

Stephen Chara
250 Portreath Road,
Bellbrae, Victoria, 3228

Ph: 03 5266 1556

Mailto: stephen@charas.com.au

My ref: [Nomination Sept Non Cherax 2010](#)

Date: 27th September 2010

Martin O'Brien
Secretary, Scientific Advisory Committee
Dept. Sustainability and Environment
2/8 Nicholson St., (PO Box 500) Victoria Pde.,
EAST MELBOURNE 3002

Nomination under the **Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act** of “Severe impact on populations of non *Cherax spp* due to no requirement to be able to differentiate crayfish species under Fisheries Victoria Regulations 2009”.

Dear Martin,

I wish to nominate the following **potentially threatening process** for listing under the **Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988**.

I believe that the nomination shows that the process is eligible for listing according to the criteria given in the nomination.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Chara

encl.

File name:

Nomination by Stephen Chara – Non Cherax.doc

FLORA AND FAUNA GUARANTEE ACT 1988

NOMINATION OF A POTENTIALLY THREATENING PROCESS FOR LISTING

Nominator's name		Signature
Stephen Chara		
Nominator's address		
250 Portreath Road, Bellbrae, Victoria, 3228 Phone: 03 5266 1556 Email: stephen@charas.com.au		
Name of potentially threatening process		
Severe impact on populations of non <i>Cherax spp</i> due to no requirement to be able to differentiate crayfish species under Fisheries Victoria Regulations 2009.		
Please state whether this is a nomination for listing or delisting		
This is a nomination for a listing.		
Description	<i>Provide a brief, general description of the potentially threatening process. A reference to a detailed description could be included.</i>	
<p>Victoria's Fisheries Regulations were reviewed and approved March 2009. There was no requirement to be able to differentiate crayfish species, no requirement to return berried female <i>Cherax spp</i> and no size restriction. The allowable daily take of whole <i>Cherax spp</i> (yabbies – <i>Cherax albidus</i>, <i>Cherax destructor</i> and an un-named rare species of <i>Cherax</i> found in North Victoria) was increased from 20 litres to 30 litres.</p> <p>Recreational fishermen are not required to be able to distinguish different species so crayfish that are not <i>Cherax</i> species would also be targeted. For example <i>Geocharax spp</i>, <i>Gramastacus spp</i>, <i>Euastacus spp</i> and <i>Engaeus spp</i> would be severely impacted due to the increased daily limit.</p> <p><i>Geocharax spp</i> and <i>Gramastacus sp</i> co-exist with <i>Cherax spp</i> and are therefore incorrectly taken.</p> <p><i>Cherax albidus</i> is listed in the Advisory list of threatened invertebrate fauna in Victoria – 2009. It should be excluded as a species that can be taken by Recreational fishers under the Victoria's Fisheries Regulations 2009.</p> <p><i>Cherax sp.</i> (un-named rare species of <i>Cherax</i> found in North Victoria – Spanner Claw / Barmah Swamp Yabby) should also be excluded as a species that can be taken by Recreational fishers under the Victoria's Fisheries Regulations 2009.</p> <p>Please note: There is a viable colony of the un-named <i>Cherax sp</i> in a private dam South East Victoria translocated 7 years ago with <i>Cherax destructor</i> Brood Stock.</p>		
Habitats or areas affected	<i>Describe the habitats, geographic areas or environments where the potentially threatening process operates.</i>	
<p>The potentially threatening process would cover the whole state of Victoria. For example <i>Cherax albidus</i>, south west Victoria, <i>Geocharax gracillus</i>, around Colac, <i>Gramastacus</i> species around the Grampians, the un-named <i>Cherax sp</i> found in North Victoria. The yabby is a semi-aquatic freshwater crayfish commonly found in a wide range of habitats throughout most of Victoria, including low-lying swamp ground, streams, rivers, man made channels and dams.</p>		

Taxa or communities affected	<i>List individual taxa, functional groups of taxa or communities affected by this potentially threatening process.</i>
<p><i>Cherax albidus</i>, Un-named <i>Cherax</i> species (Barmah Swamp Yabby) <i>Geocharax spp</i>, <i>Gramastacus spp</i>, <i>Engaeus spp</i>, <i>Euastacus spp</i> that have an OCL less than 5cm.</p>	
Significance of the threat	<i>Indicate the significance of the threat, in terms of its scale and/or severity. Indicate how the potentially threatening process is operating now and/or is expected to operate in the future.</i>
<p>The significance of the threat is a severe and dramatic reduction in many non <i>Cherax sp</i>. Also <i>Cherax albidus</i> and the un-named <i>Cherax sp</i> which occupy a smaller range than <i>Cherax destructor</i>. With Recreational Fishers approaching one million in number and each permitted to take 30 litres of whole yabbies per person per day regardless of size and including berried females the long term sustainability of non <i>Cherax destructor</i> populations is affected since species identification is not required.</p>	
Eligibility criteria	<i>Indicate which of the primary criteria and sub-criteria stated in the Regulations the potentially threatening process satisfies, on what evidence the case is based and cite the sources of this evidence. The evidence may have been presented in full in the preceding sections, but, in this section, a summary of the logic of the case should be provided. Unsupported statements which need to be verified delay the SAC's consideration of the nomination.</i>
<p>5.1 <i>the potentially threatening process poses or has the potential to pose a significant threat to the survival of a range of flora and fauna.</i></p> <p>Allowing Recreational fishermen to take berried female <i>Cherax spp</i> and to take commercial quantities of bait sized yabbies without the requirement to be able to differentiate between crayfish species will deplete <i>Geocharax spp</i>, <i>Gramastacus spp</i>, <i>Engaeus spp</i>, and <i>Euastacus spp</i> numbers and have broader ecosystem impacts on species that require freshwater crayfish as a food source.</p> <p>5.1.1 <i>the potentially threatening process poses or has the potential to pose a significant threat to the survival of two or more taxa;</i></p> <p>Allowing Recreational fishermen to take berried female <i>Cherax spp</i> and commercial quantities of bait sized yabbies with no requirement to be able to differentiate between species will pose a significant threat to more than 2 non <i>Cherax</i> species being <i>Geocharax spp</i>, <i>Gramastacus spp</i>, <i>Engaeus spp</i>, and <i>Euastacus spp</i>. This also applies to <i>Cherax albidus</i> and an un-named rare species of <i>Cherax</i> found in North Victoria.</p> <p>Duck hunters are tested for their ability to distinguish between duck species before a hunting license is issued but there is no such requirement for obtaining a Recreational Fishing licence.</p> <p>5.1.2 <i>the potentially threatening process poses or has the potential to pose a significant threat to the survival of a community of flora and fauna.</i></p> <p>Freshwater crayfish form a large portion of the diet of Native fauna that occupy the same waters. These may include Platypus, Rakali, Turtles, Eels and numerous native fish including Murray Cod, Macquarie Perch and Silver Perch (listed under FFG). Reducing Freshwater crayfish numbers will impact on the survival of these species. Freshwater crayfish are also a mechanism for keeping waterways clean.</p>	
References	<i>Provide full details of references which have been cited as sources of evidence in the nomination.</i>
<p>Fisheries Regulations 2009 Expert opinions from Stephen Chara, Manager of Otway Yabbies, Manager of Otway Freshwater Aquaculture, Holder of Fisheries Victoria Commercial Bait License.</p>	

VICTORIA

CRUSTACEANS

Yabby (freshwater)

Scientific name: *Cherax spp.*

Minimum legal size: no minimum.

Bag/possession limit: 30 litres whole yabby **or** 5 litres yabby tails. You may have in your possession whole yabbies or tailed yabbies, but not both at the same time.

NOTE: No requirement to return berried females as per NSW and SA.