

Melissa Schubert (VFA)

From: John Minehan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 26 February 2026 9:40 PM
To: Melissa Schubert (VFA)
Subject: Draft Further Abalone Quota Order

Dear Melissa,

Thank you for attending the TACC workshop in Mallacoota. Unfortunately I was not able to attend but have reviewed the workshop summary and resulting draft further Abalone Quota order.

I am particularly pleased that the SMU and reef upper limit percentages (10% and 15% respectively) have been retained. I think that this is a fair balance between some degree of flexibility while maintaining confidence that catches are kept close to agreed sustainable limits. It also means that the OTs (and therefore quota) can be adjusted up or down at different reefs with confidence. I note that these thresholds may be reviewed for 2027/28 but I hope they don't get watered down.

In regards to the Airport, one possible solution is a sub-zonal TAC divided equally by the 460 units, so a per unit allocation. This would assure that the Airport OT would be caught and everyone shares the pain of lower beach price relative to their holdings. However, the quid pro quo's that is likely to follow is that the same thing applies to the Mallacoota Large SMU such that the spoils of higher prices are also shared equally. Perhaps even applying the logic to all SMUs. From a resource management point of view these measures would stop the rush and early closure of non Airport reefs and facilitate more even fishing pressure through time across all reefs.

Regards,

John