



Victoria Government Gazette

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Fisheries Act 1995

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO AMEND THE VICTORIAN ABALONE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

I, Minister for Agriculture, Bob Cameron, announce an intention to amend the Victorian Abalone Fishery Management Plan. The proposed amendments will provide for the continued sustainable use, protection and management of Victoria's abalone resource.

The proposed amendments arise from the need to recognise proposed changes to abalone fishing regulations to ensure the protection of abalone stocks in Victorian waters from heavy non-commercial fishing pressure, and to fully protect depleted greenlip abalone stocks in Port Phillip Bay. The amendments also recognise changes that address several management issues for the recreational abalone fishery, including removal of existing regulations that have not been effective in curbing illegal abalone fishing and/or have disadvantaged legitimate recreational abalone fishers.

These management plan amendments will be made in accordance with Section 32 and Section 33 of the **Fisheries Act 1995**. Section 32 of the Act requires the Minister to publish in a newspaper a notice of intention to amend a management plan at least 60 days before an amendment is made.

A copy of the draft amendments to the Victorian Abalone Fishery Management Plan can be obtained from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) website www.dpi.vic.gov.au/fishing or by contacting the DPI Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

The draft amendments to the Victorian Abalone Fishery Management are accompanied by a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) describing proposed changes to recreational abalone fishing regulations in Victorian waters. Inquiries or written comments on either the proposed management plan amendments or the proposed changes to recreational abalone fishing regulations should be directed to:

Mr Greg Hayes, Manager Recreational Fisheries, Fisheries Victoria, GPO Box 4440, Melbourne, Vic. 3001. Telephone: (03) 9658 4368. Fax: (03) 9658 4380 Email: Greg.Hayes@dpi.vic.gov.au.

Written comments should be sent so that they are received on or before 8 December 2004.

BOB CAMERON
Minister for Agriculture

SPECIAL

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