



Lynton.G.Barr
P.O.Box 23
Swan Reach 3903
Victoria
Phone 03 5156 4674
Email- delbarr1@bigpond.com

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An Anglers Newsletter

I cannot imagine anybody writing a whole book about maggots, whereas many a man has spent much of his life thinking and writing about fisherman's flies.

Arthur Ransome
The Fisherman's Library 19

Editorial

It was pleasing to see the release this month of the study by Paul Rowe on the movement of bass in the Snowy River. A summary of this interesting report is included in this publication. It is still hard to understand why other reports have not been released and this includes the 2007/8 statistics on commercial catches in this state. This document has previously been published in November of the year the statistics are gathered. These statistics are important to recreational anglers in the Gippsland Lakes as this document provides one indicator of the status of fish species in the lakes. In three weeks time on the 30th of June the figures for 2008/09 are due to be gathered; however the figures for 2007/08 have still not been released. It is to be hoped that this indicator will be available at the Black Bream Stock Assessment in late June. It is hard to understand why the figures for the Gippsland Lakes could not be released if problems are occurring with other statistics, and certainly Fisheries Victoria has been made aware of anglers concerns. Anglers also find it difficult to comprehend why the Movement of Black Bream Study in the Gippsland Lakes completed in September 2007, and the Study on Estuary Perch movements 2003/6 in the Snowy River have not been released. Both studies undertaken using transmitters and funded by recreational anglers through the General Angling Licence. The reason has been given that the reports are undergoing strict quality controls by the Department of Primary Industry, but surely this does not take years. The 2005/6 studies to detect changes in Lake Tyers following the commercial fishing closure is also a report that has not been released. Again this would be of great interest to recreational anglers if and when it is released

An Early Introduction of Marine Fish to Victorian Waters

In last months publication I described a forum taking place with Fisheries Victoria to examine the possibilities for marine restocking of species such as bream, mulloway, estuary perch and dusky flathead. I was reading recently of one of the earliest anglers and sportsmen who tried his hand at stocking inland waters with marine species. His name was Sir Samuel Wilson and he was a member of parliament and whose home, Ercildoun, out of Ballarat, became the centre of attempts at fish breeding and the introduction of salmon amongst many other acclimatisation activities.

In 1878 he attempted to introduce marine fish into Lake Corangamite, a salt lake of some 50,000 acres in the Western District and he covered all expenses of this project. He had the waters of Lake Corangamite analysed and was encouraged that the salt level was similar to seawater. In that year he had six lots of fish taken from Port Phillip Bay and transported to Corangamite and released. They included Whiting (9), Flounder (47), Mullet (108), Bream

(12), Crayfish (8), Salmon trout (27), Flathead (25) and Oyster (384). Unfortunately the attempt to introduce marine species to Western District waters failed.

Wilson was much more successful with the breeding of trout and small ponds were built at Ercildoun for trout hatching after he imported the ova from Tasmania. He also imported ova of Chinook salmon and Atlantic salmon and some of these fish were released in Victorian streams. Sir Samuel Wilson was remarkable man who was known to the public of Victoria as Sir "Salmon" Wilson for his attempts to acclimatise different species of fish in the harsher Australian environment.

This information taken from the book "Salmon at the Antipodes" by John Clements.

Those Regulations Again

There has been angler concern at the sections concerning bait in the new regulations gazetted in March and now being enforced. This includes the regulation that an angler may have **no more than 30 crabs or one litre of whole or parts of crabs. (This has now been recognised as unenforceable and the 1 litre of crab replaces the 30-crab limit.)** At a meeting of anglers with Fisheries officers it was shown there were over 150 spider crabs in a litre) The new regulation also specifies that **in all Victorian waters the maximum number of shrimp that one may possess is 100.**

In both the above cases this applies to bait you have collected yourself, however if you can prove that you have bought the bait from a bait supplier you can have any amount of spider crab or shrimp in your possession. This may mean the bait supplier may have to provide documentation that you have bought the bait. I asked a Fisheries Officer how he would determine whether an angler has one hundred shrimp and he confessed the only way would be to count the shrimp by hand. This in itself would be a time consuming and interesting exercise.



As a personal observation I think we should be encouraging the use of spider crab as it certainly means small fish are not being hooked with the accompanying risk of death on being released. For this reason I applaud the interpretation that an angler can be in possession of 1 litre of crab. Given that different species of crabs are different sizes this section of the new regulations could still be confusing.

It is still legal to pump shell, but rakes or shovels must not be used.

The Problem of Bait.

Bait licence holder Frank Milito contacted me following the publication in the last issue regarding the assessment of sea grass by Ports and Harbours in the localised area of their study. You will remember there had been a substantial sea grass decline in this area. Frank indicated that in areas of the Barrier and the channel between Rigby and Fraser Island, there is very little sea grass and almost no shrimps at all and these were areas that formally provided large amounts of shrimp to the Gippsland Lakes bait industry. He raised the issue of the changing nature of the Gippsland Lakes and whether this might have an effect on shrimp numbers. Undoubtedly the sea grass decline has affected shrimps but could the problem be the environmental changes taking place in the Gippsland Lakes? Frank provided the thought that, perhaps in the future, bass yabbies might be a bait source in the Gippsland Lakes. He also made the comment that while numbers of spider crab are still available in areas of the lake, they are normally a subsidiary catch when bait fishermen are netting shrimp. With no shrimp, it is uneconomic to seek spider crab alone. This raises the issue of the whole value of bait licences.

Netters Fined.

In the Bairnsdale Advertiser, 13th May, it is reported that three men who set a net across the mouth of the Mitchell River were apprehended after a fisheries patrol boat fouled the net. They were convicted in the Bairnsdale Court and fined \$3000. This event led me to recall advice given many years ago to the Johnsonville Angling Club, by highly respected fisheries inspector, John Moore, who has since joined the NSW fisheries department. John suggested that anglers should report any people seen using small rubber rafts on the local rivers in the early morning or late evening, as often these types of boats were used by poachers setting nets in the rivers. I know at that time local anglers fishing the Tambo River became very conscious of the need to stop netting, and several convictions were achieved based on recreational angler reports.

Congratulations to Fisheries Victoria.

Black Bream Stock Assessment

I was surprised to see in the VRFish "Upcoming Events" that on the 27th of June a Black Bream Stock Assessment would take place in Bairnsdale. This is very pleasing news as no stock assessment has taken place since May 2005. At that assessment the commercial fishermen had a meeting with Fisheries Victoria from which recreational anglers were excluded on the Saturday morning. The assessment started on the Saturday afternoon and thirty-four people attended this workshop, and two commercial fishermen were present but made no contribution, whilst on the Sunday no commercial fishermen attended and the boycott was complete. This was a most unsatisfactory assessment and discussion was strictly controlled by Fisheries Victoria, and no matters that impinged upon commercial fishing could be discussed, thus nets at river mouths or death rates in commercial nets and many other matters of concern to recreational anglers were excluded from any comment by recreational anglers. It would be hoped Fisheries Victoria has considered these matters, and a program developed that provides realistic stock assessment and perhaps even allows for a guided discussion of matters of concern in 2009.

At the 2005 Stock Assessment I was surprised to learn the following, and this section is taken from the report on the assessment which I wrote and which I made available to anglers.

"A factor that I found significant was the increased growth rate of black bream recognised by fisheries scientists. In the eighties it took 8-9 years for a black bream to reach 20cm in length whilst in the nineties fish reached the same length in 4-6 years. Amazingly the 2000 year class reached 20cm in 2-3 years. This in turn would suggest that black bream are currently growing three times faster than they were in the 1980's. This will have some implications for management, in that the fish will reach minimum legal length much faster and be available to anglers and commercial fishermen at 28cm length in 4-5 years. It will also mean these fish have fewer years vulnerable to predators. The reason for this change is unknown although smaller numbers of fish and thus greater food availability might have some influence on this change."

I found this change fascinating and was surprised that apart from my report no publicity was given to this change, which would have interested anglers.

Congratulations to Fisheries Victoria for reintroducing black bream stock assessments, and perhaps a similar assessment should be considered for dusky flathead.

The Final Days of Lake Mokoan

This publication has provided a couple of updates on the translocation of fish from Lake Mokoan near Benalla, as the lake was being decommissioned.

Recently I received information and a written report on the last days of Lake Mokoan and it makes disturbing reading. When it was realized in December that the lake was rapidly drying, a local angler asked the DPI could he translocate some of the large cod to the Broken River at Casey's Weir, which was 10 minutes from Lake Mokoan. This chap had caught several large cod of over a metre and would work to catch more and translocate them. The Department of Primary Industry told him that he would require a permit to relocate fish, and so he applied in writing but never received an answer.

After hot weather on the weekend of the 30th of January, hundreds of dead cod could be seen and 49 were counted from the boat ramp. The Tatong Angling Club and also the Goulbourn Valley Association of Angling Clubs (14 Clubs) offered assistance with members and gear but were told by the DPI that their Management Plan would deal with the issue and secondly Health and Safety regulations would not permit angling club members being involved. After contacting the DPI it was three days before an electro fishing boat was supplied but without a net operator. A member of the DPI acted as a net operator and they managed to catch 4 large cod, three of which were over a metre in length, however they were only able to operate for 2.5 hours. The fish were taken to Lake Hume to be released. (2 hours travelling) The next day, in 5 hours, eleven Murray cod were caught electro fishing. These fish were taken and released in the Goulbourn River. (90 minutes travelling)

At this time the lake was down to 200mm and fish were flopping around. The angler who provided this report translocated 22 cod between 700-800mm to Casey's Weir, which was against the law but in his words "morally right." The Tatong Angling Club came into action, again without authority, and they caught and relocated 19 large cod to the Broken River. On the 1/4/2009 the angler who provided this report worked with the Goulbourn Murray site co-ordinator to catch and translocate 11 cod and 5 Golden Perch. At this stage the angler believed the DPI had given up on saving cod from Lake Mokoan, and his effort was the last successful translocation. He alone had translocated almost 40 large cod and numbers of Golden Perch to the broken River, working from his punt and moving the fish in a large esky on the back of his utility. One can only wonder what could have been achieved if angling clubs of the area had been invited to join the DPI and be part of a "Save the Cod Project."

In the words of the angler who provided this report, ‘hundreds of large Murray cod and Golden Perch died that could have been saved if the responsible authorities had been prepared to work with the anglers of the area.’

The DPI on the 7/1/09 had a press release, which stated “The operation to relocate native fish from the lake during the past 12 months has been successful.” And “107 Murray cod and 4200 Golden perch have been relocated from Lake Mokoan.”

The Tatong Angling Club in a letter to the Minister stated “the effort to relocate the fish at the time while commendable need to be put into perspective as only 107 cod were relocated yet hundreds (if not thousands) perished in the receding waters”.



Given the Murray Cod is a threatened species of national significance and planning for the decommissioning had a three year lead time, the final result with the large numbers of cod dying is difficult to understand.

It does need to be stated there was a period at this time when DSE/DPI staff were totally occupied with major fires.

This article is a summary of a ten-page report.

Editors Comment

I make no comment other than to report the actions of an angler to save cod and to wonder what could have been. Murray cod of around 22kgs weight produce up to 90,000 eggs annually and fish of this size are the most important breeders within the system. My correspondent had the otolith of one of the fish that died aged and it was found that this 1 metre fish was 20 years old.

I noted that in the April Monthly Report of VRFish there was a heading “Buy chocolates and Save the Murray Cod this Easter”. A percentage of the sales were to go to Waterfind Environment Fund to improve the health of Australia’s rivers. Perhaps there was another way to save Murray Cod and we missed the opportunity.

Fishing Licences in Victoria

As readers would remember we have, with the help of reader John Delzoppo and members of Fisheries Victoria, Robert Krix and Natalie Pearson, discovered that from the 14th January 1933 all trout anglers were required to have a licence for a fee of 5 shillings. In 1951 the trout licence was replaced by an inland angling licence and of course the recent addition was the introduction of the General Angling Licence.

Perhaps what is not known is that the 1933 introduction of an angling licence brought great debate to the issue. It was described by the opposition of the day that “the introduction would tax schoolboys,” or “it is close to introducing transportation for poaching” and it could be regarded as “Class Legislation.” Despite the opposition the trout licence was introduced and 10,000 licences were sold in the first year.

The following is a poem published in the papers of 1932

“Must you tax us gentle sir” Cried the sad eyed men who angle “Then perforce we will concur, Far be from us to wrangle.”	“We will bear it, if not grin. In a fashion brave and manly; Only do not rub it in, When you fix the fee Sir Stanley.”
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(Sir Stanley Argyle was the premier of Victoria in 1932 and was himself an angler.)

Actually my reading suggests the first angling licence on mainland Australia was set by the Ballarat Water Supply Committee on Kirks Reservoir with an open season from December 1st to the 31st of August. The cost to be one pound and the species sought in this water was English Perch. (redfin) On opening day in 1870 “some 20 odd gentlemen availed themselves of the privilege, and with very good results catching some several hundred fish.” Probably only 20 could afford this very steep cost. Kirks Reservoir had been stocked with redfin that multiplied at an extraordinary rate. One angler suggested the growth in the numbers of redfin was similar to the growth of rabbits that had been imported into the colony in 1859.

Source- Salmon and the Antipodes by John Clements. 1988

New Readers

It is pleasing to welcome the Brighton Angling Club, which is providing a copy of this publication by email to all its members (100), and the Longwarry Angling Club, which is now receiving and distributing this publication also. As well a number of anglers (15) have been added to our mailing list at the request of readers. Whilst it is difficult to determine accurately, we would think that over 500 readers now read this publication.

An Important Email

The following email was received from the Acting Executive Director of Fisheries Victoria on the 15th May

G'day Lynton

Thanks for sending me a copy of the newsletter. Good to see some positive reports on several items. There's also a few that we clearly need to follow up to complete.

I'll look forward to the next edition,

How pleasing it is that the Acting Executive Director Anthony Hurst has this interest in the thoughts of recreational anglers on a diversity of issues. I am sure all anglers wish our new Acting Executive Director well in his challenging position.

Jetties and the Handicapped

Readers will record that this publication took up the issue of handicapped access to fishing platforms on local rivers, first raised by the late Don Jolley AIM who was a reader of this publication and an avid wheelchair angler. I have received a letter from Anna Cook, Manager Community of East Gippsland Shire, indicating that an outcome of meetings following our submission is that the Disability Advisory Committee recommends that Rural Access investigate all fishing platforms under Council jurisdiction for both handicapped and family access. We are certainly delighted that the matter first raised by the late Don Jolley publicized in Issue 12 May 2008 is proceeding, however somewhat slowly.

Note

I had a call from a 78-year-old angler who would like to fish from the fishing platforms constructed on the Mitchell River backwater. There is a good road to the ramp used for servicing the area but no parking. This means handicapped anglers would need to walk to the ramp, and this is a considerable distance. This of course means the fishing platform is not readily available to handicapped and aged anglers. These platforms were constructed with a \$20,000 grant from angling licence fees.

An Unusual Catch in the Tambo River

I received the following email from the proprietor of the Swan Reach Bait Supply Maria Milito

“I have some interesting news of an unusual catch in the upper part of the Tambo River that may interest you. I am still slightly shocked, but a stingray was caught up near the cliffs (exact area to be confirmed) by a Bruthen angler and I will receive photos of this catch very soon to pass onto you. I will report more information as soon I get it.”

Editors Comment

Perhaps this is continuing evidence of the changing of the Gippsland Lakes towards a marine environment. I have not yet received the photo evidence of this catch but I believe it has been verified.

Australian Bass movement and Migration in the Snowy River A report by Paul Brown released May 2009

This was an investigation into adult Australian bass migration patterns from December 2003-Dec 2005, with the last 12 months supported by Recreational Licence Fishing Fees. The following is a summary of the report that I have prepared for anglers reading “Around the Jetties”

Thirteen Australian bass were captured most by using lures and some by electro fishing and surgically implanted with acoustic tags that could be followed over 80kms of river on receivers placed along the river and estuary of the Snowy River. (A receiver was also placed at the Brodribb ramp and at Cabbage Tree Creek.) One station was 84kms from the ocean so a considerable area of river was covered in this project. Several of the fish captured for the project were hybrid bass x estuary perch. Seven fish were DNA tested and found to be pure bass. (Readers will remember the report on the difficulty of getting pure bass for the local breeding project previously reported.)

While bass may occupy temporary home ranges for weeks, or in some cases months, bass move frequently and rapidly around the catchment. I think most anglers would be surprised at the finding that some bass were “nomadic making frequent transitions from estuarine to riverine habitats over at least 50kms of river” Bass make movements in the 10’s of kilometres both upstream and downstream and sometimes these movements coincide with increased river flows.

The report suggests that visits of bass to the estuary from late winter to mid summer may be part of the spawning process. The spawning season of Australian bass may extend from the end of July to at least October. Bass were found to move extensively in all seasons, however the appearance of bass in the estuarine or river reaches was associated with increasing water temperatures and during the winter and spring bass were closer to the ocean than in other seasons.

I was interested that this report defined the spawning area of Australian bass broadly as from Lochend to Marlo and from the mouth of the Brodribb River to Cabbage Tree Creek.

The study also suggested that an increased cycle of activity at night, which was probably due to increased foraging at night. During the four-year project, none of the implanted bass, were known to have been caught by anglers.

There is a considerable sand slug on the Snowy River 16kms in length upstream of Orbost and this feature did not seem to be a barrier for the bass according to the report. Some fish spent some time in the area of the sand slug and the report suggested that the area of the sand slug might contain some useful habitat.

A finding in the report was that visits to the estuary were followed by a return upstream to fresh water, and when moving upstream bass were recorded at speeds up to 9.8kms per hour with an average speed of 3.4kms per hour however downstream movements were much slower. In spring increases in river flow and temperatures seemed related to upstream movement of bass, whilst winter movement to the estuary was indicated and this may be associated with spawning.



Photos. Two bass being released with transmitters attached. Scientist Paul Brown releases one fish and the other a bass christened “Gentle Annie” that was caught by Craig Ingram MP being weighed prior to release.

We have a far greater knowledge of the elusive bass as a result of this report and I thank Paul Brown for making this available, and I feel sure anglers will appreciate the findings.

This is my summary of a 28-page report.

A Note to Anglers.

Paul Brown would be interested in hearing from any angler who catches a bass with transmitter attached. There is a phone number on the tag attached to the fish. The batteries in the transmitter are now flat but it would still be interesting to obtain further information.

Some Observations on Soft Plastics and Other Thoughts

By Concerned Angler

Many experienced and new hands using soft plastics would have already noticed that probably most fish, probably some 90% of fish are hooked around the lips and jaw. Some fish are hooked in the roof of the mouth which is not surprising given the upward facing nature of the jig. A few are also hooked outside the mouth and sometimes in the bony eye socket. Rarely, probably not even 1% of fish are hooked in the back of the mouth and throat. Larger hook and plastic sizes definitely minimise, almost eliminating, deep hooking the fish.

The hardest jig hooks to recover are when the hook is implanted in the jawbone of the fish and the jig in the back of the bottom jaw or in the throat. When recovery of the jig head in the jaw hooked fish is aborted the jig head is sacrificed by cutting the shank of the hook and the jig head falls away and the fish can be released with little or no damage. Where the odd throat hooked fish does not simply come away after opening the mouth wide, the line is cut and jig sacrificed, but the fish has every chance of survival. Any attempt to retrieve the jig in this situation is likely to damage vital organs or cause a haemorrhage that spells disaster for the fish even though the fish may strongly swim away. The survival of any fish returned to the water is more important than saving a \$1 jig head.

It is about how we anglers value and respect the fish we pursue. We can make a big personal contribution by using techniques that are in the fishes best interests- larger hooks, knotless nets, avoiding small fish populations- but the biggest contribution is how we handle fish we intend returning to the water. The greatest damage done to fish comes from how we handle fish. Always support the fish (don't hang it on the line) use wet hands or wet rag to grab the fish, be prepared to sacrifice a hook or jig unless it is very simple to recover, and get the fish back in the water quickly.

It all comes back to anglers developing a care for each fish, and high competence in handling the fish they catch, the value they place on the fish surviving after their release, and the preparedness of anglers to sacrifice terminal tackle for the overall benefit of the fishery.

Wrasse

In last months publication reference was made to a bag limit for commercial fishermen of five wrasse per day in the Gippsland lakes. The Concerned Angler wrote-"I have had encounters with Wrasse in the Gippsland Lakes, but only in the area of rock walls of the entrance adjacent to Bullock Island. the rock wall downstream from Kalimna jetty and also out on the weed beds adjacent to the Kalimna Jetty when searching for whiting. I did not identify what Wrasse they were but they were always small in size and never exceeded 15cms in overall length. They have generally been caught on bait such as mussels but in one recent instance caught a few on small soft plastic lures close to the rocks, which I expect is their preferred habitat.

Editor This is the only indication of recreational anglers catching Wrasse in the Gippsland lakes. According to the new regulations the size limit for Wrasse is 23cms

Wooden Structures/Snags for the Mitchell and Tambo Rivers.

The East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority has announced 10 structures would be installed, 3 on the lower Mitchell River downstream of the Lind Bridge, and 7 on the lower Tambo downstream of the Johnsonville Boat Ramp. Nicole Harris Catchment Planner said that these structures would provide new habitat for recreational fish species. Recent studies by the DSE has shown black bream use these structures and often spend more time around these structures compared with other areas of the river. Luderick, flathead, and interestingly mullet, have been observed around similar structures. This project is being funded by recreational anglers through their purchase of recreational angling licences and in reality is a partnership between anglers and the Catchment Authority. (In the last edition we provided information on a similar project at the Second Island in the Snowy River.)

[Please remember you can recommend a friend to receive "Around the Jetties" in 2009 and we welcome new readers whether individuals or angling clubs.](#)

We can provide a large print version of "Around the Jetties" to any reader having problems with the size of the print.

Good health and good fishing

Lynton Barr

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author unless otherwise acknowledged. MATERIAL FROM THIS NEWSLETTER MAY BE REPRODUCED BUT IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF THE AUTHOR AND PUBLICATION WERE NOTED

Attachment -

Recreational Fishing Forum



Subject - Marine Stocking Trial for Victorian Waters

The following is the summary of a final report on the forum by the facilitator and Director of the Future Fish Foundation, David Kramer.

Two forums were held in May 2009 the first at Apollo Bay to look at the west of the state and the second at Traralgon to look at possibilities for the east of the state to provide an opportunity for recreational fishers, Fisheries Managers and Fisheries Scientists to explore the potential for a marine stocking program.

Informative presentations by two NSW scientists indicated how that state had undertaken marine stocking, which is still in a trial period, however the work that had been undertaken in NSW would greatly assist any Victorian trials.

There was a distinct difference between the east coast and west coast forums where the west was facing low rainfall and closed estuaries, whilst the east of the state, with much larger estuaries are experiencing very good fishing. It was also noted there had been a good recruitment of dusky flathead and black bream in the east. It was suggested this sound situation might be harmed by further stock enhancement.

The presentation on prawn and mulloway stocking in NSW certainly had a level of excitement. The east coast forum believed a well researched stocking of mulloway would enhance some east coast fisheries. There was also discussion on the benefit of stocking eastern king prawns into estuaries where there is a high level of tourism during peak holiday periods. The majority of participants at the forum supported the use of recreational fishing licence revenue to fund a marine trial and also supported co-funding from Fisheries Victoria and tourism agencies.

The following recommendations were made-

1. Investigate the fast tracking of stocking King Prawns into the Anglesea River and Lake Tyers, and the stocking should coincide with peak tourism periods.
2. Conduct a study into the marine stocking program in Victorian waters, including funding for such a project and legislative requirements.
3. Establish a working relationship with NSW Fisheries and the University of NSW to ensure both states work together on the question of marine stocking.
4. To establish resources to commence work on a marine stocking program for coastal waters as determined by studies into this project.

General Information

In NSW the fishing licence revenue has contributed more than \$700,000 towards a number of projects related to marine stocking including mulloway fingerlings in NSW estuaries, and studies on the effectiveness of stocking eastern king prawns in limited coastal lakes. In the Manning River and Tweed River over 20,000 mulloway fingerlings have been released, whilst Botany Bay and the Richmond River have been stocked with 14-15,000 mulloway fingerlings. This stocking is currently being thoroughly investigated and assessed.

In the eastern waters the species generally recommended for stocking were bream, estuary perch and mulloway, and Lake Tyers in the eastern group rated highly and was the first choice as a top water for stocking of marine species with recommendation being for prawns estuary perch and mulloway. Some comments suggested that marine stocking could create benefits for the whole community, and create a valuable new put and take fishery as well as creating research and better understanding of fish stocks. This program would also promote conservation credentials of recreational anglers and restore depleted fisheries. The awareness this program creates might also ensure more funding for fisheries research.

Editor

Thanks to Facilitator David Kramer for providing a copy of this report. Fisheries Victoria has maintained a restocking program that provides more than 1.4 million fish into Victorian freshwater streams each year. It is perhaps now necessary to look at restocking estuaries, which are under increasing fishing pressure and changing environments. This forum provides a first step.