

Committee Secretary
 Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
 PO Box 6100, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600, Australia.
 Email to: ec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary,

Please except the following as an addition to my submission to the Senate Inquiry.

PROTECTING A FOOD SOURCE FOR OUR NATIVE FAUNA

INCREASING THE DAILY RECREATIONAL TAKE OF SWIMMER SHRIMP FROM 100 PER PERSON PER DAY TO OVER 2000 PER PERSON PER DAY WILL POTENTIALLY REDUCE AN AVAILABLE FOOD SOURCE FOR WILDLIFE INTO THE FUTURE.

“Overfishing of native shrimp (*Paratya australiensis*) under Fisheries (Shrimp) Notice No. 11/2009 and renewal of Fisheries (Shrimp) Notice No. 11/2012?”.

The allowable daily take of swimmer shrimp was altered from 100 per person per day to 0.5 litres per person per day which is equivalent to over 2000 shrimp. This is a huge increase and cannot be justified in terms of sustainability in providing a food source for our native fauna into the future.

There was no scientific evidence provided with the notice to support such a huge increase in the daily take. Freshwater shrimp are a food source for many species of fauna. Reducing this food source from an area will impact on the survival of these species from within that area.

Not **one** stakeholder supported the 20+ times increase in the daily take of swimmer shrimp with one stakeholder thinking the increase was to 0.05 litres not 0.5 litres which is 10 times what he supported.

Stakeholders were not provided with scientific data to support the increase nor were they told that 0.5 litres was equivalent to over 2000 swimmer shrimp. Please note that the renewal of the Fisheries (Shrimp) Notice No. 11/2012 has been approved.

CRUSTACEANS

Shrimp (all species incl. Bass yabbies)
 Minimum legal size: no minimum.
 Bag/possession limit: 100.
 Note: does not apply to purchased bait.

Crabs (all species except giant crabs)
 Minimum legal size: no minimum.
 Bag/possession limit: total limit of 30 crabs or 1 litre.
 Collection methods for crabs: By hand or use of a spear, or no more than 2 recreational hoop nets or 2 bait traps (see page 63).
 All species of crab must not be taken from the intertidal zone of Port Phillip Bay or from Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries.

Prawns
 Scientific name: Penaeidae
 Minimum legal size: no minimum.
 Bag/possession limit: 30 litres of whole prawns or 5 litres of meats.

Rocklobster (all species)
 Scientific name: Panuliridae
 Minimum legal size: male 11cm carapace length. Female 10.5 cm carapace length.
 Bag limit: 2.
 Possession limit: 4.
 Closed seasons: male – 15 September to 15 November inclusive. Female – 1 June to 15 November inclusive.
 When taking rocklobster, you must not take or possess female rocklobster in berry (with eggs), or remove the eggs from any female rocklobster. You must not take soft-shelled rocklobster.
 Rocklobster must be landed whole or with the tail and carapace still attached to each other.

Bass yabby

Shrimp

Sand crab

Red shore crab

53
 LIMITS AND CLOSED SEASONS

SPECIES NOT LISTED HAVE A BAG/POSSESSION LIMIT OF 5



PRACTICAL TEST TO SHOW THE NUMBER OF A SAMPLE OF SWIMMER SHRIMP THAT WOULD OCCUPY A 0.5 LITRE VOLUME

Approximately 400+ glass shrimp (*Paratya australiensis*).

Counted by printing picture on A2 sheet and marking each shrimp counted excluding the very small ones.



Wet test. The measuring jug was filled to the 500 ml mark and the 400+ shrimp added. The increase was less than 100 ml.



Dry test. The 400+ shrimp were placed into the jug and after the shrimp stopped jumping around the volume was observed to be approximately 100 ml.

Recreational Fishers are permitted to take 500ml per person per day. That's over 2000 shrimp pppd.

This is excessive and cannot be justified in terms of sustainability for the future. There was no scientific evidence provided with the notice to support such a huge daily take. Freshwater shrimp are a food source for many species of fauna. Reducing this food source from an area will impact on the survival of these species.

Yours Sincerely
Stephen Chara

13/12/2012



Minister for Agriculture and Food Security



1 Spring Street
GPO Box 4440
Melbourne
Victoria 3001
DX 210404
Telephone: (03) 9938 5954
Facsimile: (03) 9658 4191

Our Ref: MW004091

Mr Andrew Katos MP
Member for South Barwon District
152 High Street
BELMONT VIC 3216

- 7 DEC 2012

Dear Mr Katos,

IMPLEMENTING VOLUMETRIC CATCH AND BAG LIMITS FOR SWIMMING SHRIMP

Thank you for your email correspondence of 20 November 2012 making representation on behalf of your constituent Mr Stephen Chara.

The Fisheries Notice in question is part of a formal process required to renew the decision made in 2010 when more detailed consultation and consideration was given to this matter. There were no bag/possession limits for shrimp in the previous 1998 regulations.

The review and issue of the Fisheries Notice is a delegated authority to the Executive Director, Fisheries Victoria and the decision to implement (renew) the new notice was taken on 31 October 2012. I do not propose to call in the decision.

Mr Chara is welcome to discuss this matter with Bill Lussier, Manager Marine and Estuarine Fisheries,

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Peter Walsh MLA
Minister for Agriculture and Food Security

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Anthony Hurst
Executive Director Fisheries Victoria
Department of Primary Industries
1 Spring Street, (GPO Box 4440)
Melbourne Victoria, 3001

Renewal of Fisheries (Shrimp) Notice Fisheries (Shrimp) Notice No. 11/2012

Dear Mr Hurst,

I am disappointed that you have approved the Shrimp Notice without revealing scientific data to support sustainability of such a huge amount. 0.5 litres of swimmer shrimp is over 2000. Previously this limit was not supported with some assuming the volume to be 0.05 litres or 50cc which would be equivalent to 200 swimmer shrimp and be more appropriate.

If the majority of the public submissions do not support the 0.5 litre catch limit per person per day I will ask the Minister to consider not approving this daily catch limit. If the Minister does approve the 2000 per person per day (pppd) catch limit I will reserve the right to make this a conservation issue at the next state and federal election.

A volume based catch limit that is not supported by scientific data to show sustainability has the potential to remove a food source for our native fauna. 0.05 litres (50cc) not 0.5 litres (500cc) would be a more appropriate volume for a catch limit. This would be about 200 swimmer shrimp per person per day. 2000 plus per person per day is excessive.

Please refer to the following correspondence that does not support the 2000+ pppd limit. I am still waiting for the public submissions to appear on the DPI web site for this current notice.

Were stakeholder groups notified that 0.5 litres is over 2000 swimmer shrimp?

11 Information provision

The draft Fisheries Notice and covering letters to each stakeholder group will provide sufficient information to facilitate informed stakeholder feedback.

Yours Sincerely
Stephen Chara

Dear Stephen,

The VNPA are still extremely concerned with the issue of overfishing of native shrimp.

We opposed the increase in the daily catch limit of shrimp from 100 per person per day to 0.5 litres per person per day – which is equivalent to over 2000 shrimp.

Freshwater shrimp are a crucial food source for many species of native fauna and any reduction in shrimp population and distribution levels will have a detrimental impact on their survival.

Could you please pass on VNPA's concerns during your meeting with the Hon. Peter Walsh's Chief of Staff.

Kind regards,

Simon Branigan
Marine & Coastal Project Officer
Victorian National Parks Association

Luke O'Sullivan
Chief of Staff,
Office of the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security
1 Spring Street (GPO Box 4440) Melbourne Vic. 3001

Dear Luke

The next issue.

"Overfishing of native shrimp (*Paratya australiensis*) under Fisheries (Shrimp) Notice No. 11/2009".

Fisheries (Shrimp) Notice No. 11/2009. The allowable daily take of swimmer shrimp was altered from 100 per person per day to 0.5 litres per person per day. 0.5 litres is equivalent to over 2000 shrimp. This is a huge increase and cannot be justified in terms of sustainability for the future. There was no scientific evidence provided with the notice to support such a huge increase in the daily take.

Freshwater shrimp are a food source for many species of fauna. Reducing this food source from an area will impact on the survival of these species.

Please read the following three letters and then consider the information that I have provided.

Your Sincerely
Stephen Chara
12/05/2011

Victorian National Parks Association Inc.

Level 3, 60 Leicester St Carlton 3053,

Telephone: (03) 9347 5188 Facsimile: (03) 9347 5199

Email: vnpa@vnpa.org.au Web site: www.vnpa.org.au

A/ Executive Director Fisheries Victoria
1 Spring St. GPO Box 4440
Melbourne VIC 3001

22nd September 2009

Dear Mr. Hurst,

Re: Recreational Catch Limit for Swimming Shrimp

The Victorian National Parks Association (VNP A) does not support an increase in the recreational daily catch limit for recreational swimming shrimp in Victoria. We do not object to the proposal to implement a recreational daily catch limit based on a volume measurement so long as this catch limit is set at a volume that ensures that the recreational daily catch limit does not increase beyond current limits. Accordingly, if the catch limit is revised the **VNPA would like to see the volumetric catch limit set at a level which ensures no more than approximately 100 swimming shrimp can be taken each day.**

Yours Sincerely,

Paige Shaw
Marine and Coastal Project Officer

Fishcare
Mornington Peninsula
and Westernport Inc
PO Box 7190
Karingal Centre 3199
28 September 2009

Monique Leane
Marine Fisheries Project Officer,
DPI
GPO Box 4440
Melbourne 3001.

RE: RECREATIONAL CATCH LIMIT FOR SWIMMING SHRIMP

Re the above, I would like to offer the following comments.

Whilst I appreciate the difficulties in counting 100 shrimp, I have some concerns with their sustainability should the review decide to implement the proposed new daily catch and possession limit to 0.5 litres, **which is acknowledged as being more than 100 (size dependant). It is unusual to see a catch limit (possibly) being increased in today's world and awareness of our environment and its sustainability.** The average recreational angler does not pursue shrimp as bait, so their sustainability is probably assured and I have no doubt **Fisheries Victoria would have research data to support the proposed change from 100 to 0.5 litre.** It would simplify the regulation in that a volume measure is used for Crustaceans (crabs) and Other Invertebrates (sandworm and other marine worms) and using the same unit of measure should avoid confusion within the recreational fishing sector.

One thing I would like to see clarified is the difference between a shrimp and a prawn. I know that shrimp are found in freshwater, but a shrimp in saltwater that is not a prawn has confused me. Is it a shrimp or a prawn that is being taken for bait in our marine waters?

The next edition of the recreational fishing guide would need to be amended as it groups all shrimp(burrowing and swimming) together with a bag/possession limit of 100. Separate entries would be required for swimming shrimp and burrowing shrimp as one would have a volume limit and the other a numeric.

The above is for your consideration in deciding any proposed change to the bag/possession limit for swimming shrimp.

Yours sincerely

Jeff Green

Please note the comment in the following document:

“we the association applaud this move to a **0.05** litre daily limit”.

Fisheries Victoria increased the limit to 0.5 litres which is 10 times greater than what was supported.

John Bourke / President
Gippsland Angling Clubs Association

22/9/09

Anthony Hurst
A/ Executive Director Fisheries Victoria

Re- Fisheries (Shrimp) Notice No XX/2009

Dear Anthony

The matter concerning the amount of swimming shrimp that may be taken (catch limit) for a days fishing has been a sticking point with all recreational fishers, this has been a talking point within the association and among the affiliated clubs of the association.

On a previous meeting with you I and others attending voiced their concerns at the amount of shrimp that could be collected for a days fishing and we believe that the amendments that you have proposed is the correct one, we the association applaud this move to a 0.05 ltr daily limit and in relation to the Burrowing Yabby we again support the amount of 100 per day.

Yours Faithfully
John Bourke / President G.A.C.A.

Information from Stephen Chara



Approximately 400+ glass shrimp.

Counted by printing picture on A3 sheet and marking each shrimp counted excluding the very small ones.



Wet test. The measuring jug was filled to the 500 ml mark and the 400+ shrimp added. The increase was less than 100 ml.



Dry test. The 400+ shrimp were placed into the jug and after the shrimp stopped jumping around the volume was observed to be approximately 100 ml.