

Victorian Freshwater Fish Habitat and Flows Partnership

Recreational fishers, government
and the broader community
working together to improve
fish habitat and enhance
water for the environment
for healthier freshwater
recreational fisheries

Victorian recreational fishers are passionate about recreational fishing and the habitat that supports their fisheries.

Our waterways are home to a range of fish species, including popular recreational fish like Murray cod and trout. Recreational fisheries are highly dependent on waterway health and water flows. However, most of Victoria's waterways have been modified through de-snagging, riverbank clearing, channelisation, construction of dams and weirs, altered water flows, etc., and there are emerging impacts from climate change and population growth. The condition of our waterways affects fish survival, growth, breeding and movement, and there is a flow-on effect on our fishing opportunities.

We all want healthy, productive and sustainable fisheries. A new project, called the *Victorian Freshwater Fish Habitat and Flows Partnership*, aims to strengthen connections between recreational fishers, Victorian government and the broader community, and coordinate the delivery of inland waterway rehabilitation projects across Victoria to benefit key fish populations. It's funded collectively by the Victorian Fisheries Authority, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, and the Victorian Environmental Water Holder. By combining resources, we can enhance recreational fisheries and make fishing better.

Victorian Government policy about freshwater fish and their habitat

Freshwater Fisheries Management Plan

The statewide strategic plan for managing freshwater recreational fisheries in Victoria. Includes priorities to rehabilitate river habitat and improve connectivity to support healthier fish populations, and to ensure recreational fishing values are considered in water management policy.

Protecting Victoria's Environment—Biodiversity 2037

Victoria's plan to conserve native biodiversity and improve our natural environment. Recognises that recreational fishing is one way in which Victorians connect with nature, and that stopping the decline of threatened species, and extending and improving the condition of native habitats will help ensure Victoria's natural environment is healthy.

Improving Our Waterways—Victorian Waterway Management Strategy

Statewide framework for government, in partnership with the community, to maintain and improve the condition of rivers, estuaries and wetlands. Recognises that good waterway condition supports environmental, social, cultural and economic values, including healthy fish populations, fisheries and recreational fishing.

Water for Victoria—Water Plan

Sets the long-term direction for managing Victoria's precious water resources. Recognises the value of fish, fish habitat and recreational fishing. Commits \$222 million to catchment and waterway health, including support for the Angler Riparian Partnerships Program.



What we're doing

- **Establishing a Freshwater Fish Habitat and Flows Round Table**

Bringing together recreational fishers, and fish, waterway, water and biodiversity managers to strengthen partnerships, share information and realise fish habitat and flow initiatives of common interest.

- **Supporting the Angler Riparian Partnerships Program**

Did you know there is funding available to recreational fishers for improving land along waterways? Typical on-ground works include revegetation, weed management and stock management fencing. Contact your local catchment management authority for details about the Angler Riparian Partnerships Program. For more information visit: www.water.vic.gov.au/waterways-and-catchments/riparian-land/managing-riparian-land



- **Progressing a statewide plan to use felled timber from roadworks for stream restoration**

Woody habitat is important for fish! We're working with other agencies to re-use timber removed during roadworks for instream woody habitat rehabilitation to benefit fish populations and fishing.



- **Delivering collaborative projects**

We're assisting with fish habitat and flows projects that align with the Freshwater Fisheries Management Plan and other government plans, and helping recreational fishing organisations implement on-ground projects.

Connect ... Act ... Share

The Victorian Government and partners, including VRFish, Australian Trout Foundation and Native Fish Australia, encourage you to get involved in fish habitat rehabilitation and environmental flow activities in your local area.

Connect with like-minded people. Talk to the Victorian Fisheries Authority, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, the Victorian Environmental Water Holder, your local catchment management authority, VRFish, the Australian Trout Foundation, Native Fish Australia and local clubs about improving fish habitat and flows.

Act: Work together to plan and carry out on-ground actions for fish.

Share your story to inspire other people and build our collective experience.

#habitatforfish #makingfishingbetter

As we continue to develop the *Victorian Freshwater Fish Habitat and Flows Partnership* project, we will share information through networks and social media channels.

For more information, email research.ari@delwp.vic.gov.au.



Connect with us



Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning



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