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## Fisheries (Recreational Abalone Open Days) Notice 2019

### EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

I have decided to continue the Fisheries (Recreational Abalone Open Days) Notice 2019 for a further twelve months after undertaking consultation in accordance with Section 3A of the Fisheries Act 1995.

The *Fisheries Regulations 2009* prohibit recreational fishing for abalone in Central Victorian Waters, defined as between Arch Rock and the Aire River, except for those days that are nominated in a Fisheries Notice. This area is within the Central Abalone Zone.

Fisheries (Recreational Abalone Open Days) Notice 2019 will continue to allow recreational abalone fishing in Central Victorian Waters to occur on weekends and Victorian public holidays between 16 November 2019 to 30 April 2020 and on the weekdays between 25 December 2019 and the second Sunday in January 2020. This arrangement is unchanged from previous years and balances addressing sustainability concerns for the fishery, harvest opportunities and the allocation of compliance resources.

The VFA is committed to ensuring fair access for recreational fishers in a manner that is easy to understand and supports a sustainable fishery. Recent quota reductions in the Central Zone commercial abalone fishery are in response to sustainability concerns. We will therefore not consider increases to the recreational access until the long-term sustainability of the fishery is established.

The VFA is continuing to deliver on the actions outlined in the Victorian Wild Harvest Abalone Fishery Management Plan on a priority basis. The VFA is currently finalising a harvest strategy for the commercial sector and reviewing the monitoring approach for abalone. It is recognised that estimates of recreational catch and participation, along with illegal catch estimates, should be incorporated into stock assessments.

**Travis Dowling**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Victorian Fisheries Authority

19/09/2019

