



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Water Resources

## Sustainable Fisheries

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# Victorian developmental jellyfish fishery

## Declaration of an approved Wildlife Trade Operation

*Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, GN 17, 30 April 2003*

### Commonwealth of Australia

*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

### Declaration of an Approved Wildlife Trade Operation

I, Ian Cresswell, Assistant Secretary, Marine Branch, as Delegate of the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, have considered in accordance with section 303FN of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the Act) the application from the Victorian Department of Natural Resources and Environment, public comments on the proposal as required under S303FR, and advice on the ecological sustainability of the operation. I am satisfied on those matters specified in Section 303FN of the Act. I hereby declare the operations for the harvesting of *Catostylus mosaicus* from Victorian waters by licensed operators under the Victorian *Fisheries Act 1995*, a commercial fishery in accordance with S303FN (10)(2), to be an approved Wildlife Trade Operation for the purposes of the Act.

Unless amended or revoked, this declaration:

- a. has effect in relation to the regulated native specimens listed in the Schedule and subject to the conditions applied under S303FT specified in the Schedule, and
- b. is valid from **1 April 2003** until **31 March 2006**.

Dated this 19th day of March 2003

[Signed]

**Ian Cresswell**

Delegate of the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

Subject to the *Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act 1975*, a person or persons whose interests are affected by this declaration may, within 28 days, make an application in writing to Department of the Environment and Heritage for the reasons for the decision. An application for independent review of the decision may be made to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, on payment of the relevant fee, by or on behalf of the person or persons whose interests are affected, either within 28 days of receipt of the reasons for the decision, or within 28 days of this declaration if reasons for the decision are not sought. Further information may be obtained from:

Director, Sustainable Fisheries Section  
Marine and Water Division  
Department of the Environment and Heritage  
GPO Box 787  
Canberra ACT 2601  
Telephone: (02) 6274 1917

## Schedule

### Declaration of the Harvest Operations for *Catostylus mosaicus* in Victorian waters as an approved Wildlife Trade Operation Additional provision (S303FT)

Regulated native specimens to which the declaration applies

Taxon	Common name	Product type
<i>Catostylus mosaicus</i>	jellyfish	Processed dried parts and products.

Relating to the harvesting of *Catostylus mosaicus*, harvested from Victorian waters by licensed operators under the *Fisheries Act 1995*.

### Declaration Conditions

1. Operation of the fishery will be carried out in accordance with the *Developmental Fisheries Management Plan: Jellyfish (Catostylus mosaicus) 2003 - 2005* (the Plan) and the requirements of any permits issued under the Victorian Fisheries Act 1995.
2. A review of the ecological sustainability of the Victorian Developmental Jellyfish Fishery by the Victorian Department of Natural Resources and Environment shall be provided to the Department of the Environment and Heritage annually. In addition to the requirements stated in the Plan, this review will include:
  - o Analysis of any reported interactions, or observances of, protected species in the fishery; and
  - o Information collected by the monitoring and reporting of any bycatch activity by permit holders in the fishery.
3. The Victorian Department of Natural Resources and Environment shall develop and implement clear performance indicators, associated reference points and management responses within the Victorian Developmental Jellyfish Fishery within two years.
4. The Victorian Department of Natural Resources and Environment shall incorporate in the management plan an aim to minimise the impact on the structure, productivity, function and biological diversity of the ecosystem, within the life of the current management plan.
5. The Victorian Department of Natural Resources and Environment shall advise EA of any changes to the developmental fishery management plan.
6. The Victorian Department of Natural Resources and Environment shall develop a mechanism to enable the amendment of management arrangements to respond to new information, or future Government plans and policies within the life of the current management plan.
7. Stock biomass estimates of *Catostylus mosaicus* stocks in Western Port Bay, Corner Inlet and Gippsland Lakes shall be completed by the end of 2004 and fed into the adaptive management plan.
8. Further research into the biology of *Catostylus mosaicus* shall be conducted by the Victorian Department of Natural Resources and Environment and associated organisations by 2005. In particular, focus shall be given to causes of annual variation, ecosystem role of *C. mosaicus* and reproductive biology of *C. mosaicus*. The Department of the Environment and Heritage shall be regularly updated on the progress of the research projects.
9. The Victorian Department of Natural Resources and Environment to develop the adaptive management plan and forward it to the Minister for approval by the end of 2003. The plan should then be implemented for the 2004 season.
10. Mortality of the VJF *C. mosaicus* stocks due to bycatch in other fisheries shall be estimated and incorporated in the setting of catch limits under the adaptive management plan.
11. The priority research projects identified in the *Developmental Fisheries Management Plan*:

*Jellyfish (Catostylus mosaicus) 2003 - 2005* shall be completed and forwarded to the Department of the Environment and Heritage in the next three years. These include: the monitoring of bycatch and reporting of other species in areas of conglomeration; investigating the diet of jellyfish and drawing inferences as to the effects of jellyfish removal on populations of prey species; and reproduction and polyp stage dynamics. The Department of the Environment and Heritage shall be regularly updated on the progress of the research projects.

12. The Victorian Department of Natural Resources and Environment shall carry out an investigation of the ecological impact of the Victorian Developmental Jellyfish Fishery in 2004. A report on the investigation shall be forwarded to the Department of the Environment and Heritage by March 2005.
13. This declaration expires on 31 March 2006.

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