



# The Fishing Party (Victorian Branch)

Newsletter No. 2

September 2004



(Aerial photo of 220ft dredge showing plume resulting from 2003 South Channel maintenance dredging)

The much awaited Channel Deepening Project Environmental Effects Statement (EES) was released a few weeks late on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2004.

With only 6 weeks for submissions regarding the Channel Deepening a group of TFPVic members, (Colin Barton, John Felton, Stephen Harris, David Felton, John Joubert, and Angelo Koucoulis amongst others) took upon themselves the arduous task of reviewing the EES which had 50+ Chapters and if printed weighed in excess of 30kg!

Some of the findings of the EES that are of **particular interest to ALL Port Phillip Bay users** were:

*"...algal blooms may cause tainting of shellfish and thereby affect the saleability of product from the pinnacle channel aquaculture zone. In the north of the bay, some of these algal species may have health implications for people using the water (swimmers & divers) or taking biota from the water (recreational & commercial fishes)." (Ch 9.3.6)*

*"Bioaccumulation in aquaculture and fisheries species may result in reduced marketability or, in some cases, prevention of sale of produce." (Ch 9.3.4)*

*"Increased levels of nutrients can lead to algal blooms – Algal toxins can accumulate... resulting in potential risks to human consumers - Algal blooms in the past have led to fish lesions and fish kills." (Ch 36.3.2)*

The EES has numerous examples that clearly show a **lack in confidence** and inability to predict the outcome of the 2yr, 7day a week, 24hr a day dredging operation:

## Port Phillip Bay under THREAT!

*"...the duration of most studies on the effects of suspended sediments does not extend beyond 20 days, and therefore the longer term effects of exposure to moderate levels of suspended sediments are unknown." (Ch 36.3.2)*

TFPVic is keeping in contact with groups like the Blue Wedge Coalition, Dive Victoria, and the Association of Bayside Municipalities who are also opposing the Project.

### What Does This Mean For Me?

It means that the recovery of the fishery and marine environment we have seen in Port Phillip Bay since the cessation of scallop dredging will be completely and utterly nullified if the Channel Deepening Project goes ahead.

Dredge plumes throughout the areas surrounding the main shipping channel and the Heads will not only destroy fish habitats but these very plumes will form a barrier halting the fish migration into the bay of species like squid, and salmon that are not tolerant to high levels of turbidity.

The same State Government that introduced Marine Parks in Nov 2002, which discriminate solely against anglers. Not even 2yrs later they are embarking on a project that **will desecrate these same Marine Park** areas that **YOU** were locked out of.

### TFPVic News

TFPVic Chairman and Treasurer have been visiting a number of angling clubs to introduce themselves and TFPVic. Some of these clubs included, Camperdown, Sands, Keysborough, Greenvale, Castaways, Brighton, Sandringham and BMYS to name a few. If you would like us to come and do a brief presentation at your Club then just **contact TFPVic via email or phone**.

TFPVic Chairman was interviewed by Luke Williams for the JJJ radio station. Luke is making a five-part series on small political parties for Triple J's Hack program (17:30~18:00 weekdays)

Andy Moore and Angus Kennedy represented TFPVic by attending a rally organised by the Bush Users Group at Apollo Bay (Sunday 15/08/04) which was voicing their opposition to "locking up" the entire Otways National Park. The attendees consisted of Four Wheel drivers, timber workers, horse and trail-bike riders, field and game people, and a strong presence of local industry.

We welcomed onboard our first two Regional Representatives, Stephen Harris (North West Region) and Karl Fedke (South West Region). Contact TFPVic if you would like to represent your area!

TFPVic Regional Rep. Stephen Harris will be preparing a report on the unsustainable freshwater fishing practice known as "set lining" with the view of TFPVic to actively seek its abolishment. Stay tuned for more information on this and other freshwater issues in our next Newsletter!

### How do I join TFPVic?

Either email the Secretary for a membership application form or call any of the TFPVic officers and have it mailed out to you. All that remains is the mailing of the completed form along with your cheque or money order to the TFPVic Branch address, and the Membership Officer will promptly issue you with our welcoming pack.

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