



## **PROPOSED CHANGES TO KINGFISH BAG LIMITS SURVEY RESULTS**

Over a two-week period from 1 September to 15 September 2025, recreational fishers were asked to have their say on a proposal by the Victorian Fisheries Authority to reduce the bag limit for Yellowtail Kingfish.

A total of **1023** respondents participated in the survey. The survey was distributed via three key methods: (1) email invitation sent to VRFish members, subscribers and recreational fishing licence holders; (2) survey link distributed via social media; (3) survey link on the VRFish website.

The feedback from the survey will be used to form a VRFish submission to the Victorian Fisheries Authority's proposal to reduce the bag limit for Yellowtail Kingfish from 5 to 2 per person, per day.

### **SURVEY QUESTIONS**

The survey consisted of five questions including:

1. Do you recreationally fish for kingfish in Victoria?
2. How many days a year do you fish for kingfish?
3. Do you support the proposal to reduce the Victorian recreational fishing bag limit for kingfish from 5 to 2 per person per day?
4. Do you have any other comments you'd like to make?
5. What is your postcode?

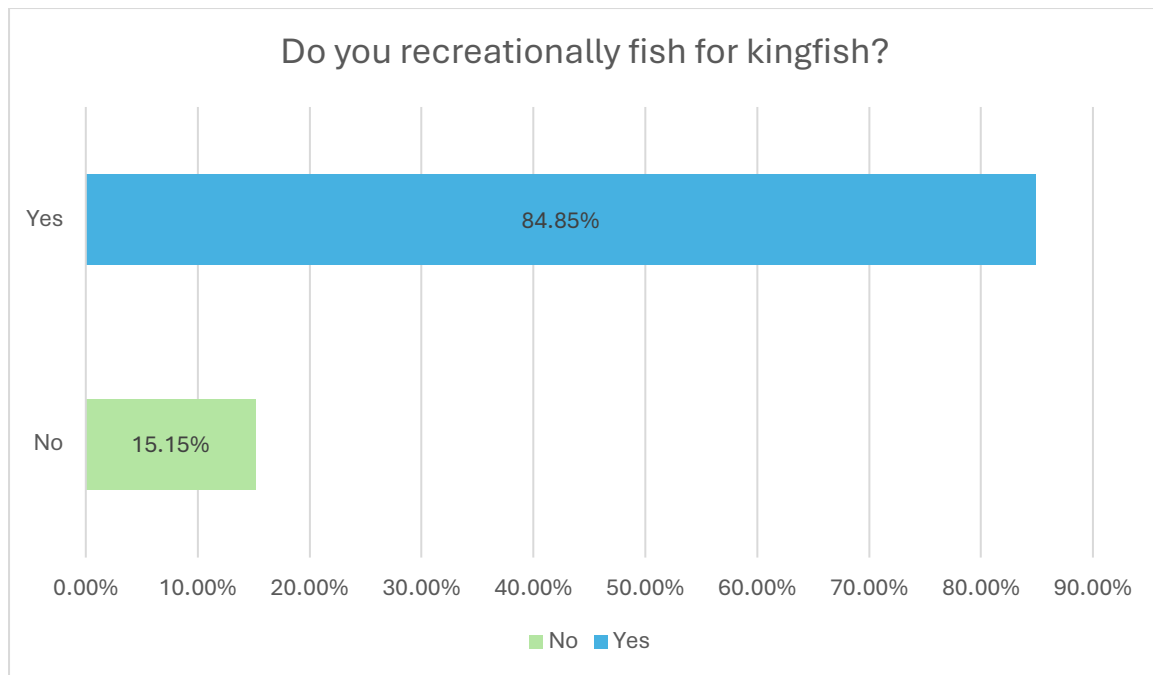
## **SURVEY RESULTS**

The results of the survey can be viewed below.

### **QUESTION 1**

**Do you recreationally fish for kingfish in Victoria? [Yes/No]**

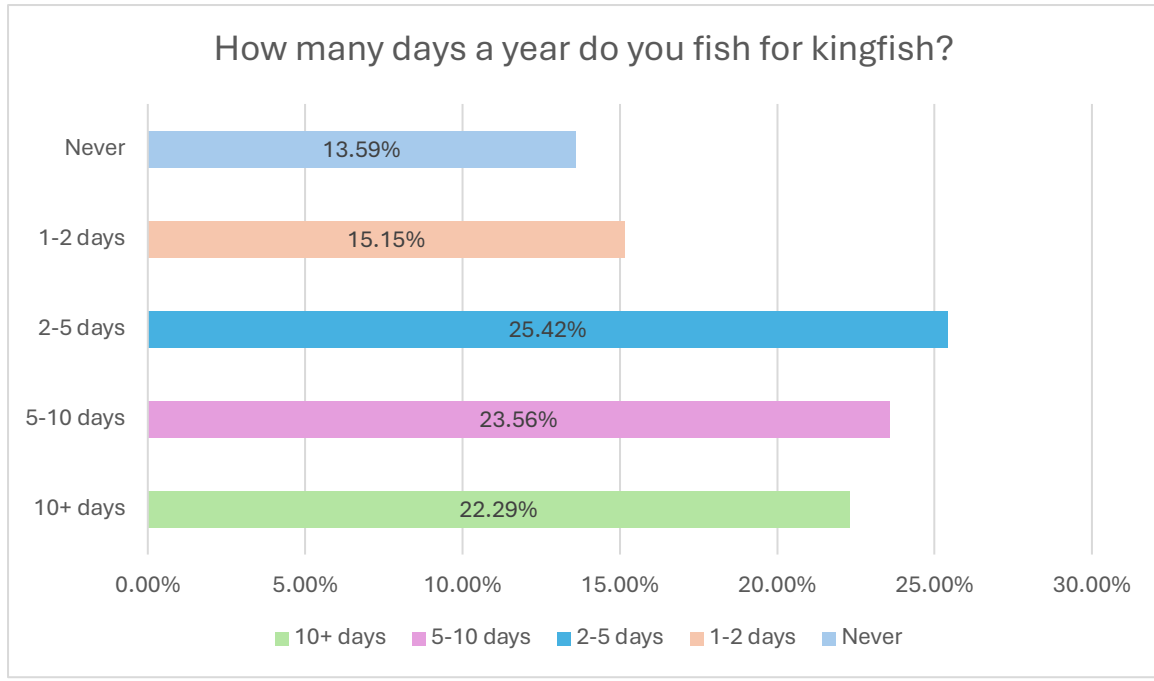
Answered 1023, Skipped 0



**QUESTION 2**

**How many days a year do you fish for kingfish? [Never, 1-2 days, 2-5 days, 5-10 days, 10+ days]**

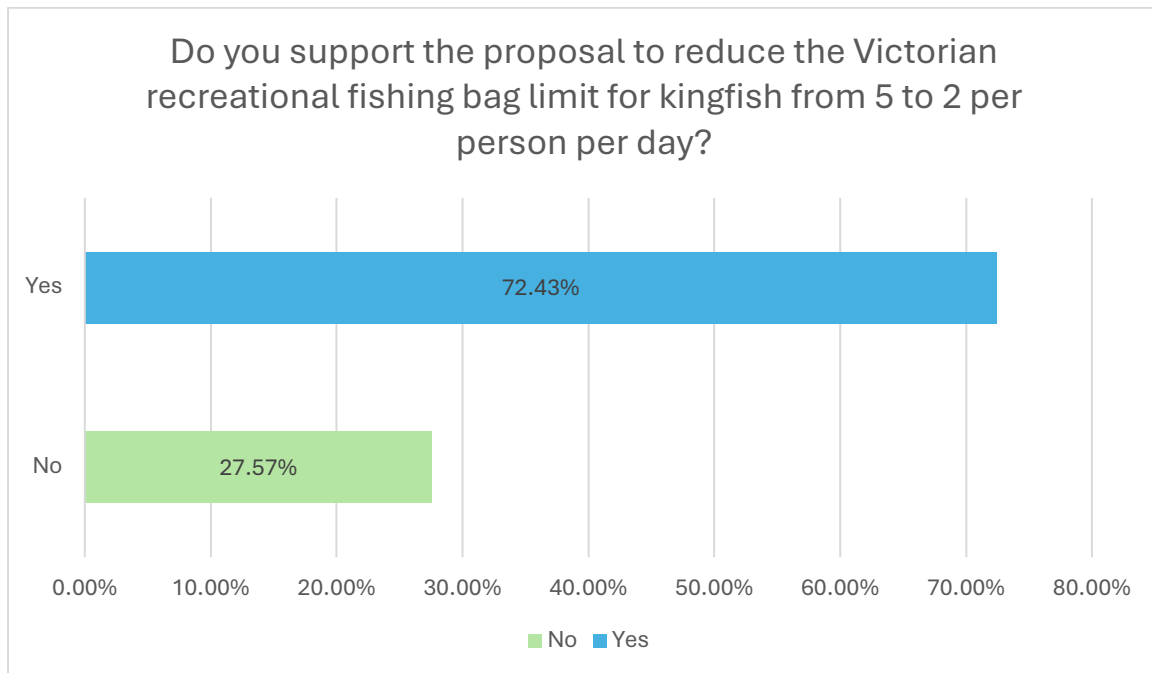
Answered 1023, Skipped 0



### **QUESTION 3**

**Do you support the proposal to reduce the Victorian recreational fishing bag limit for kingfish from 5 to 2 per person per day? [Yes/No]**

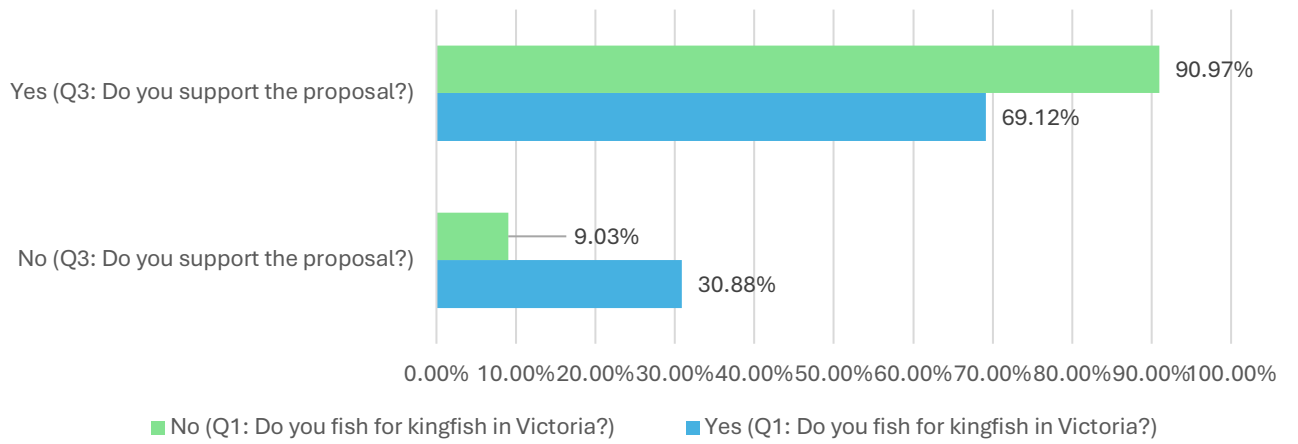
Answered 1023, Skipped 0



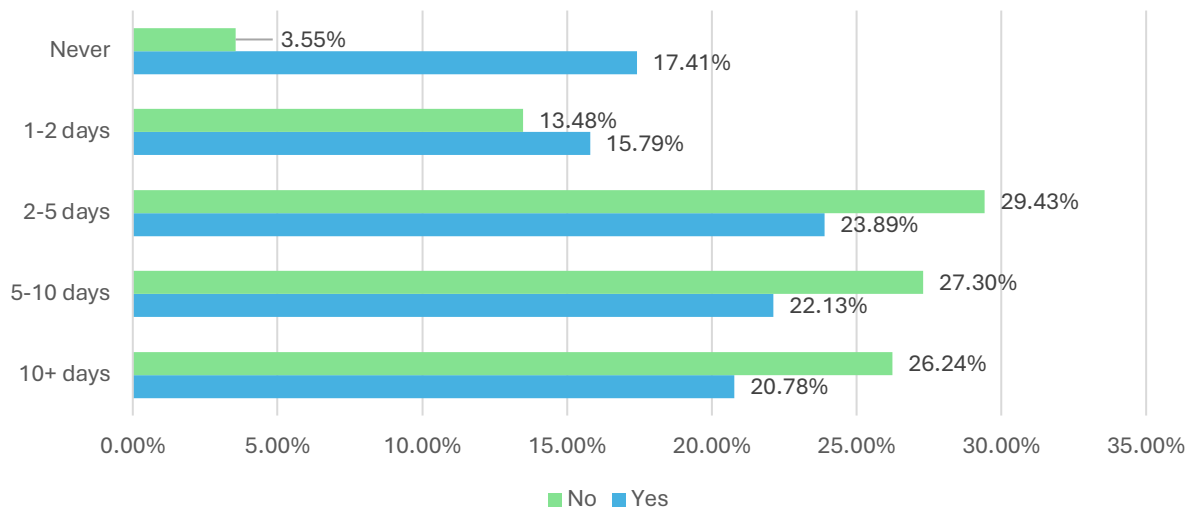
#### **Further Analysis of Question 3:**

- When filtering the responses to only include those who fish recreationally for kingfish [responded 'Yes' to Q1], we found that **69%** support the proposal to reduce the bag limit of kingfish.
- When filtering the responses to only include responses who answered **yes** to Q3, respondents who fish 2-5 days per year for kingfish were most supportive of the proposal [23.89%]. Followed by 5-10 days [22.13%], 10+ days [20.78%], Never [17.41%] and 1-2 days [15.79%].
- When filtering the responses to only include responses who answered **no** to Q3, respondents who fish 2-5 days per year for kingfish were least supportive of the proposal [29.43%]. Followed by 5-10 days [27.30%], 10+ days [26.24%], 1-2 days [13.48%] and Never [3.55%].

### Do you fish for kingfish in Victoria (Q1) and do you support the proposal (Q3)



### How often do you fish for kingfish (Q2) and do you support the proposal (Q3)



## **QUESTION 4**

### **Do you have any other comments you'd like to make?**

Answered 600, Skipped 423

Some key themes throughout the additional comments included:

#### **Support for the proposal**

- Comments showed **support** for the proposal.

Examples:

- *"...At present, the daily bag limit of five fish per person feels excessive. While it is true that on most days kingfish are difficult to catch, when the conditions and timing align, it is possible for skilled anglers to reach this limit. This creates an imbalance: some fishers rarely encounter them, while others can take significant numbers in a single outing.*

*Kingfish are a dynamic and important species for Victoria, with key hotspots including Welshpool, Melbourne, and Mallacoota. In recent years we have seen signs of a comeback, which is encouraging, but we must manage the fishery carefully to ensure sustainability into the future.*

*Based on my experience, most Victorian kingfish are caught just over 80cm, with a proportion reaching over a metre. This size distribution supports a more balanced approach. A structure similar to snapper limits — for example, two fish over one metre and three under 80cm — would give anglers fair opportunity while reducing overall harvest pressure and protecting the larger breeding stock. I believe this calculation both relieves anglers and safeguards the future of the species...."*

- *"Two is a fair number and will help to keep the fishery for years to come"*
- *"We will see the real value of this change in 2-3 years with more and larger fish"*
- *"I'd love to see our fishery for kingfish flourish like our neighbours in NZ so therefore I support the change as it's a progressive step forward to bettering our stocks and size"*
- *"2 is enough for a realistic limit. We need to create social worth for these great fish."*
- *"Sounds like a good idea to me"*
- *"2 per day is more reasonable even though they can be a very on or off fish."*
- *"It is a very sensible proposal and I support it strongly"*
- *"Great proposal."*
- *"2 fish per person is a more sustainable approach..."*
- *"Two fish per day is reasonable especially their size."*
- *"A good initiative. You don't need to keep 5 kingfish for a good feed."*
- *"Great to see the reduction proposal to protect a top sporting and table fish before the stocks are seriously depleted and then have to play catch up."*

### **Do not support the proposal**

- Some comments **raised concerns** about the proposal.

Examples:

- *“We only get these fish in the 90 mile beach area very randomly, and 5 fish makes the effort worthwhile. These are not 1m fish often 70cm so 2 isn’t worth the efforts.”*
- *“There is no reason to change the bag limit as our kingfish season is not year round and is dependent on currents. No one is going out there every day during summer taking 5 kingfish, we have 4% of the biomass in Victoria, we aren't the problem nor should we sacrifice our bag limit. I propose increase the size limit allow the fish to reproduce as they reach sexual maturity at 3 years old. This will allow majority of fish to reproduce before the size limit is hit and achievable.”*
- *“Kingfish are notoriously hard to catch. I have never caught 5 in one day and regularly catch donuts. Reducing it to 2 doesn't make it an economically viable species to chase. We only have a short Kingfish season so maybe the other states where the season is longer should look at their bag limits.”*
- *“Remember it’s a limit not a figure you have to take. When fishing is tough it’s a zero take for goodness knows how many trips (very expensive doughnut) but if it fires up it’s great to have the option to take your limit or what you deem is enough fish to satisfy towards your limit. Remember we are the people at the end of a very long chain paying our way all the way along, If your travelling hours to fish including accommodation, fuel not to mention boats tackle and licences it has to be attractive enough to outlay the cost . We do NOT catch fish every time we go!! Commercial fishos may be different but Recreational fishos are definitely not a 100% success rate or even close to it as a matter of fact.”*
- *“...In my view, bag limits should fundamentally be based on the sustainability of the species. If the kingfish population is declining, a reduction in bag limits makes sense. But if scientific data shows that the population is stable or growing, then maintaining or even increasing the limit should be considered....”*

### **Fishing Guides and Charter Boats Operators**

- Some comments raised concerns about **fishing guides and charter boat operators** and suggested boat limits for charter operators.

Examples:

- *“Charter boats should also have a limit per boat”*
- *“Recreationally fish should be 5 per boat, however charter boats should only be one kingfish per person”*
- *“I think this is a great proposal, hated seeing the grip and grin photos on charter boats with 20+ kingfish... on the deck”*
- *“I think that there should be limits imposed on charter boats first as they have far more impact than recfishers who only really get a chance to target these fish in a very narrow time of year/season whereas the charter boats who make a living off it hit the kingfish stocks a lot harder.”*

### **Other Management Suggestions**

- Some comments suggested a limit of **3 kingfish** would be preferable, **slot limits or size limits increased.**

Examples:

- *“Agree 5 fish bag limit is too much, but 3-4 per day is a better compromise.”*
- *“I would also like to see an increased size limit to 75cm”*
- *“Need a slot limit like snapper”*
- *“Slot limit between 65cm and 90cm”*
- *“I personally think the bag limit should stay the same and the size limit go to 70cm, not just in Victoria but Australia wide.”*
- *“Maybe increase size limit and lower total boat limit.”*
- *“It [would] be much better to reduce the bag limit from 5 to 3 and this is still a reduction of 40% per fisher per day.”*
- *“I would support a limit based on length like snapper. Eg, 4 total, only one over 100cm”*
- *“The cost of fuel, (car and boat) rego, fishing licence and other costs are bad enough, then lower the bag limit could make it prohibitive for a lot of recreational fishermen. Maybe 3 per person could be a better number.”*

- Some comments suggested **imposing boat limits.**

Examples:

- *“Would like to see a limit of 3 as well as a boat limit of 5-6 per boat”*
- *“I’d like to see a boat limit as well”*

- Some comments suggest working with **other states or at a Commonwealth level** for cohesion across jurisdictions.

Examples:

- *“There should be a push for NSW to follow the same bag limits”*
- *“No point going it alone, NSWs, SA, and Tasmania all need to be onboard, same biomass of fish! Also the size limit should be increased at least to 70cm, at least males will make it to sexual maturity”*

- *“I’d rather see a size limit increase , but it has to be done at a national level. No use Victorian limits raised if NSW is going not going to. At least raise ours to the same as NSW”*
- *“I think this won't change anything and would prefer the states to work together to increase the minimum size to a level that will return the Australian fishery to capacity.”*
- *“A reduction of bag limit in Victoria is a good start, ultimately we need to pressure NSW to adopt this change as well to look after the stock”*

## **QUESTION 5**

### **What is your postcode?**

Answered 1023, Skipped 0

The top 20 postcodes provided in Question 5 were:

<b>Postcode</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Number of responses</b>
3844	Traralgon, Traralgon East, Tyers, Traralgon South, Callignee	25
3977	Cranbourne, Cranbourne West, Cranbourne East	22
3280	Warrnambool, Dennington	20
3305	Portland, Portland North, Bolwarra, Cape Bridgewater	16
3216	Belmont, Highton, Grovedale, Wauru Ponds, Geelong, Wandana Heights, Marshall	15
3825	Moe, Newborough, Yallourn North, Yallourn, Willow Grove	14
3030	Werribee, Point Cook, Melbourne, Werribee South, Cocoroc, Quandong	13
3199	Frankston, Frankston South	12
3915	Hastings, Tuerong	11
3941	Rye, Tootgarook, Saint Andrews Beach	10
3156	Ferntree Gully, Lysterfield, Upper Ferntree Gully, Lysterfield South	10
3197	Patterson Lakes, Carrum	10
3023	Caroline Springs, Deer Park, Ravenhall, Cairnlea, Burnside, Burnside Heights	9
3850	Sale, Wurruk	9
3222	Drysdale, Clifton Springs, Curlewis, Wallington, Marcus Hill, Mannerim, Drysdale	9
3201	Carrum Downs	9
3934	Mount Martha	9
3064	Craigieburn, Mickleham, Roxburgh Park, Donnybrook	9
3226	Ocean Grove, Barwon Heads	9
3971	Yarram, Port Albert, Tarraville, Alberton, Devon North	9