

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 (Recreational Abalone) Regulations 2004.

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 abalone resources and to make other minor amendments.

Proposed regulatory changes include:

- reduction of daily bag and possession limits applying to recreational abalone fishing in marine waters of central Victoria (from Cape Otway to Venus Bay);
- closure of marine waters of central Victoria to recreational abalone fishing for all but 30 days of each year;
- year-round closure of Port Phillip Bay to recreational and commercial fishing for greenlip abalone;
- consequential removal of the existing closed season for recreational greenlip abalone fishing in Victorian waters;
- removal of the existing requirement to cut the meat of recreationally caught abalone;
- removal of the abalone boat/vehicle limit; and
- other minor amendments.

The RIS provides some possible regulatory and non-regulatory alternatives to the Proposed Regulations, including increased enforcement and penalties for existing regulations and introduction of an abalone tagging system. 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. The RIS concludes that the Proposed Regulations strike the best balance between abalone stock protection, deterring illegal harvest, and convenience to legitimate recreational fishers.

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 Monday to Friday, 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 Greg Hayes, Manager Recreational Fisheries, Fisheries Victoria, GPO Box 4440, Melbourne 3001 by no later than 5.00 pm, Tuesday 7 December 2004.

BOB CAMERON
Minister for Agriculture

SPECIAL

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