

My name is Tony Kemna, I have operated a fishing charter out from Lakes Entrance for the past ten years. I also have a Victorian ocean access license and commonwealth permits.

I would like to make some key points on my submission.

The charter boat industry in Victoria is unregulated in Victoria with no caps on boats for charter fishing or commercial use unlike other states that have charter licenses for vessels on a per person basis, with no fishing license required, because the boat license covers their customers unlike in Victoria where each customer must possess a Victorian fishing license when fishing in Victorian waters.

This is a big problem when some customers only go fishing once a year or are from interstate or overseas decide at 7pm when shops are shut to go fishing with me the next day as it is an offense to take them without a license.

I have raised this issue with fisheries a number of times with no change to regulation.

It would make sense to me to introduce a charter fishing license per boat in Victoria to one stem the flow of boats entering ports that could have a great impact on business and stocks and then you could ask skippers to keep records of catches same as we do as ocean access holders.

This would increase the value of the business for operators and also protect operators from too many boats in one area.

The lesson should have been learnt from over issue of Victorian ocean access license they are now non transferable to reduce numbers, but any one can buy a charter boat stick 20 people on it and take your recreation bag limit everyday with nobody knowing.

You can not ask skippers to keep track of fish they catch for fisheries and get nothing in return their should be a better way.

2. Education for recreation anglers on releasing fish in deep water.

We fish in water from 16m to 50m for snapper in our summer season most people catch their bag limit of snapper and go try for a Flathead or gummy shark but most are uneducated on releasing snapper in deep water as the mortality rate is very high and some days is not uncommon to see 20 to 30 4kg to 10kg snapper floating on the surface after release these fish are spawning and up to 30yrs old it breaks my heart to see our resource being killed just for the fight something must be done to start educating people or our stocks will be in trouble in the future.

I am a firm believer that bag limits are a great idea and as a recreation license holder you are entitled to take your limit but when I inform a boat up tide from me that all the fish he is releasing are floating up 100m behind his boat most anglers are shocked to know because they think releasing the fish is doing the right thing.

3. Ocean Access license limit 2 gummy per day possession limit.

A 2 gummy limit per day for ocean access license holders is outdated and was put in place to rebuild stocks which by the way are in great numbers along our coast, some days we set out to target

snapper which is our main species and have no luck but four or five gummy come up on our long line so we return live to the water everything above 2 gummy shark and head home with 2 fish that would't even cover the cost of fuel.

Only to return to the boat ramp and see a recreation boat with six people on board pull out 12 gummy`s which is legal as the limit is 2 per person.

Stocks are in great condition along our coast Ocean Access licenses are depleting in numbers surly 100kg per license holder would make more sense turning a bad day into a wage for the skipper and deckhand.

Thanks Tony Kemna