



NATIVE FISH AUSTRALIA (Vic) Inc.
PO Box 162 Doncaster 3108

23 December 2018

Members & Supporters

Few things that may be of interest!

Welcome to new members

A warm welcome to new members Jim, Steve and Ryan. We hope your memberships will be long and rewarding for both you and Native Fish Australia.

Christmas Greetings

Native Fish Australia (Vic) would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

We thank you for your great support in our many activities including our endangered native fish hatchery, our many angling adventures, and our endeavours to enhance our native fisheries and the health of our waterways across the state and beyond.

We are looking forward to 2019 and the opportunity to work with you on these and other fantastic projects.



Macquarie perch breeding program

Despite major effort by NFA (Vic) members using both Fyke netting and angling, we managed to capture only two Macquarie perch from middle Yarra River.

Unfortunately neither fish were suitable for breeding, directly resulting in no production this year.

We have recently received some money from the VFA to assist with our Macquarie perch breeding efforts. As part of the funding agreement NFA (Vic) is going to conduct artificial diet trials with Macquarie perch fingerlings. We plan to get some Macquarie perch fingerlings from Snobs Creek early next year, and trial different artificial diets. If successful, it will greatly assist in the establishment of a population of domesticated Macquarie perch broodstock that can be used in future breeding activities.

Review of Victorian Fisheries Regulations

The Victorian fisheries regulations are due to sunset in February 2020. The VFA are currently reviewing the regulations to ensure they remain relevant and effective, with one aim to reduce regulations where practicable. NFA (Vic) has been asked to consult with our membership to identify possible changes to current regulations. I have attached a copy of the current regulations.

Some suggestions by NFA (Vic) members to date have included:

- River Blackfish south of the divide
 - Reduce bag/possession limit from 5 to 2 fish
 - Increase minimum legal size from 23 cm to 30cm
- Macquarie perch in the Yarra River
 - Reduce bag/possession limit from 2 to 0 fish
- Silver perch North of the divide
 - Introduce a bag/possession limit of 2 fish
- Flat headed galaxid & Southern pygmy perch North of the divide
 - Reduce bag/possession limit to 0.
- Redfin declared noxious in Victoria

If you have any suggestions on changes to Fisheries regulations in Victoria, please get back to me by the end of January 2019.

Southern Pygmy perch breeding program

Our collaborative project with ANGFA (Vic), the NCCMA & City of Greater Bendigo continues to develop. We have collected broodstock from a number of sites around Bendigo and they are now being bred by Chris Lamin at Middle Creek Farm. So far we have had some great results, with full production next year after the fish have fully acclimatised to captivity. There will be a limited release into upper reaches of Bendigo Creek soon, with plans for Gunbower and the lower Loddon under the NCCMA Native fish recovery plan. Our project has also received interest from the GBCMA & NSW Fisheries

With the great success of this project, we are developing plans for other small bodied endangered natives including Flat-headed galaxias & Southern purple-spotted gudgeon.

New sticker grant

We have a new batch of endangered fish stickers after a successful small RFL grant. The stickers are very popular everywhere we go and are leading to better community awareness of endangered native fish, particularly Macquarie perch and Trout cod.

Sevens Creek

We were recently invited to an onsite meeting with stakeholders to discuss and plan future management of the waterway. In attendance were NFA (Vic), Friends of Seven Creeks, ARI & the VFA. We toured a number of sites along the Creek including Polly McQuinn's Weir & Gooram Falls. After much discussion, a 7 point plan of future actions was drafted, with Redfin reduction, habitat improvement and a genetic investigation of the resident Trout cod & Macquarie perch included in the plan.

There will be a riparian planting event along the creek in mid 2019 coordinated by the GBCMA & NFA (Vic).

Carp virus

I recently attended an industry forum in Wagga Wagga run by the FRDC & the Uni of Canberra where the ramification of the release of the carp virus was discussed with stakeholders. Raised during the discussions were the many concerns about the virus, especially the loss of the "Clean Green" image of Australian aquaculture. There were discussions around the lack of plans for the clean up, and the inability of industry to provide native fish (especially small bodied natives) for restocking after the virus. The latest scientific publications stating the virus would not be effective long term were also discussed. I have attached two 2018 scientific papers debating the long term effects of the virus on carp populations in Australia. It's a pity the FRDC has not released more information around their plans to release the virus

Snobs Creek logging

NFA (Vic) in partnership with the Australian Trout Foundation recently drafted and released a media release highlighting our concerns over proposed large scale clear fell logging in the Snobs Creek catchment. The media release was sent to over 400 media representatives across Victoria with some take up. I have attached a copy of the media release.

Ovens River Challenge

NFA (Vic) & the ATF are in the early stages of planning a catch, measure & release event for the Ovens River. The aim is to get Cod and Trout anglers together with the main prize for the angler with a combined bag of longest Murray cod and longest Trout. The tentative date is the weekend of 6/7 April 2019 with the event staged out of Myrtleford.

Cod Opening weekend Gapsted

NFA (Vic) members enjoyed a fantastic weekend on the Ovens River. More than 18 members & 2 kids attended with most catching a Murray cod or two. It was great to see good numbers of Trout cod also caught over the weekend with those in kayaks doing very well. Well done to new member Ian on catching his first Murray cod

Codference 2018

The Codference was on again in early December. There were some great presentations with a highlight for me being the presentation by Will Trueman - 'Back to the Future' for native fish. It's a great shame that after more than 20 years, the VFA still don't have a plan for the future of Trout cod & Macquarie perch in Victoria. All presentations can be found using the link below

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKo29JSp_KfSMUGwyt49JR1C1AfbHwU5L&fbclid=IwAR0Zk7fFmr_FosZ-DWctICpLTB6qmWVwOGFZDE6rdvAm6h4ld7deKwYIdEo&app=desktop

Native Fish Challenge 2019

The 2019 Native Fish Challenge is fast approaching. **Dates below.** All documents for the challenge are attached. Final details will be discussed at the February meeting

Membership renewals for 2018/19

There are still quite a few members who have not renewed (paid) their membership for this year. Membership/renewal forms can be found at

<https://www.nativefish.asn.au/home/page/Membership>

Our Great Sponsors

We would like to thank our sponsors who have assisted NFA (Vic) over many years with prizes for the Native Fish Challenge as well as various raffle prizes.





Predator Lures Australia

Upcoming Events

Blue Rock Bass Bash Blue Rock Dam 2nd February 2019

Native Fish Challenge Yarrawonga 16/17 February 2019

Murray Fishing weekend (with ANGFA Vic) Yarrawonga 9-11 March 2019

Any question please contact me on the details below

Kind regards

Tim

Tim Curmi
President
Native Fish Australia (Vic)

nfavic@yahoo.com.au

0417419765