

LICENCE INFORMATION

Who Needs a Licence?

A Recreational Fishing Licence (RFL) covers all forms of recreational fishing in all of Victoria's marine, estuarine and fresh waters.

Unless you are exempt, an RFL is required when taking, or attempting to take from public waters, any species of fish by any method, including line fishing, bait collection, gathering shellfish, yabby fishing, prawning and spearfishing.

Exemptions

You will not need an RFL to fish if you are:

- under 18 years of age;
- 70 years of age or over;
- the holder of a Victorian Seniors Card or interstate equivalent;
- the holder of a Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Card;
- the holder of a Veterans' Affairs Repatriation Health Card, coded (TPI);
- the holder of a Commonwealth Pensioner Concession Card relating to age, disability or carer status.

Carrying Your Recreational Fishing Licence

You are advised to carry your RFL with you at all times while fishing (unless you are exempt from the requirement to hold an RFL). Fishers exempt from holding an RFL are advised to carry evidence of their exemption.

If you take or attempt to take fish from inland or marine waters, or use or possess a recreational hoop net in, on or next to Victorian waters, and you claim to hold an RFL, you must produce your licence for inspection on the demand of an authorised officer or member of the police force, either immediately, or, if you do not have a licence in your possession, within seven (7) days at a time and place stipulated by the authorised officer or member of the police force. Penalties apply for fishing without a licence.

Your Catch is Yours Only

Take, possession and size limits apply to individual RFL holders (and persons exempted from holding an RFL) who take fish from inland or marine waters.

Licence Fees, Availability and Renewal

A Recreational Fishing Licence (RFL) can be purchased for periods of 48 hours (\$6), 28 days (\$12), one year (\$24.50) and three years (\$66). The RFL is GST exempt. The RFL is available from many DPI/DSE offices, and more than 950 retail businesses throughout Victoria, including most retail fishing tackle stores. The licence may also be purchased via the DPI website: www.dpi.vic.gov.au/fishing. You will need your credit card details when purchasing an RFL via the internet. Your licence may not be loaned or transferred to another person. An RFL may be purchased to come into effect on a future date, for up to one year from the actual date of its purchase.

It is your responsibility to hold a current RFL when fishing in Victoria.

Interstate Visitors

Recreational Fishing Licences issued by other states or territories are not valid in Victoria.

A Victorian RFL is not valid in other states or territories, so check if you need a licence when you intend to fish interstate.

Private or Public Waters

If the waters to be fished are 'private' waters (i.e. a dam or other structure built by the landholder on private land) then no fishing licence is required. If the waters to be fished are 'public' waters (i.e. a stream, creek or river) even if it crosses private property, then a licence is required. Permission from the landholder is needed to cross private land.

State Boundaries

Murray River, New South Wales

A NSW recreational fishing licence is required for fishing in the Murray River. The southern bank of the Murray River, including the original location of that bank beneath impounded waters, is the state boundary between Victoria and New South Wales. South of that border, all Victorian fishing regulations apply, except at Lake Mulwala.

Lake Hume and Lake Mulwala

The Victorian and NSW governments have agreed on management arrangements for the border waters of Lake Hume and Lake Mulwala:

- Lake Hume comes under Victorian jurisdiction and regulations. Unless exempt, only a Victorian fishing licence is required for fishing in Lake Hume. Victorian fishing regulations apply to all parts of Lake Hume, upstream to the Seven Mile Creek junction.
- Lake Mulwala comes under NSW jurisdiction and regulations. Unless exempt, only a NSW fishing licence is required for fishing in Lake Mulwala. NSW fishing regulations apply to all parts of Lake Mulwala, upstream from the Yarrowonga Weir wall to the point where the Ovens River enters the Murray, marked by the Bundalong boat ramp.

NOTE: Holders of Seniors' Cards, Health Care Cards and Repatriation Health Cards are not exempt from purchasing a NSW recreational fishing licence. Please contact NSW Fisheries on 1300 550 474 or visit www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/licence/exempt to determine if you are exempt from purchasing a licence before fishing in the Murray River or Lake Mulwala.

Glenelg River, South Australia

Victorian fisheries regulations apply to the short section of the Glenelg River in South Australia. A Victorian RFL is not required in this section of river.

Commonwealth and interstate waters

Fish caught in Commonwealth or other state waters and landed in Victoria must conform to Victorian catch and size limits if there are no recreational limits in the region in which they were caught. For example, if a recreational fisher catches a gummy shark in waters greater than 3nm (nautical miles) off the Victorian coast (that is in Commonwealth waters) and lands it in Victoria, then Victorian catch and size limits apply, since there are no Commonwealth recreational catch or size limits for this species.

Sale of Fish

As a recreational fisher, you must not take fish, including bait, for sale, barter or exchange, or sell fish or expose fish for sale. To report illegal sales of fish, call 13 FISH (13 3474).



YOUR FISHING LICENCE FEES AT WORK



Every year, the Recreational Fishing Licence (RFL) Trust Account allocates the fees you pay for your fishing licence to projects that will directly

improve recreational fishing in Victoria.

What is funded?

Applications are sought each year for projects in the following categories:

- Recreational fishing access and facilities (but not recreational boating-related, see below);
- Recreational fisheries' sustainability and habitat improvement (also including fish stocking);
- Recreational fisheries-related research; and
- Recreational fisheries-related education, information and training.

What is not funded?

Funding is not available for improvements to recreational boating infrastructure including, but not confined to, boat ramps/pontoons and/or related jetties, ramp access dredging, boat wash-down facilities, boat berthing, and boat trailer access and/or car parking that may be funded from recreational vessel registration fees under the control of Marine Safety Victoria (MSV), or an alternative source.

For MSV's Boating Safety and Facilities Program inquiries, contact the grants administration team on 1800 337 222. Information about the Program is available at www.marinesafety.vic.gov.au by going to the grant programs page.

You can apply

Grants are awarded to incorporated, statutory and government bodies, but if you're an individual with a great idea, get your angling club, association, local council, VRFish and/or other interested parties to support and help you prepare an application.

For information about the 2009/10 Recreational Fishing Grant Program (RFGP), contact the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Customer Service Centre on 136 186, or visit www.dpi.vic.gov.au/fishing/fishinggrants. Grant applications close at the end of February each year.

Funding in 2007/08

In 2007/08, over \$1,214,682 was allocated to 21 Recreational Fishing Grant Program projects to improve Victoria's recreational fishing.

Type of water	Number of projects	RFL revenue funding
Inland (I)	5	\$190,143
Estuarine (E)	6	\$350,804
Marine (M)	6	\$277,935
Statewide/all-waters (S)	4	\$395,800
Total	21	\$1,214,682

Other Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account expenditure

During 2007/08, RFL revenue also funded:

- Victorian Fishcare Program;
- Field services operations;
- The administration of the RFL and the RFGP;
- VRFish;
- RFL sales commissions;
- RFL and RFGP-related community information;
- Bay & Inlet commercial fishing licence buy-back loan repayment; and
- Matching funding of projects under Round 5 of the Commonwealth Government's Recreational Fishing Community Grants Program.



Recreational Fishing Grant Program Projects 2007/08 (funding year)

A report is tabled in Parliament each October concerning all RFL Trust Account revenue and expenditure. It is available on the DPI website in the Your Fishing Licence Fees at Work section at www.dpi.vic.gov.au/fishing/feesatwork.

The following is a summary of RFGP projects funded from 2007/08 RFL revenue.

Unless otherwise stated, these projects are listed under the DPI Region from which the project application emanated.

Gippsland Region (\$261,349)

1. \$37,349 to improve fish habitat by installing in-stream structures at Second Island in the Snowy River (E)
2. \$44,000 to run angler diary programs in Anderson Inlet, Mallacoota, Lake Tyers, the Glenelg and Hopkins rivers, and North East Victoria (E)
3. \$150,000 to construct three fishing platforms, and pathways in between platforms, on the Tarwin River (E)
4. \$30,000 to implement research priorities identified in the Lake Tyers Fisheries Management Plan (E)



Project underway: acoustic tracking of dusky flathead in the Gippsland Lakes to identify movement, habitat preferences and spawning locations (two-year project funded for \$86,020).



Project complete: construct three fishing platforms on Clifton Creek, near Bairnsdale (one-year project funded for \$20,000).



Project complete: replace the boardwalk and construct four fishing platforms on the south bank of the Tarwin River (two-year project funded for \$115,000).



Project underway: determine stock status, estimate angler take and evaluate fish habitat for key recreational species in Anderson Inlet as per the Fisheries Management Plan (one-year project for \$75,500).

South West Region (\$310,921)

1. \$80,000 to construct two fishing platforms on Jubilee Lake, Daylesford (I)
2. \$30,000 to replace the Lyndoch fishing jetty on the Hopkins River, Warrnambool (E)
3. \$59,455 to install a floating fishing platform near the end of Mahoneys Road on the Hopkins River, Warrnambool (E)
4. \$6,843 to construct an L-shaped fishing platform at Skipton Lake (I)
5. \$7,939 to install a solar light over the fish cleaning table at the Apollo Bay boat ramp (M)
6. \$21,575 to construct stone stairs at Grey River on the Great Ocean Road to improve access to rock platform. Includes 'angel' safety ring (M)
7. \$27,795 to construct stone stairs at Picnic Point, Wye River, to improve angler access. Includes 'angel' safety ring (M)
8. \$26,800 to construct two fishing platforms on the Barwon River at Fyansford (I)
9. \$50,514 to construct stone stairs at Sturt Point, Wye River, to improve angler access. Includes 'angel' safety ring (M)



Project complete: \$10,500 towards steps at Artillery Rocks to help anglers access the rock platform.

Project complete: design and construct a fishing platform at Tea Tree Lake, Mortlake (one-year project for \$27,457).



Port Phillip Region (\$182,112)

1. \$165,000 to build a dedicated fishing platform on the end of Corinella Jetty which will replace a de-commissioned boat landing jetty (M)
2. \$12,000 to run an introductory family fishing event at Casey Fields Lake, Cranbourne (I)
3. \$5,112 to take disadvantaged primary school children fishing (M)



Project complete: contribution to the construction of a fish cleaning shelter and lighting at Limeburners Point Boat Harbour, Geelong (one-year project funded for \$5,000).

Project underway: Fishcare delivering one of 300 'Fish Right' workshops at Emerald Lake to students from Selby Primary School (three-year project for \$99,000).

Northern Region (\$64,500)

1. \$55,500 (and a commitment to disburse \$9,000 in 2008/09) to determine summertime trout habitats in Lake Hume and Lake Dartmouth (I)



Project underway: study to determine angler-use patterns for Murray cod including angler demographics, recreational catch and take, and angler satisfaction (three-year project funded for \$115,500).



Project complete: undertake a study to establish base-line data of fish in the Goulburn River below Nagambie Lakes (three-year project for \$232,846).

Statewide (\$395,800)

1. \$4,600 (and a commitment to disburse \$4,600 in 2008/09 and \$4,600 in 2009/10) to promote the recreational fishing code of conduct (S)
2. \$60,000 (and a commitment to disburse \$40,000 in 2008/09) to undertake an economic study of recreational fishing in Victoria (S)
3. \$4,000 (and a commitment to disburse \$4,000 in 2008/09 and \$4,000 in 2009/10) to Flathead Fred for Kids' Fun Fishing Shows (S)
4. \$90,000 (and a commitment to disburse \$90,000 in 2008/09 and \$90,000 in 2009/10) to

evaluate research angler diaries as a cost effective monitoring and stock assessment tool for small recreational fisheries in estuaries (S)



Project complete: \$75,000 towards three fishing platforms at Mallacoota.

Commonwealth Recreational Fishing Community Grants Program

In round 5 (final round of Program), RFL revenue contributed \$451,828 (GST-inclusive) to co-fund 11 projects in Victoria. Combined co-funding of \$854,742 (GST-inclusive).

Round 5 projects	RFL revenue	Commonwealth
Angler access and fish habitat improvements to Goulburn and Eildon fishing precinct	\$140,000	\$34,500
Suite of Fishcare educational material	\$12,500	\$43,500
Build rock stairs at Jump Rock (Lorne) to facilitate angler access	\$11,500	\$16,110
Build rock stairs of Artillery Rocks (Lorne) to facilitate angler access	\$10,500	\$15,176
Installation of 16 in-stream structures in lower Mitchell and Nicholson rivers and community awareness program	\$114,400	\$100,000
Construct floating pontoon at Eildon Pondage	\$28,830	\$28,830
Upgrade Glenelg River fishing platform and build all-abilities access paths	\$9,598	\$9,598
Install webcams at nine coastal locations	\$89,750	\$95,300
Trial two fish aggregation devices in marine waters	\$5,750	\$9,000
Construct fishing platform at Grammar School Lagoon	\$22,000	\$44,000
Install two solar powered lights along the Franklin River	\$7,000	\$7,000
TOTAL	\$451,828	\$402,914