



Victoria Government Gazette

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Subordinate Legislation Act 1994

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT Fisheries (Fees, Levies and Miscellaneous) Regulations 2006

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 (Fees, Levies and Miscellaneous) Regulations 2006. This RIS describes changes to fees and levies affecting fishery access licence holders in wild capture fisheries.

The reason for, and objective of, the proposed regulations is to amend the Fisheries Regulations 1998 to provide for the implementation of the third phase of a cost recovery program. The proposed regulations will amend various fees and levies charged annually for commercial fisheries access licences and specified general permits under the **Fisheries Act 1995**.

The focus of the RIS is on the provision to increase the levies associated with management, compliance and research, and the levies collected on behalf of the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation ('FRDC'), a federal agency and the Seafood Industry Victoria (SIV), the fishing industry peak body in Victoria.

The proposed regulatory changes include:

- changes to fisheries management services levies. These levies have been categorised into three broad areas: (i) management, (ii) compliance and (iii) research;
- the FRDC levy has been proportionally set according to the value of the fishery based on the gross value of product;
- an increase in the SIV levy payable by the abalone sector;
- a change to the formulation of the abalone royalty regime. The new royalty will be a sliding progressive scale based on the beach price of abalone. The new royalty is designed to be revenue neutral when compared with the previous royalty formulation.

Copies of the RIS and the proposed regulations may be obtained from the Information Centre, Department of Primary Industries, Level 16, 1 Spring Street, Melbourne or by telephoning 13 61 86 between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm Monday to Friday or via the Internet at <http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/fishing>.

Public comments are invited on the RIS and accompanying Regulations. All comments must be in writing and sent to Terry Truscott, Director Policy and Business Management, Fisheries Victoria, GPO Box 4440, Melbourne, Vic. 3001, or via email to Terry.Truscott@dpi.vic.gov.au by 5.00 pm Monday 20 February 2006. Any submission will be treated as a public document.

Dated 17 January 2006

BOB CAMERON MP
Minister for Agriculture

SPECIAL

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