



**NATIVE FISH AUSTRALIA (Vic) Inc.**  
www.nativefish.asn.au  
PO Box 162 Doncaster 3108

Dallas D'Silva  
Director - Fisheries Policy, Management, Science and Licensing  
Victorian Fisheries Authority

Dear Dallas,

### **Review of Victorian Fisheries Regulations**

Thank you for giving Native Fish Australia (Vic) the opportunity to make some initial suggestions of changes to current fishing regulations in Victoria. We have consulted with our membership and after discussions with the committee identified the following changes to current regulations:

#### River Blackfish south of the divide

Reduce bag/possession limit from 5 to 2 fish

Increase minimum legal size from 23 cm to 30cm

The populations of River Blackfish are in decline through their natural range and this change will help to protect remaining populations. There have also been discussions around the introduction of a slot limit for this species and NFA (Vic) would support further investigations into implementation.

#### Macquarie perch in the Yarra River

Reduce bag/possession limit from 2 to 0 fish

Data from ARI and our own observations show a dramatic decline in both size and overall numbers of Macquarie perch in the Yarra River. We believe the population in the Yarra River needs to be protected until signs of a stable and robust population are evident.

#### Silver perch North of the divide

Introduce a bag/possession limit of 2 fish

NFA (Vic) believe it is time to allow a limited catch for Silver perch. There is good scientific and anecdotal evidence from anglers to suggest a limited catch is sustainable

#### Flat-headed galaxias & Southern pygmy perch North of the divide

Reduce bag/possession limit to 0.

The numbers of both of these small bodied fish has declined dramatically and remaining populations need to be protected.

### Redfin declared noxious in Victoria

Redfin are a popular introduced sport fish with many anglers because of their fighting qualities, ease of capture and taste. However, they are also voracious predators of other fish and invertebrates, can destroy recreational fisheries in enclosed waters by building up large numbers of stunted fish and eliminating other species, and can devastate native fish populations by carrying the EHN virus. Redfin breed in early spring and the young of the year have a devastating effect on the larval of native fish that breed at least two months later. Redfin are listed as a Class 1 noxious fish in NSW. The noxious listing will not affect current Redfin fisheries

### Implementation of seasonal closures in selected rivers to protect breeding endangered native fish.

The rationale behind the proposed closures is to promote the recovery of native fish populations in these waters, to accelerate the introduction of angling for two threatened species, Trout cod and Macquarie perch and support the long term sustainability of the recreational fishery. There are currently four seasonal closures of rivers in Victoria to protect breeding salmonoids, but only closed seasons for the capture of endangered native fish. There is clear scientific evidence of the detrimental effect of capture on breeding fish & susceptibility to angling of some species during breeding.

### Fisheries notices

There are currently a number of fisheries notices regulating to Golden perch, Trout cod, Murray cod and Murray Spiny freshwater crayfish that need to be renewed annually. These need to be incorporated into the revised regulations.

Native Fish Australia (Vic) is keen to be involved in the discussions around the review of the regulations. We remain available to participate and support any forum to review the current regulations and assess suggestions by various stakeholders.

Yours faithfully,



Tim Curmi  
BSc (Aquatic Science) (Hons)  
President  
Native Fish Australia (Vic)  
nfavic@yahoo.com.au  
0417419765

28 February 2019