

fishinglines

The magazine of Victoria's Peak Recreational Fishing Body

SUMMER 2013



Game Fishing Feature
Redmap phone app
Fishcare Victoria



Follow us on...



facebook.com/vrfish



[@VR_Fish](https://twitter.com/VR_Fish)

Recreational Fishing Code of Conduct



A code of conduct for recreational boat, shore, river, stream and jetty fishers in Victoria.

Recreational fishers have a responsibility to look after fisheries resources for the benefit of the environment and future generations of fishers. Recreational fishers should also show respect for other users of the aquatic environment. This Code of Conduct provides guidelines to minimise conflicts on the water, and should be adopted by all recreational fishers.



Awareness of and compliance with fishing regulations



Always seek permission when entering private property



Respect the rights of other anglers and users



Use established access roads and tracks



Protect the environment



Attend to your fishing gear and value your catch



Carefully return undersized, protected or unwanted catch back to the water



Education - pass on your knowledge



Fish species and other organisms must not be relocated/ transferred into other water bodies



Respect indigenous sites and values

For a full version of the Code of Conduct, please go to www.vrfish.com.au/Code_of_Conduct.htm

Marine House Ground Floor 24 York Street South Melbourne Vic 3205
Ph 03 9686 7077 Fax 03 9682 1066 Email info@vrfish.com.au Web www.vrfish.com.au

Contents



- 4 Chair Welcome
- 5 New Executive Officer
- 6 Caught & Court
- Game Fishing Feature...**
- 8 Game Fishing - Victorian style
- 10 South West Alliance Game Fishing Challenge 2013
- 11 Tuna a \$9 million catch for Portland
- 12 Game on!
- 14 Mako Research in Victorian shelf waters
- 15 The Game Fishing Association of Victoria
- 16 VRFish Strategic Plan 2012-2017
- 18 Improving your fishing
- 20 Redmap phone app!
- 21 Fishcare Victoria
- 22 Fishing in Victoria – VRFish Member Directory



Fishing Lines

Published by VRFish
Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body

Chair: Russell Conway
Executive Officer: Dallas D'Silva
Operations Manager
& *Fishing Lines* Editor : Simon Kinniburgh

First Floor, 24 York Street
South Melbourne, Vic 3205
Ph: 03 9686 7077
Fax: 03 9682 1066
Email: info@vrfish.com.au
Web: www.vrfish.com.au

Advertising

Ph: 03 9686 7077
Email: info@vrfish.com.au

Views expressed in this publication are those of individual authors and may not reflect VRFish policy or the opinion of the editor.

Graphic design / production by Grant Nelson Design
Original design by Sarah Saridis



Welcome



This issue of *Fishing Lines* is an opportunity to introduce the new Executive Officer of VRFish, Dallas D'Silva. I am confident Dallas will provide VRFish and all Victorian recreational fishers with the knowledge, expertise, professional management and enthusiasm needed to build and advance our organisations ability to advocate strongly for recreational fishers. Importantly, Dallas is also a keen angler and spearfisher.

This edition of *Fishing Lines* also highlights the tremendous game fishing opportunities available to Victorian recreational fishers.

If the term "game fishing" has you visualising excited fishers heading out into the middle of the ocean catching monster fish, you wouldn't be far off the mark. The continually growing popularity of game fishing in Victoria is a wonderful opportunity for fishers to enjoy the challenge of capturing a massive fish and experiencing one of the most exhilarating adventures you could have right here in our own state.

Watching a marlin jump for the first time will get anyone's heart racing, while seeing the teeth of a mako shark up close will leave you speechless. The thrill and experience lies in the challenge of fighting a massive Marlin or straining under the speed of an express-train Tuna, however many fishers will be quick to agree that it's not the catching of the fish that's important, but the vast life lessons that you will experience along the way.

Just ask a youngster who has reeled in their first game fish how much fun fishing can be. Requiring a balanced combination of patience, strategy and power, it is the challenge of capturing a fast moving iconic pelagic fish that game fishers chase.

I was first introduced to the excitement and adrenalin charged sport of game

In that single instant when you hear the shout of 'MARLIN! or TUNA!' you go from that meditative state of fishing fantasy to the pure adrenalin rush that is game fishing. The line snaps off the outrigger clip and your game reel starts to scream as line peels off and the drag goes into overdrive as the fish attacks your lure and takes off at high speed towards Tasmania.

fishing in the late 1980's when I ventured to Bermagui with members of the Greensborough Angling Club.

With high hopes for a successful fishing trip, we would depart Melbourne on the Friday afternoon in a small convoy and head east along the Princes Highway. Travelling through the night, we would reach Bermagui early on Saturday morning and after a quick snooze, we would hit the water around 6am. A short trip to the bait grounds to catch a few "slimy's" for live bait and then we would head out to either Montague Island, the 6 mile reef, the 12 mile reef or out to the "Shelf". Our targets were Marlin, Tuna, Albacore, Mako Sharks, Kingfish and any other species that attacked our lures.

In that single instant when you hear the shout of 'MARLIN! or TUNA!' you go from

that meditative state of fishing fantasy to the pure adrenalin rush that is game fishing. The line snaps off the outrigger clip and your game reel starts to scream as line peels off and the drag goes into overdrive as the fish attacks your lure and takes off at high speed towards Tasmania. At the end of the fight, we would usually take photos of the fish and release it to fight another day.

Victoria now has equally great game fishing destinations in Western Victoria with Portland, Port Fairy and Warrnambool now rivalling Bermagui as preferred destinations.

A recent economic study of the Portland recreational game fishing industry has confirmed the long held understanding that Victoria's recreational fishers contribute millions to the state economy and directly support thousands of jobs.

The Victorian State government understands the economic benefits of game fishing to regional Victoria and it is very pleasing to see the support and investment they are providing to improve access and facilities for game fishers. VRFish is continuing to advocate for further boat launching facilities across Victoria to cater for the increasing number of recreational fishing boats.

I would also like to thank the members of the Game Fishing Association of Victoria (GFAV) for their contributions to this edition. I hope you get pleasure from reading this edition and are stimulated to try out Victoria's game fishing opportunities in the future.

Tight Lines

Russell Conway
Chair

VRFISH welcomes Dallas D'Silva to the role of Executive Officer



I am excited by my new role as Executive Officer of VRFish, the peak body for recreational fishers in Victoria. I welcome the opportunity given to me by the Board and chairman, Russell Conway.

First, a bit about me. I am a keen angler and spearfisher, having grown up on the Mornington Peninsula. I am married with 2 young boys, who I hope will also enjoy fishing as they get older. I have worked in fisheries management and policy for over 15 years in Queensland, Torres Strait, New South Wales and Victoria. Prior to me taking on the VRFish role, I was the Industry Liaison Manager with NSW Fisheries. I have been Executive Officer of the Australian Fisheries Managers Forum, which comprises all State and Federal fisheries directors from around the nation.

I recognise the crucial role VRFish plays in representing recreational fishers in Victoria and the value fishers place on having an effective voice to all levels of Government and the community. This is a responsibility that I, and the Board take very seriously and we will continue to explore new ways to improve how we go about our core functions.

There are opportunities and challenges confronting the sector. The socio-economic value of recreational fishing has been well documented in the past and there remains considerable scope to grow the value of the sector and position Victoria as a world class fishing destination, whether it be Murray cod, Golden perch, redfin or salmonoid fisheries in inland waters, snapper in Port Phillip Bay, gummy sharks and King George whiting in Western Port or black bream in Gippsland.

Of course, a major theme of this edition of *Fishing Lines* is game fishing in Victoria. We are fortunate to have a resurgent

kingfish fishery in Victoria and a Southern bluefin tuna fishery that has been estimated to contribute \$9 million to the Portland economy. And of course seasonal fisheries for mako sharks, mahi mahi and albacore – now that's a pretty impressive list of species to target!

It is great to see continued Government support for recreational fishing in Victoria and commitment to fund a peak body consultative structure. It is vital we make best use of the current model that empowers VRFish to be a single, unified voice. We need to ensure we continue to consult widely and effectively represent freshwater, estuarine and marine fishers, whether they are young or old, regardless of their cultural background or whether they are regional or metropolitan based.

One of my first tasks is to review our governance model and our communication processes. Recreational fishers are a diverse group, and like the community, their demographics, values and behaviours will continue to evolve. VRFish is well aware of the need to stay in tune with ever changing fisher expectations and attitudes. On this front, it has been almost 5 years since the last structured survey of Victorian recreational fisher attitudes and values. A new survey is a priority task for VRFish as it will provide an important test of what we perceive to be our future priorities and where our valuable resources should be invested. Keep an eye out for further updates on a comprehensive fisher survey in the coming months.

We also need to make sure we continue to advocate for good habitat and waterway management in inland waters. There is lots of scope to continue to grow the amount of fish in our waters through a

One of my first tasks is to review our governance model and our communication processes. ... VRFish is well aware of the need to stay in tune with ever changing fisher expectations and attitudes.

combination of stocking and improved habitat, infrastructure and ocean access management and by working with local councils and environmental agencies. VRFish has long been an advocate for this cause and our resources will continue to be devoted to this priority.

Finally, another priority is about how we grow future leaders in the sector. This is a pivotal part of succession planning and it is great to see national recognition and support from the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.

That's probably enough from me for now.

Once again, I feel privileged to be in the position of Executive Officer of VRFish. I will be working hard to deliver positive outcomes for the Victorian recreational fishing community. Don't forget that the organisation is here for the fishers to form a united voice, so I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Good fishing...

Dallas D'Silva
Executive Officer

caught & court



Undersized and over bag limit on snapper

Fisheries Officers inspected a vessel with two men aboard at the Mordialloc boat ramp. Officers found 42 snapper, including four that measured less than 28cm, which is the legal minimum size.

The daily catch limit is 10 snapper per person, of which no more than 3 snapper can equal or exceed 40cm.

The two men, one from Oakleigh South aged 56 and the other from Noble Park aged 40, were interviewed at the scene and made full admissions to taking the fish earlier that evening off Beaumaris.

All of the fish were seized by Fisheries Officers.

One of the men received three on-the-spot fines totalling \$1,010 while the other man received two fines totalling \$866.



Fined for no commercial licence

A 57 year old Blairgowrie man was convicted and fined \$5,000 and ordered to pay \$3,200 costs in the Portland Magistrates court.

The man pleaded guilty to three charges including taking fish for sale without authority and failing to comply with a licence or permit condition.

The man was seen by Fisheries Officers taking a commercial quantity of pips from Discovery Bay and did not hold the correct licence to do so.

Further investigations revealed that, since January 2011, the man had taken 1.5 tonnes of pips.

Illegal netting in Gunbower Creek

A Cohuna man has been apprehended following the discovery of illegal cord drum nets in Gunbower Creek.

Fisheries Officers detected the nets during a routine patrol of the creek. They then initiated surveillance. A search of a shed on the man's property revealed another five cord drum nets, which were also seized.

The man was interviewed and will be charged on summons to appear in court in relation to the alleged use and possession of commercial fishing equipment.



(c) Commonwealth of Australia (Murray-Darling Basin Authority), Arthur Mostead - Photographer, 2010.

Anyone who sees or suspects illegal fishing activity

Illegal Abalone

An extensive surveillance operation by Fisheries Officers has resulted in three men from Melbourne's outer south-east being fined a total of \$8000 for exceeding the abalone catch limit, concealing part of their catch and providing false information.

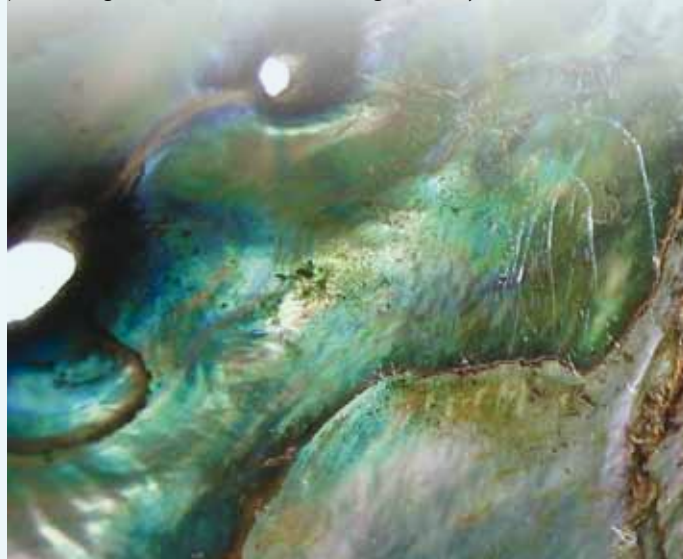
The Frankston Magistrates Court heard that as part of 'Operation Molten' the men were detected taking double their legal entitlement of abalone at two locations on the Mornington Peninsula.

The men were observed taking abalone from Rye, which they placed in a bag and later concealed in bush at Boneo, before taking more abalone at Sorrento. They then travelled back to Boneo where one man retrieved the bag.

Soon after, the men were intercepted by Officers who found 30 abalone in the mens' two cars. The legal daily limit for abalone is five per person, meaning collectively the men had taken double their legal entitlement.

The court heard that after being arrested and taken to the Springvale Police Station, the men gave false and misleading information while being interviewed.

One of the men was fined \$2000, had his vehicle and all other equipment forfeited and was banned from abalone fishing for 10 years. The other two men were each fined \$3000, had their equipment forfeited and were placed on a prohibition order preventing them from abalone fishing for one year.



Fisheries Officers night-patrolling the Mornington Peninsula coastline have seized nearly 200 abalone from alleged thieves who were illegally fishing in the inter-tidal zone, out of season.

At Portsea, recently, the officers watched five men scouring through reef crevices and ledges at dusk. They watched the group for several hours during which time the men were allegedly seen to be shucking many of the abalone they were taking from the water.

The abalone were packed into two bags and the group split up and began walking back to the London Bridge car park.

The officers intercepted them and two men were arrested while two others were escorted back to the car park where a fifth man was apprehended.

It will be alleged that he initially denied knowing any of the men or of any involvement with the group but officers will allege that screwdrivers used to shuck the abalone were in the boot of his car and that he had driven two of the men to Portsea that evening.

A total of 116 abalone, weighing 8.8 kg, were seized. 104 of those were shucked. Of the 12 in shell, five were found to be under the minimum size limit, as were 42 of the 104 shucked abalone.

Earlier in the week Mornington-based Fisheries Officers, responding to a call to Fisheries Victoria's 24 hour reporting line 13FISH (13 3474), watched a man diving from a boat in shallow water at Mills Beach.

When they searched the boat after it returned to the Oliver's Hill boat ramp, they allegedly found 91 abalone, all of which had been taken from the inter-tidal zone. A prosecution file is being prepared.

Senior Fisheries Officer Rod Barber said both incidents showed an indiscriminate approach to harvesting of the state's abalone and shellfish resources that had highly detrimental effects on local intertidal reef systems.

"Harvesting abalone after dark is prohibited and fishers must check the open season days before heading to the beach to harvest abalone," Mr Barber said.

"Officers will continue patrolling diligently as this issue is of high priority and threatens local abalone and shellfish populations."

The five men caught at Portsea will be charged on summons for taking more than twice the catch limit of abalone, taking undersized abalone, taking abalone in the closed season, taking abalone after dark, shucking abalone and taking shellfish from the intertidal zone.

Several of the men will be charged with providing false and misleading information.

is urged to call the 24 hour reporting line, **13FISH.**

Game Fishing

...VICTORIAN STYLE!

by **ANTON VOGIATZIS**

President, Victorian Game Fishing Club

In Victoria, game fishing has grown dramatically in the past decade. Once the ugly step child, game fishing now has anglers travelling far and wide to tackle some of our sought after southern species.

Ports such as Portland, Port Fairy and Apollo Bay are now popular game fishing destinations. Ten years ago Victoria did not have the game fishing opportunities and our recognised game fish were a few species of sharks, isolated pockets of small to medium kingfish and small southern bluefin tuna in shallower waters (40-50m) off Port Fairy and Portland.

The formula for a fishing industry start-up is simple: fish and accessibility. The right fish in the right place can be all it takes to kick-start a multi-million dollar game fishing industry. In 2006 Southern Bluefin Tuna kicked off a multi-million dollar fishing industry boom in Victoria's southwest. With a number of 100kg+ fish caught, this resulted in Portland establishing itself as Victoria's game fish capital. In 2010 Port Fairy had a hot run of big Bluefin tuna being found in 50m of water, just 10 minutes from the mouth of the Moyne River. In 2011, Apollo Bay saw schools of 100Kg Bluefin turning up at Big Reef.

The seasonal winter lull for locals saw a boom in anglers travelling from far and wide to try their luck at getting stretched by a "barrel". This results in service stations, hotels, accommodation, local restaurants and cafe's bulging at the seams with game fisherman. A line of boats queued kilometre's down the main street waiting to launch.

In recent times, another potential rising star in the Victorian game fishing scene is Lakes Entrance with the capture of Striped and Blue Marlin and sightings of Yellowfin Tuna. The fish were up to 85km offshore from Lakes Entrance. It is a long haul, however the distance travelled is no further than many game fishing boats already travel off Cairns, or Portland.

Victoria is on the verge of something great, however, we are being held back from fulfilling our potential by lack of ocean access. There is a need for quality boat ramp facilities right around our coast. You can't expect anglers to risk an \$80,000 vessel at exposed ramps. This is particularly evident in the east with Lakes Entrance being the only spot for hundreds of kilometres until the NSW border. It is also a mystery that the regional city of Warrnambool does not have safe all-weather offshore access.

The Everard canyon, a large "kink" in the Continental shelf is only located 15nm (28km) form Point Hicks in Victoria's east. This is only 8km's more than the distance travelled to the continental shelf from Bermagui which is the closest point to the continental shelf on the Australian mainland. Unfortunately, to travel to Everard Canyon from the nearest "safe" port involves of trip of 62 nautical miles (115km) which is too far for the majority of craft. There have been talks of a proposed safe boat ramp at Bastion Point near Mallacoota in Victoria's east, but the reality seems that it is unlikely that this will ever happen. If it did eventuate we could potentially see a new game fishing Mecca with offshore species like Yellowfin tuna, Blue, Black and Striped Marlin, Broadbill Swordfish and Cobia in less than 6 hours drive from Melbourne. We can only hope.





www.vgfc.com.au



South West Alliance Game Fishing Challenge

www.wolgfc.com

by **LUCAS WILSON**

Publicity Officer: Warrnambool Offshore & Light Game Fishing Club

The Victorian Game Fishing Club, the Game Fishing Association of Victoria and Warrnambool Offshore and Light Game Fishing Club collaborated to bring to Warrnambool the inaugural South West Alliance Game Fishing Challenge.

For the uninitiated, Warrnambool is a regional centre and former port city on the south-western coast of Victoria. The City of Warrnambool local government area has a population of approximately 34,000. Situated on the Princes Highway, Warrnambool marks the western end of the Great Ocean Road and the southern end of the Hopkins Highway.

There is growing recognition of Warrnambool as a premier game fishing destination. It is located only 269 kilometres from Melbourne with ample accommodation & dining options and family tourist activities. These factors, combined with the city's expansive infrastructure and extensive retail sector, see it well positioned to capitalise on the enormous economic benefits of catering for recreational fishers. This includes providing quality boat-launching facilities, and there are currently studies in place and momentum building for a proposed major upgrade of the Warrnambool Harbour.

Warrnambool Offshore and Light Game Fishing Club executive committee member Ashley Dance had tossed the idea for Warrnambool's first ever Game Fishing Association of Victoria sanctioned game fishing tournament around in his head for quite a while, all the while growing keener to see it become a reality. A conversation with Game Fishing Association Victoria committee member Anton Vogiatzis in early 2013 saw things begin to crystallise. Through the internet, facebook and email, the word was spread, and plans were put in place.

Being a first for the Warrnambool Offshore and Light Game Fishing Club, with most members never having fished strictly to Game Fishing Association Australia rules, it was decided that while these rules would be adhered to and enforced, the challenge overall would take on a relaxed nature and atmosphere - one where the emphasis could be on learning and helping each other out.

Organisers decided that they wanted any proceeds of the tournament to be donated to a local charity. 'Peter's Project' is a campaign to bring improved cancer care services to south-west Victoria. It aims to integrate and develop cancer care services to provide a one-stop shop for patients in south-west Victoria and south-east South Australia. This very worthwhile cause was to be the beneficiary of competition profits.



A notable \$3,101.45 was raised and donated to 'Peter's Project', which was extremely well received - and the charity organisation was represented at both the briefing and the event presentation.

A few boats withdrew due to the forecast - and the final tally was 40 entrants fishing out of 12 boats, 50% of which were "non-locals".

The Warrnambool Coastguard was actively involved in the event, monitoring everybody's safety and co-ordinating radio "skeds". Tag-and-release was encouraged over capture, and for the entire competition only one fish was presented to the gantry. Nine Southern Bluefin Tuna, one Mako and two Blue sharks were tagged in very trying sea conditions. Winning Champion boat was 'Bardup' skippered by Peter Goode, and Champion T&R Angler was Peter Kavanagh with 8000 points. Brodie Cater on 'Baitwaister' took out the most meritorious shark with a 109.5kg Mako on 10 kg line (6894.39 points).

A notable \$3,101.45 was raised and donated to 'Peter's Project', which was extremely well received - and the charity organisation was represented at both the briefing and the event presentation.

Everyone involved thoroughly enjoyed themselves and overall the inaugural South West Alliance Game Fishing Challenge was a resounding success - congratulations to all those that played a part in its organisation.

The wheels are already in motion to make this an annual event, and from 2014 organisers are looking at improvements such as running it over two weekends to give anglers a better chance of scoring some favourable weather. Dates have been confirmed (subject to sanctioning) for 2014: 5th - 6th April 2014 and 12th -13th April 2014.

Further information will be at:
www.wolgfc.com and/or www.gfav.com.au

Tuna a \$9 million catch for Portland

Portland's Southern Bluefin Tuna fishery injected between \$7 million and \$9 million into the local economy in 2012, a new study has found.

Premier and Member for South West Coast Denis Napthine said the economic importance of the lucrative catch had been quantified in the study jointly commissioned by the Victorian Coalition Government and Glenelg Shire Council.

"Southern Bluefin Tuna off the south west coast is a truly world class recreational fishery that attracts thousands of anglers from across Australia between February and June each year," Dr Napthine said.

"An estimated 3000 anglers travelled to Portland to fish for Southern Bluefin Tuna in 2012, with 300 or more trailer boats in the area at any one time and 25-30 charter boats operating out of the region.

"The economic benefits of recreational tuna fishing have been recognised anecdotally for some years but this is the first time action has been taken to quantify just how significant that contribution is."

The study, by Deloitte Access Economics, found anglers spent an average of between \$381-\$508 each day they launched boats in the local sea, mainly on accommodation, food and drinks, fuel, fishing supplies and charter boat fees.

Dr Napthine said the study found an equivalent of 26 full time jobs were created in Portland due to spending by recreational tuna fishers.

"It also found anglers travelled an average of 300 kilometres to arrive at Portland, providing strong evidence that Southern Bluefin Tuna is a high profile fishery that anglers are willing to travel large distances to enjoy," Dr Napthine said.

The study also found that:

- > Only five per cent of anglers surveyed were from Portland, with the remainder travelling to the area from another part of Victoria or from interstate.
- > During their visit to Portland, anglers undertook an average of two boat trips and caught an average of three fish a day, of which about half were released.
- > The time that anglers spend fishing for Southern Bluefin Tuna at Portland represents about one-third of the total amount of time they go fishing in a year.

Minister for Agriculture and Food Security Peter Walsh said the study would provide the Victorian Government and the Glenelg Shire with a better understanding of the economic benefits of the recreational Southern Bluefin Tuna fishery.

"This is a very important study because it gives us a sound base of evidence to inform future planning, infrastructure and investment decisions by the Government, the Council and fishing businesses," Mr Walsh said.

For a full copy of the report go to:
www.depi.vic.gov.au/tunastudy

Media: Liz McKinnon 5562 8230 www.denisnapthine.com.au

The economic benefits of recreational tuna fishing have been recognised anecdotally for some years but this is the first time action has been taken to quantify just how significant that contribution is."





Game

by **NICK TARANTO**

Bass Strait Game Fishing Club

Nothing excites me more than the incredible sport of Game Fishing. Seeing the shark come swimming to the boat is an unbelievable sight.

When I was five, the Mako shark fishery in Bass Strait was substantial. My father Sam and uncle Steven caught fish nearly every time they went out, and would tag and release 90% of them. One day, my father said to me, "Come out and catch a Mako." From then on, I went out every Sunday with them between December and April - but to my disappointment, I never caught a Mako. We caught multiple fish in that time but we never seemed to get the right fish for me to catch.

Finally, at the age of seven, after years of practising in the lounge room in my harness and gimble, a 15kg Mako swam to the boat. I was very seasick, as usual, but when the fish turned up at the berley pot, it all went away. After feeding it my 6kg outfit and watching it swim off, I set the hook and I was on.

After a short ten minute fight, I had it to the boat and the trace was grabbed and the shark was in the boat. Not just the shark, but my shark. We put a tag in it and took a photo and then released it again. It was then that I realised what it was all about and that I was hooked to game fishing.

It is one thing to catch a snapper in Westernport bay, but the thrill of hearing that reel scream off with a fish that is potentially twice the size of you is unreal. My primary school life was spent either at school or out fishing. The kids would ask on Monday's, "What did you do on the weekend?" I would reply, "I went shark fishing and we caught two Mako sharks, one was 225kgs."

On!



After years of them not believing what I said, it's safe to say they believed me when I took the head of my father's 225kg Mako shark in a wheelbarrow to school for show and tell. Certainly, telling all the other kids at my school that have never been outside, that we caught multiple sharks in one day, was very cool.

To this day, that's why I love game fishing - because I was able to tell outrageous stories to the kids at school that were actually true.

After doing 90% of my shark fishing in my uncle's boat Home Strait, I went out in Dad's boat Reel Ezy on occasion when we had somebody to go out with us. After having never caught a shark on Dad's boat before, in April of 2007 we ventured out to Cape Schank for a fish. After drifting a short while, we had a 30kg Mako at the boat which I tagged and released. Shortly after, a 50kg Blue Shark turned up which again, I tagged and released. Not long after that, a nice sized Blue Shark came to the boat. After dad told me I was going to try and weigh it in on 6kg line,

I shed a few tears because I got a little scared when I saw it, but after pulling myself together, we fed it a bait and I was hooked up on 6kg line. After spending 40 minutes in the harness, I got it up and the fight was over. Dad secured it to the boat. With no more joy for the rest of the day, we made the journey home and I weighed my fish. It came in at 65.3kg on 6kg tackle. That capture is now the Victorian and Australian Small Fry record on 6kg line which is still standing today.

Another of my best shark fishing memories was when we fished the annual Victorian Game Fish Classic based at Rhyll on Phillip Island. We started fishing at 6:00am Saturday morning, within half an hour, we had a Mako at the boat which we tagged and released.

Little did we know, that was our first tag and release of what was to become 23 tag and releases for the two days of fishing. A total of 10 Mako's and 13 Blue Sharks, making us the Champion Team Tag and Release for the tournament with my Dad, Sam, being the Champion Angler Tag and Release and myself winning the Champion Junior Angler Tag and Release. It was a great weekend and one not to forget.

In July 2010, Dad and I followed the craze and took the boat down to the western coast of Victoria for the annual winter run of Southern Bluefin Tuna. I love the use of light tackle to catch game fish, so put my three kilo outfit out in the spread to soon see a bust up of small 8-10kg Tuna to only see my 3kg rod get smashed!

Whilst my friends are at parties or at the beach, I am on the water, catching the fish that rule our ocean because I enjoy nothing better than hearing that reel scream!

After picking the rod up and gently setting the hook, Dad had the rest of the spread in and we were after it. After letting it do its tuna circles down deep for an hour and a half, finally, after some fluky boat driving, the fish came to the surface and Dad grabbed the leader and we had it.

It's safe to say, that was the best capture I had achieved in my short angling career. After tagging five tuna after that, we headed home to weigh my tuna. It weighed 8.65kg on 3kg line which was the Junior Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Record on 3kg line.

Throughout all my time game fishing, I have been involved in the Bass Strait Game Fishing Club. Based in Hastings on the Mornington Peninsula, we have meetings every month on the second Tuesday at the Westernport Angling Club clubrooms.

For the past four years, I have been on the committee, doing all the recording, setting dates for club days and events and also organising who wins what trophy for our club and getting them made. In August this year, I hosted our clubs presentation night, presenting all trophies to winners and telling stories about events of the year. It has given me confidence in speaking in front of groups of people.

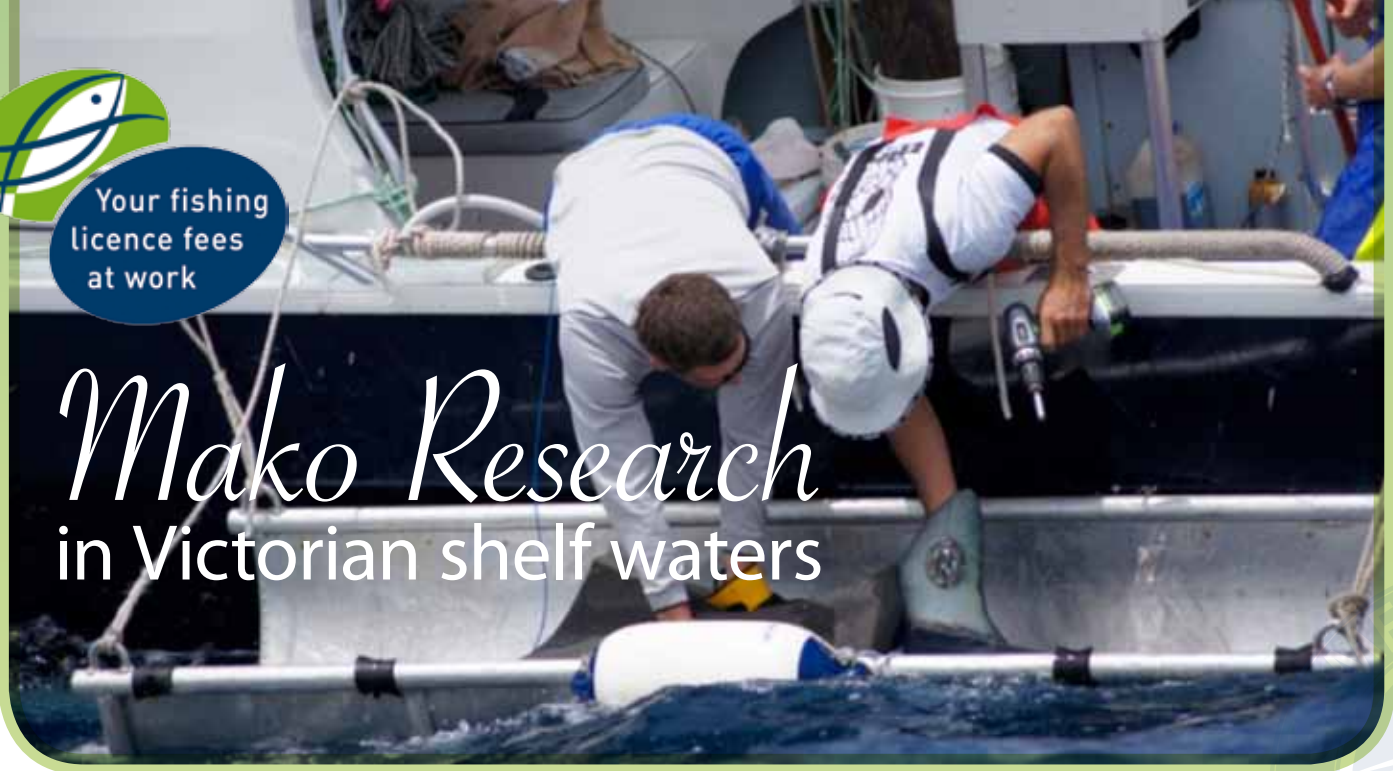
Some added benefits for me in doing game fishing is all the trips and tournaments we participate in, the new people I meet and become friends with. The locations you see whilst doing the sport you love is incredible.

I am now 16 years old and have five Victorian Junior and Small Fry records. I have won prizes in the Victorian Game Fishing Classic six times in nine years and have been awarded highest points scoring Tag and Release Junior Angler in Victoria on three occasions. Whilst my friends are at parties or at the beach, I am on the water, catching the fish that rule our ocean because I enjoy nothing better than hearing that reel scream!



Your fishing licence fees at work

Mako Research in Victorian shelf waters



Researchers attaching a satellite tag to a mako at Portland in December 2012. Image: Shane Sanders

The Victorian Government is using recreational fishing license fees to help South Australian fisheries scientists from SARDI Aquatic Sciences deploy satellite tags on shortfin makos with the assistance of recreational and game fishers to answer several important research questions:

- > **How long do they remain in Victorian waters?**
- > **Are they linked to other mako populations via their movements?**
- > **Are makos in Victoria vulnerable to fishing in other regions?**

The data from this project will be used to estimate residence times of makos in the recreational fishery and identify important habitats for this iconic sport-fishing species and top predator in the world's oceans. Findings will also be combined with those of a directly related study of global mako population genetics to help describe the scale of connections between different regions.

Project update

In December 2012, the researchers spent a week targeting makos to deploy satellite tags in shelf waters off Portland in SW Victoria. Small juvenile and adult shortfin makos were reportedly abundant in this region between December and February. They teamed up with local recreational/game fishers Shane Sanders, and Brodie Carter who have considerable expertise in tag and release of makos.

The group transferred sharks between the research and recreational vessels and successfully deployed four satellite tags on makos that included two small juveniles of 120 and 130 cm, a mature sized male (200 cm), and a sub-adult female of 260 cm.

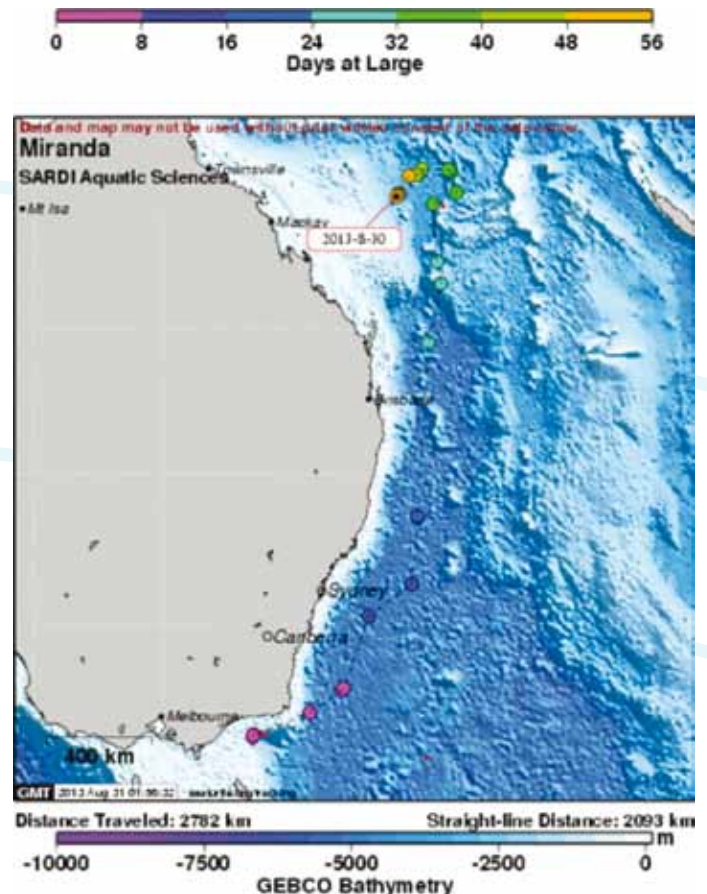
This year in June, they returned to Portland and managed to satellite tag the largest shark so far, a 2.7 m female that travelled straight to several seal colonies before heading into the middle of the Great Australian Bight.

In July, two additional satellite tags were deployed on makos of 1.8-1.9 m in the Bass canyons during two nights on Steve Taranto's vessel Home Strait. These two sharks are currently in oceanic waters of the Coral Sea and the area south of Sydney.

The project has largely used circle hooks and is trying to encourage fishers to adopt the same practice, as they have been shown in previous studies to improve survival rates. Data and images from the project will contribute to developing a voluntary Code of

Practice that will incorporate a set of guidelines for the sustainable fishing, handling and release of line caught pelagic sharks.

You can follow the movements of tagged makos online at www.wildlifetracking.org or visit www.dpi.vic.gov.au/mako for more information about this project. A summary of the project and related mako research is provided in *Bluewater Boats and Sportfishing*, Issue 97.



Map showing the track of a mako that was satellite tagged from FV Bass Strait near the canyons in eastern Bass Strait in winter 2013.

The Game Fishing Association of Victoria



The Game Fishing Association of Victoria is the governing body for Game Fishing in Victoria. We are affiliated with the Game Fishing Association of Australia (GFAA) and the International Game Fishing Association (IGFA). There are currently 16 Clubs Affiliated with GFAV and they represent approximately 700 Game Fishers.

GFAV compiles and maintains Victorian records for each recognised species for adult, junior and small-fry anglers. We also represent game fishing anglers through active participation with the Victorian recreational fishing peak body (VRFish) and nationally via the Game Fishing Association of Australia.

GFAV is managed by its Executive Committee and Council (which is comprised of Delegates from all member Clubs). Council Meetings are held several times per year at the Clubrooms of the Victorian Game Fishing Club at Edithvale.

All anglers affiliated with GFAV are invited to attend and visitors are welcome.



Our Objectives

- To govern and coordinate the sport of game fishing in the State of Victoria.
- To affiliate with the Game Fishing Association of Australia and with the International Game Fishing Association.
- To conserve the game fish and food fish resources of Victorian waters for the recreational and economic use of present and future generations.
- To encourage and further the study of game fish angling, the related species and the habitat requirements of such species and to assist in the maintenance of the ecological balance of waters.
- To formulate and support fair, uniform and ethical angling rules.
- To compile and maintain State records for the heaviest angling catches for men, women and juniors in all line divisions approved by the Association for each species recognised by the Association as a game fish and game shark and fished for by a substantial number of anglers or distributed over a wide area of waters; and to adjudicate such record claims.
- To represent the interests of recreational game fishermen within the Association's capacity for the time being at any meeting at which the future of the game fish population is being discussed or otherwise determined.
- To assist and participate in domestic and international game fish seminars and symposiums where the expertise, data and purposes of this Association may be helpful in assisting other organisations with similar objectives.
- To analyse the pressure of recreational fishing and commercial fishing for the various game fish species.
- To act as a data accumulation centre for fishing results and make such information available to governments and others for the furtherance of education in the wise use of conservation of species.
- To accumulate and maintain a history of game fishing for the use and benefit of present and future generations.
- To develop and support fish tagging programs and other specific data collection evidence.
- To disseminate information and knowledge of scientific studies of commercial and game fish to member Associations and clubs and other parties in Australia or elsewhere.

Affiliated Clubs

The following Clubs are affiliated with GFAV:

- Ballarat Sport and Game Fishing ClubBallarat
- Bass Strait Game Fishing Club Hastings
- Greenvale Sport and Game Fishing Club Tullamarine
- Keysborough Angling Club Keysborough
- Knox Boat Fishing Club..... Knox
- Latrobe Valley Game Fishing ClubTraralgon
- Melbourne Game Fishing Club .. Greensborough
- Orbost Sport and Game Fishing ClubOrbost
- Snapper Point Angling ClubMornington
- South Gippsland Game Fishing Club ..Leongatha
- Swordfish and Tunny Club..... Sandhurst
- Victorian Game Fishing Club Edithvale
- Warrnambool Offshore and Light Game Fishing Club..... Warrnambool
- Westernport Angling Club Hastings
- Williamstown Sport and Game ClubWilliamstown

Thinking about joining or want to be part of the excitement?

For more information or to join one of our great game fishing clubs:

- go to www.gfav.com.au
- email: info@gfav.com.au
- or mail to: PO Box 408 Mentone, 3194 VIC

VRFish Strategic Plan 2012–2017



COMMUNITY

Grow participation, membership and experience

- » Ensure recreational fishing is promoted as a healthy and positive experience.
- » Encourage greater participation from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) communities.
- » Promote participation in recreational fishing to young people and families.
- » Develop retention and recruitment strategies to grow the VRFish membership.



SUSTAINABILITY

Preserve, grow and enhance the fish resource, infrastructure and access

- » Support sustainable fishing and fisheries through proactive and responsible policy development and projects.
- » Work with fisheries management to identify opportunities for improvement and growth.
- » Build on existing, and develop new conservation partnerships to enhance our role in supporting healthy, resilient recreational fisheries.
- » Advocate for improved fishing infrastructure to support growth in recreational fishing.



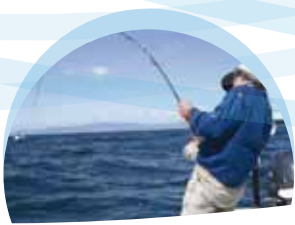
AWARENESS

Strengthen and grow our communication and collaboration

- » Ensure that the recreational fishing community are informed of issues that may impact on recreational fishing.
- » Provide effective communication channels.
- » Develop and refine engagement programs and activities across key communities.
- » Provide sound advice and guidance on strategies and policies which will contribute to a sustainable future Victorian Fishery.

Five Key Pillars

The VRFish Strategic vision is supported by five key pillars and is underpinned by our core values. VRFish is committed to producing the following outcomes:



ACCOUNTABILITY

Ensure VRFish delivers best practice governance and management principles

- » Improve our extension and adoption practices to be more accountable to recreational fishers.
- » Support data collection and research that matches our organisational needs.
- » Implement review process of governance structures.
- » Report regularly to our stakeholders on our actions to ensure a sustainable and vibrant future fishery.



ADVOCACY

Provide effective representation of our members' interests

- » Promote recreational fishing as a major contributor to economic growth in Victoria, particularly in rural and regional areas.
- » Ensure VRFish members have appropriate best practice and educational resources.
- » Influence policy and direction across all levels of government.
- » Develop further recognition of VRFish as the legitimate conduit of recreational fishers.



fish for the future

VRFish Representing Your Interests

As the peak body representing a community of over 721,000 Victorians, VRFish works to provide fishers with support through facilitation, advocacy, education strategies and policy development. We consult broadly with the recreational fishing community to represent their views in an accurate and timely manner to Government and their agencies, as well as communicate effectively with the recreational fishers of Victoria.

VRFish Charter

...is to consult broadly with the recreational fishing community to represent the views of recreational fishers in an accurate and timely manner to Government and their agencies, as well as communicate effectively with the recreational fishers of Victoria.

VRFish Vision

...is to ensure full access to a diverse and healthy Victorian recreational fishery.

VRFish Mission

...is to represent and advocate the interests of the Victorian Recreational fishing community.



Anglers can look forward to better boat launching when **Lake Natimuk**'s water level recovers thanks to a new ramp. The lake produced excellent fishing for rainbow trout to 1.8kg in 2011 and 2012, after the drought broke and the water level was high. The lake also produces excellent redfin and yabbies.



The jetty at **Lake Cartcarrong** has been repaired by the Committee of Management and funding from the Recreational Fishing Initiative. The jetty had fallen into disrepair making it hazardous to use. The lake is stocked with rainbow trout.

Jetty upgrades at two boat ramps on the coast have benefited anglers at Nelson. The jetties have been repaired (Old Bridge Road) with new decking and concrete pilings for safe use during periods of high water, which is common in the area.



Improving your fishing

By **MARC AINSWORTH**

Senior Fisheries Communication Advisor, DPI

Fisheries Victoria continues to improve fishing opportunities by stocking fish, improving access, building fish cleaning tables, installing reefs and upgrading boat launching facilities.

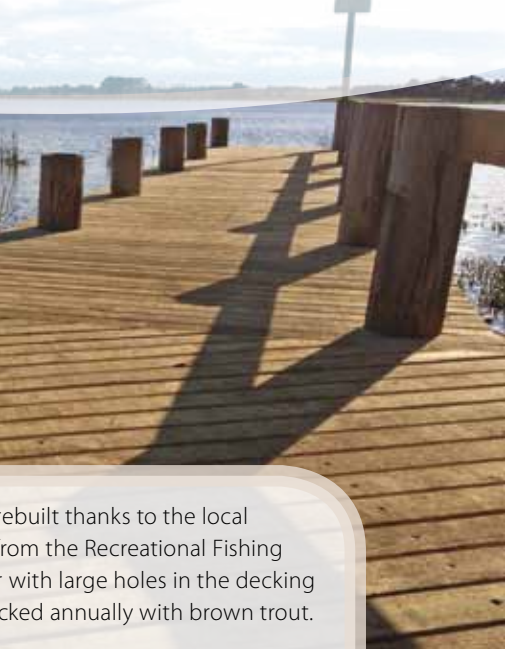
These projects are funded by your fishing licence fees and the State Government's \$16 million Recreational Fishing Initiative.

Stay up to date with our news at: www.facebook.com/DEPIFisheries



Your fishing licence fees at work

Fishing licence fees have helped expand the **Chinook salmon** stocking program this year. Seven lakes shared in 22,000 extra Chinooks: Bellfield Reservoir, Lake Tooliorook, Lauriston Reservoir, Lake Elingamite, Bostock Reservoir, Deep Lake and Rocky Valley Reservoir. Work continues on the development of Chinook fisheries in lakes Bullen Merri and Purrumbete, which received 20,000 and 25,000 salmon respectively during winter.

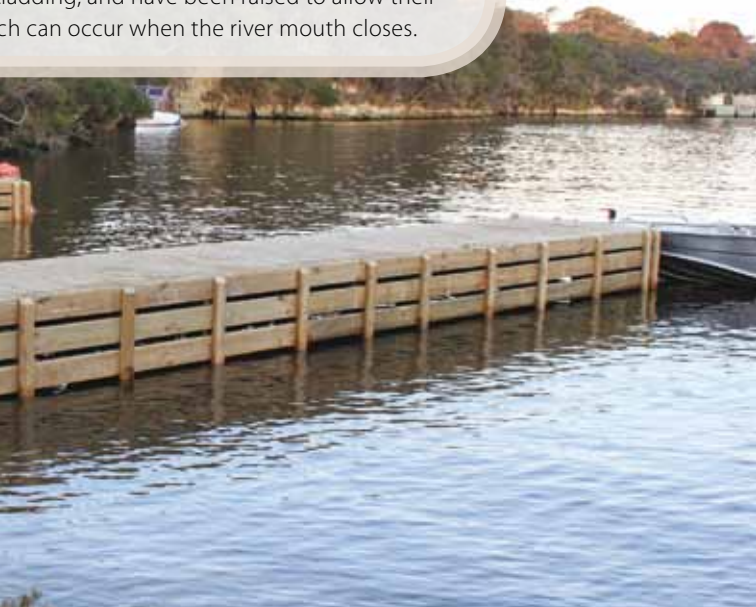


rebuilt thanks to the local
from the Recreational Fishing
with large holes in the decking
checked annually with brown trout.



A record 2.273 million **native fish** were stocked into Victorian lakes and rivers last summer. Most were Murray cod and golden perch (pictured) with smaller numbers of Australian bass, silver perch, Macquarie perch and estuary perch. Thirty waters shared in more than 1 million cod fingerlings, of which 520,000 were grown at our Snobs Creek hatchery. This was a production record. Learn more at www.depi.vic.gov.au/nativefish2013

Glenelg River have improved access for
furnished at Simsons Landing and West Bank
laddering, and have been raised to allow their
ch can occur when the river mouth closes.



A new fish cleaning table has been installed at **Venus Bay**. The table features a tap and hose for washing down the catch and keeping the table neat and tidy. The table was funded by the Recreational Fishing Initiative, which has also funded tables at Torquay, Lake Purrumbete, Tooradin, Blind Bight (Western Port), Avalon and the Geelong Grammar School Lagoon. Learn more at www.depi.vic.gov.au/betterfishing



Upgrades to seven boat ramps on the Victorian side of the **Murray River**, between Robinvale and Berribee, have improved access for fishers at Higgins Road, Higgins Cutting, Berribee, Walsh Bend, Fireman's Bend, Abbotsford and Spencer's Bend. The boat ramp at Lake Cullulleraine, which is stocked annually with native fish, has also been upgraded.

Report something fishy on the new Redmap phone app!

By YVETTE BARRY

If you catch an unusual fish at your local fishing spot then grab your phone! The log-a-fish project Redmap has launched a new phone application to complement their successful website redmap.org.au.

The app makes it easy for Victorians to report sightings of uncommon fish and marine species with just a few clicks on their phone.

Redmap (Range Extension Database and Mapping project) encourages people to upload photos and sightings of marine life that aren't commonly found in their local seas. These community observations help track which species are shifting their usual home range, possibly in response to ocean warming and a changing marine environment. Already fishers, divers and the public have shared hundreds of photos on Redmap including fish, turtles, sharks, rays, lobsters and even sea slugs.

Some seas along the coast of Victoria are warming at three to four times the global average. As fishers know, temperature can affect fish growth, reproduction and behaviour. Some fish respond by searching for their preferred water temperatures, often extending their distributions into new areas further south. Or as Redmap likes to coin it: 'moving house when things get too hot at home.'

In Victoria, Redmap needs your help to track species like Cobia (*Rachycentron canadum*), a fish spotted now and again in Victorian waters. Other species of interest include striped marlin (*Tetrapturus*

audax), mahi mahi (*Coryphaena hippurus*) and even the slender sunfish (*Ranzania laevis*) if you're lucky enough to spot one.

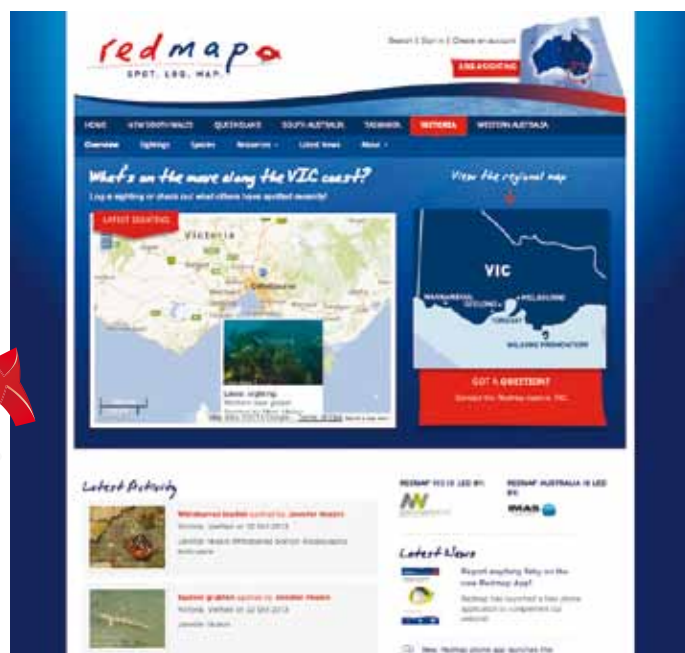
Redmap is also interested in your observations of any other fish you think are uncommon, even if they haven't made it onto the Redmap list yet. This could include fish like wahoo (*Acanthocybium solandri*) in southern Victorian waters and Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus commerson*) too.

Redmap sightings are not just pretty photos shared on the website (although many of the photos are stunning). A network of over 60 marine scientists across the country review each sighting submitted to Redmap to verify the species identity ensure high-quality data. The community's data contribute to our understanding of Australia's marine ecosystems and how species distributions are changing over time.

The app is supported by an Australian Government Inspiring Australia grant, which aims to boost science literacy and teach the value of science in caring for our environment; the New South Wales Environmental Trust and the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) at the University of Tasmania.

To share your sightings simply download the Redmap app at your favourite app store and have your phone handy next time you head out. You can also follow the unusual catches being reported along the Victorian coast and other areas of Australia by becoming a Redmap member, liking us on Facebook or checking out all the great photos of unusual fish at www.redmap.org.au.

Redmap sightings are not just pretty photos shared on the website ... A network of over 60 marine scientists across the country review each sighting submitted to Redmap to verify the species identity ensure high-quality data.



redmap 
SPOT. LOG. MAP.

Fishcare Victoria

by **DAVE CLEELAND**

State Coordinator

Spring has sprung and the Fishcare Fish Right Workshop season is warming up around the state. Fishcare groups from East Gippsland all the way to Warrnambool have made many preparations throughout the winter months to continue their work in educating the next generation of recreational anglers in safe, sustainable and responsible fishing practices.

There has been big news for Fishcare Victoria over the last few weeks with the announcement by the Minister for Agriculture Peter Walsh that \$200,000 per year funding is to be allocated to the group from the sale of recreational fishing licences. The funding will allow Fishcare Victoria and all affiliated Fishcare groups around the state to plan and continue to grow knowing there is some security for the future of the program.

With secured funding, Fishcare Victoria will be able to focus on increasing its outputs and further engaging junior anglers and the broader community through Fishcare's learn to fish clinics, school holiday programs, "Get Hooked" schools program, Catch a Carp events, Family Fishing days, Catch and Release competitions and working with other "care" groups on local environmental projects.

Just recently Fishcare Victoria has attended the National 4 x 4 show in Melbourne and the Goulburn Fish Festival at Eildon with both events great successes in raising the profile of Fishcare and signing up new volunteers. All groups across the state are always looking to recruit new members so interested persons should please have a look at our website www.fishcare.org.au or look us up on Facebook at Fishcare Victoria Inc. Teaching children the basics of fishing and watching them catch their first fish, falling in love with the recreation we all love is a very rewarding experience.



East Gippsland Volunteers with students from Nagle College.

There has been big news for Fishcare Victoria over the last few weeks with the announcement by the Minister for Agriculture Peter Walsh that \$200,000 per year funding is to be allocated to the group from the sale of recreational fishing licences.

As the weather improves and Term 4 gets underway around our state's schools our Fishcare Volunteers will be running *Fish Right* Workshops at safe fishing destinations to teach our participants the basics of catching fish but also the importance of looking after our waterways and aquatic environments so that they are conserved into the future. If you would like to be a part of the Fishcare program or your school is interested in getting involved please don't hesitate to contact us through our website.

Fishcare
We fish.
We care.

About Fishcare | Our regions | News | Events | Resources | Galleries | Links | Membership | Contact Us

WELCOME
We fish. We care.
Fishcare Victoria is a community based not-for-profit organisation promoting responsible and sustainable attitudes and practices amongst recreational anglers and the wider community. [Learn more about what we do...](#)

NEXT EVENT
OCT 26 Fishcare Vic Training Day
Fishcare Victoria's annual training day for all new and old volunteers. With guest speakers from the Fish Habitat Network and Native Fish Australia it promises to be a great day. [Read more...](#)

FISHCARE NEWS
Fishcare Vic Training Day Flyer
Come along to the Fishcare Victoria Training Day for great guest speakers and an update on the Fishcare program. [Read more...](#)



Fishing in Victoria

– something
for everyone

Victorian fishers are a blessed lot – the fisheries across the State provide ample opportunities to ply your skill and feed your family.

Over 721,000 Victorians share a passion for recreational fishing, and there are fishing clubs scattered all over the State catering to fishers whether they be hooked on feeding 'old man' cod or like to chase the big reds as they come into our bays to spawn. There are many reasons a large segment of VRFish members belong to fishing clubs:

- > Fishing clubs give fishers access to a fantastic group of people who love to talk about fishing as much as they do.
- > They give a sense of contributing to the local community.
- > Club membership provides an opportunity to participate in social and competitive events.
- > They give the ability to improve fishing by learning from more experienced fishers or to share your own knowledge.
- > Club membership also provides a means to contribute to the political landscape of fishing, and have your say in issues that affect you and your favourite fisheries.

Contact one of our member clubs opposite for more information.



Member directory

Albert Park Yachting & Angling Clubs Association

Contact: Patrick Hutchinson
Phone: 03 9329 8200
Email: info@apyac.org.au
Web: apyac.org.au

Association of Geelong & District Angling Clubs

Contact: John Hotchin
Phone: 03 52486817
Email: jhotchin@bigpond.net.au
Web: fishinggeelong.com

Australian Anglers Association (VIC)

Contact: Tim Hose
Phone: 0428 521 449
Web: aaavic.org

Australian National Sportfishing Association (VIC)

Contact: Brian Hayes
Phone: 0408 559 663
Email: wayne62@hotmail.com
Web: ansavic.com.au

Ballarat & District Anglers Association

Contact: Geoff Cramer
Phone: 0418 320 139
Email: gcramer@chw.net.au

Baumaris Motor Yacht Squadron

Contact: Brian Wright
Phone: 0421 764 370
Email: bwgarden@optusnet.com.au
Web: bmys.com.au



Boating Victoria

Contact: Wallace Nicholson
Phone: 03 9585 1330
Email: boating@yachtingvictoria.com.au
Web: boatingvictoria.com.au

Council of Victorian Fly Fishing Clubs

Contact: Doug Braham
Phone: 03 5174 4606
Email: ddbraham@bigpond.com

Fishcare Victoria

Contact: Lachie Hetherington
Phone: 0468 300588
Email: lachie.hetherington@gmail.com
Web: fishcare.org.au

Game Fishing Association of Victoria

Contact: Geoff Fisher
Phone: 0412 005 850
Email: secretary@gfav.com.au
Web: gfav.com.au

Gippsland Angling Clubs Association

Contact: Robert Caune
Phone: 03 5155 1505
Email: robert@net-tech.com.au

Goulburn Valley Association of Angling Clubs

Contact: Wally Cubbin
Phone: 0428 942 744
Email: wcubbin@bigpond.net.au

Howqua Angling Clubs Fish Protection Association

Contact: Steven Relf
Phone: 0417 553 249
Email: srelf@optusnet.com.au

Metropolitan Anglers Association

Contact: William Richards
Phone: 03 9337 5113
Email: fishomaa@hotmail.com

Midland & North Central Angling Association

Contact: Greg Hellsten
Phone: 0401 984 323
Email: greg.h.ogp@hotmail.com

Mid Northern Association of Angling Clubs

Contact: Alan Digby
Phone: 03 5492 2822
Email: alasue@hotmail.com

Native Fish Australia

Contact: Tim Curmi
Phone: 0417 419 765
Email: timbo42b@yahoo.com.au
Web: nativefish.asn.au

North East Angling Association

Contact: Stafford Simpson
Phone: 0419 564 319
Email: vk2ast@tpg.com.au

Scuba Divers Federation of Victoria

Contact: Priya Cardinaletti
Phone: 0414 310 727
Email: priya@sdfv.org.au
Web: sdfv.org.au

South Gippsland Angling Clubs Association

Contact: Allister Dowling
Phone: 0429 001 984
Email: Jodie_dowling@bigpond.com

South West District

Association of Angling Clubs
Contact: Gary Cronin
Phone: 0417 125 127
Email: gbear@hotmail.com

Southern Freedivers

Contact: Clint Engel
Phone: 0409 613 804
Email: info@brimbosports.com
Web: southernfreedivers.org.au

Victorian Fishing Charters Association

Contact: John Willis
Phone: 0407 053 484
Email: john@beachmarine.com.au

Victorian Piscatorial Council

Contact: Peter Milley
Phone: 0419 537 082
Email: pmilley@bigpond.net.au

Wimmera Anglers Association

Contact: Barry Williams
Phone: 0402 352 006
Email: barry3422@bigpond.net.au

GONE FISHING



DON'T PUT YOUR LIFE ON THE LINE



**ALWAYS
WEAR A PFD**



**NEVER
FISH ALONE**



**STAY ALERT!
CONDITIONS
CHANGE**

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 000