

INDIVIDUAL SUBMISSIONS – DRAFT FISHERIES (CORNER INLET FISHERY) NOTICE 2020

I am a fifth generation Corner Inlet fisherman. We have been fishing under our own Voluntary Code of Practice for 28 years.

These new regulations will ensure our fishery will stay sustainable for many years to come and assure the public that Corner Inlet is properly managed and also be able to provide quality fish to restaurants, fish shops and other people who rely on this resource from our unique fishery.

Licence holders need security to access this valuable resource and I believe these new regulations will go a long way toward this.

I am also very happy with the introduction of the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS).

I strongly believe the only way for it to work with no loopholes is for it to be left on 24 hours a day.

Regards,

Brett Cripps

I wish to make a submission to the draft Corner Inlet Fisheries Notice 2020.

I congratulate the Victorian Fisheries Authority and Minister Pulford on reaching the decision to issue this notice.

I have worked in the Corner Inlet fishery for over 20 years second generation fisherman.

I am so pleased that what we, the majority of fishermen in Corner Inlet, have fought for over the years to keep the fishery sustainable has been recognised.

The voluntary code of practice over the last 28 years and the fact that we pushed to instigate assess licences in the early 1970's, prove that most of the fishermen in Corner Inlet have tried to maintain a sustainable fishery. Several of the current fishermen are 2nd, 3rd, 4th and even 5th generation, which proves we have been able to do this so far.

This Fisheries Notice will help to maintain the sustainable fishery for future generations, supplying fresh fish for the people of Victoria who are unable to catch their own fish, and to the restaurants that rely on our supply of fresh, local fish.

Kind Regards

Bruce Collis

I wish to make a submission to the draft Corner Inlet Fisheries Notice 2020.

I congratulate the Victorian Fisheries Authority and Minister Pulford on reaching the decision to issue this notice.

I have worked in the Corner Inlet fishery for over 53 years and I am still actively participating in the fishery. I have really enjoyed passing my knowledge onto some of the younger fishermen in recent years, and I am sure they have appreciated learning from me.

I am so pleased that what we, the majority of fishermen in Corner Inlet, have fought for over the years to keep the fishery sustainable has been recognised.

The voluntary code of practice over the last 28 years and the fact that we pushed to instigate assess licences in the early 1970's, prove that most of the fishermen in Corner Inlet have tried to maintain a sustainable fishery. Several of the current fishermen are 2nd, 3rd, 4th and even 5th generation, which proves we have been able to do this so far.

This Fisheries Notice will help to maintain the sustainable fishery for future generations, supplying fresh fish for the people of Victoria who are unable to catch their own fish, and to the restaurants that rely on our supply of fresh, local fish.

Kind Regards

Don Cripps

I am a member of the Victorian food service community and supporter of the Australian Marine Conservation Society's GoodFish sustainable seafood program. Please find my submission in favour of the full implementation of **Fisheries (Corner Inlet Fishery) Notice 2020**.

Sustainability is of the utmost importance to me as well as good food sourcing practises. As a chef this is paramount to our sourcing of ingredients. It is vitally important to our food chain to support this action.

The Notice involves the regulatory implementation of key elements of what has been a voluntary industry code of practice to secure sustainable management of the fishery by limiting take of target species.

In our view these measures (including limiting seine net shots to two per day, and a requirement to only deploy one type of fishing gear at a time) are a simple and precautionary way to protect the sustainability of the resource and therefore the economic viability of the fishery.

Seafood caught in the Corner Inlet Fishery is prized by chefs, and the Victorian public in the Melbourne and wider Victorian market as a local, sustainable and high-quality supply of desirable fish species. The fishery is managed and monitored using basic but effective tools that have been substantially supported by voluntary practices used by fishers that constrain catch and effort. These have been committed to and abided by the majority of License Holders, and are the focus of the regulatory changes proposed in the Fisheries (Corner Inlet Fishery) Notice 2020. Implementing these measures in regulation will, in our view, support:

The reputation and value of the fishery to consumers and chefs;

The social license to operate the fishery within the wider community;

The protection and sustainability of fishery and environmental values of Corner Inlet.

Regards,

Graham Jefferies

Owner/chef Tulip restaurant and Samesyn restaurant

In response to your request for submissions regarding the proposed fisheries notice;

I signed the submission submitted to you on the 7th of May 2020. I now wish to withdraw my signature and retract my support of the proposal submitted to you by Mr Neville Clarke on the 7th of May 2020.

This is based on myself having since strongly considered the impact this would have on my business and future income, as well as the impact to the overall fishery.

I strongly support the submission provided to you by Seafood Industry Victoria on the 11th of June 2020.

I believe that the Corner Inlet Fishery needs to be subject to an overall Fishery Management Plan where any future action taken by the Government that impacts the Corner Inlet Fishery is truly considered and in full consultation with the 18 licence holders of the fishery.

I believe that the licences should retain the right to use a multitude of gear in the water at any one time, however other management options to ensure these practices remain sustainable should be considered and implemented after adequate consultation with the licence holders and relevant bodies.

I am very passionate about ensuring the ongoing sustainability and longevity of the fishery and believe that the current concern regarding the fishing practice of an individual licence holder, has been as a direct result of the way the Gippsland Lakes and Western Port/ Port Phillip Bay fisheries have been managed by this Government. Because of the uncertainty of the future actions of the Labour Government in regard to the Corner Inlet Fishery and the possibility of compulsory

acquisition of the licences it has applied immense pressure to the individual licence holders and their businesses to work in a manner that considers this likelihood and possibility that they will be penalised financially if not working with this in mind currently.

In terms of reducing this pressure and working with the fishermen, it would be most appropriate for the Minister to give a guarantee that no compulsory acquisition of licences would occur in the next two elections to allow the licence holders to remain completely invested in ensuring the ongoing sustainability, longevity and health of Corner Inlet. Short of this, then the Management Plan suggested by Seafood Industry Victoria is the best proposed way of Industry and Government working collaboratively to support the best interests of the Corner Inlet Fishery moving forward. In summary, I retract my signature and support of the document that has been submitted to you and now wish for my support of the submission made by Seafood Industry Victoria to develop a Fishery Management Plan for Corner Inlet, to be noted by your office.

Kind Regards,
James Casement

My name is Jarrod Griffin I've been the licence operator Corner Inlet Access licence CI. 25 for some years now, and have been following the voluntary code of practice which has been in place for the last 28 years. To have these regulations in place will ensure sustainability and long term future for every body. I also think the introduction of VMS will greatly help in the policing of these new regulations, however if it was on permanently 24 hours a day there would be no loopholes.

Regards,
Jarrod Griffin

I wish to make a submission to the draft Fisheries (Corner Inlet) Fisheries Notice 2020.

I strongly support the Victorian Fisheries Authority and Minister Pulford for the decision to issue this Notice.

I believe the proposed changes will ensure the Corner Inlet Fishery is sustainably and responsibly fished for many generations into the future whilst at the same time ensure the supply of quality and sustainably caught fish for the Victorian people, including many restaurants who rely so heavily on Corner Inlet for these fish. I was eating at O.MY restaurant on Saturday and they were also incredibly supportive of sustainable fishing practices, which was great to hear! From my understanding the restrictions to fishing effort being addressed in the Fisheries Notice are in line with the way the majority of licence holders have fished for several generations in the past and contained in the Voluntary Code of Practice. The license holders who are fishing outside of the voluntary code of practice pose an immediate threat to the Corner Inlet eco system and give commercial fishing a bad name.

This is such a good news story and I hope that if this notice is passed it receives a high level of press coverage. We could all do with some more positive news stories at the moment!

Kind regards,
Joe Hallums

I am a 6th generation Corner Inlet fisherman and I have been abiding by the voluntary code of practice which has been working very well for the last 28 years.

To have these new regulations in place will ensure the public that fishing in Corner Inlet is being managed responsibly for a sustainable fishery for many years to come.

I am happy with the introduction of the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS). For this to work my belief is it must be left on 24 hours a day otherwise loopholes can appear.

Thank you for helping us make a long term sustainable future for the Corner Inlet Fishery.

Regards,
Kallan Cripps

I am a member of the Victorian food service community and supporter of the Australian Marine Conservation Society's GoodFish sustainable seafood program, please find my submission in favour of the full implementation of **Fisheries (Corner Inlet Fishery) Notice 2020**.

As a chef, restaurant owner/operator and employer of over 40 staff, I place significant value on the ability to access local, sustainable and high quality seafood as is caught by the Corner Inlet fishers. Their leadership shown in the sustainable management of this fishery should be applauded and used as an example nationally. Having chosen to not serve finfish for many years due to concerns of its long term sustainability, the actions of these fishers has provided comfort to once more support local fishers with my business.

The Notice involves the regulatory implementation of - in the view of AMCS, long-established Corner Inlet Fishery fishers, and our GoodFish community who value seafood sourced from the fishery - a key element of what has been a voluntary industry code of practice.

In our view these measures – limiting seine net shots to two per day, and a requirement to only deploy one type of fishing gear at a time - are a simple and precautionary measure to protect the sustainability of the resource and the economic yield of the fishery.

Seafood caught in the Corner Inlet Fishery is prized by chefs and consumers in the Melbourne and wider Victorian market as a local, sustainable and high-quality supply of desirable fish species. The fishery is managed and monitored using basic but effective tools that have been substantially supported by voluntary practices used by fishers that restrain catch and effort. These have been committed to and abided by the majority of License Holders, and are the focus of the regulatory changes proposed in the Fisheries (Corner Inlet Fishery) Notice 2020. Implementing these measures in regulation will, in our view, support:

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The social license to operate the fishery within the wider community;

The protection and sustainability of fishery and environmental values of Corner Inlet.

Regards,

Ben Shewry

Chef/Owner, Attica Restaurant

I am very unprepared to make a comment on the proposed changes to the management of the Corner Inlet fishery. I have not had enough time to make a full submission as I have been away from home and the time you have given us to comment is too short. I disagree with the proposed changes. I question the need for a VMS in the fishery. No consultation was adequately entered into regarding this. I question the restriction to one gear type at one time. This would require compensation to our business. We do not consent to these changes. I support the weekly shot limit proposal rather than a two seine shot per day limit as weather is variable and our loans need to be paid. In particular I would highlight the negative impact that the government policy of closing other sustainable fisheries down and then having fishermen from those fisheries buy into our fishery. This has impacted the lifecycle of the firm in our fishery and reduced our share of the sustainable catch. We do not want to consider legal action but may have to if you persist with these changes. I also question why you would consult with Futurefish Foundation who have only sought to buy off politicians of all ilks in order to close our fishery. If you continue these actions I will run for politics and will be open in my disdain for such organizations. We remain financially connected to the fishery and it is one of my only sources of income.

Best regards,

Grant and Natalie Leeworthy

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the proposed Fisheries Notice to ensure that Corner Inlet Fishery is sustainably fished for years to come.

Myself and my family rely on Corner Inlet fish and would really like to see the commercial fishery protected to ensure that the supply continues, and that Victorians can have access to this valuable resource.

Kind regards,
Louise Clarke

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the proposed Fisheries Notice to ensure that Corner Inlet Fishery is sustainably fished for years to come.

My partner and her family rely on Corner Inlet fish and would really like to see the commercial fishery protected to ensure that the supply continues, and that Victorians can have access to this valuable resource.

Kind regards,
Matthew Nguyen

I wish to make a submission to the draft Fisheries (Corner Inlet) Fisheries Notice 2020.

My name is Oliver Danvers and I have operated and been a deckhand on Neville Clarkes Corner Inlet license CI 18 over the last 13 years.

I believe the decision by the minister to put further restrictions on the licence holders will ensure the sustainability and viability of the inlet as well as give more confidence into any fishers who wish to enter the inlet, me being one.

The proposed changes will ensure the supply of quality and sustainably caught fish for the Victorian people, including many restaurants who rely so heavily on Corner Inlet for these fish.

In my time fishing in Corner Inlet most fisherman have followed the code of practice and fished to maintain sustainability, but in recent years with new entrants to the fishery that has not been adhered to pushing others to fish harder to compete to make a living at the detriment of the inlet.

I also believe with the implementation of these changes it will make licences actually worth more due to the inlet being sustainable for commercial and recreation fishers.

Regards,
Oliver Danvers

Att: To whom it may concern

We completely reject the proposed changes to the fishing practices as per your Draft Fisheries (Corner Inlet Fishery) Notice 2020 of June 5th.

After having our livelihood cancelled by the introduction of a ban on all netting in Port Philip Bay, we made a decision to purchase a Corner Inlet licence to continue our business and have a job for our son Ben.

We invested \$385,000 in a licence on 01/03/2016. We purchased this concession on the basis that there were certain restrictions but were comfortable with our ability to operate successfully within these. We have a financial reliance on this investment.

The Corner Inlet operation meant that we needed to rent a house, travel frequently to our place of work and use local businesses for our daily requirements.

We find it strange that Fisheries Management feels it necessary to propose new regulations after the introduction of a complete overhaul of the fisheries regulations implemented in February of this year.

1: This appears to be an exercise for the protection of a majority of ageing operators who would prefer to retain a restricted industry after having either been issued with a licence or having purchased one and have paid for it many times over. This is borne out by the information in the Corner Inlet-Nooramunga Fishery Assessment 2016, where it not only gave a tick to the stocks of fish in the area, but stated that fishing effort (days) had decreased from the period 1996/7

2: It is obvious that any consultation with the concession holders will uphold the proposal as these operators were the operators who instigated the process.

3: This action is completely devoid of any scientific information on the decline of fish stocks. The proposals restrict the ability of operators to maximise their effort when wind and tide conditions are suitable and could push operators to work in dangerous conditions to maintain their income.

4: The proposed changes have a considerable effect on our income and will make our overall business unprofitable. As mentioned, we have a reliance on this investment.

5: It is evident that these proposals are directed at our operation as we have never been advised previously of any consultation regarding this issue.

6: Considering point 5, we consider a level of victimisation in these actions. There is a history of this victimisation.

During our operation in Port Philip Bay, Fisheries Officers targeted Ben over a long period of time, charging him with 86 offences, two which were successful resulting in minor fines. All others were unsuccessful.

On another occasion, Ben was fined for having an incorrect date on a fishing return. An honest mistake of putting the 20th instead of the 21st.

When a PPB licensee applied for Ben to be nominated as the operator, he was advised that he would not be accepted. After advising that we would seek legal advice, this decision was overturned and he was accepted as the operator.

Further, upon our purchase of the Corner Inlet licence Fisheries stated that we would need to install a VMS to operate, when no other operator was required to do so. Again, when legal advice was threatened, this demand was dropped. As new regulations have come in requiring all operators to have VMS, we have no objection to this.

7: We consider that the action you intend taking is a restriction of our rights, and trade, as there is no scientific, economic or practical basis for the regulations you propose.

8: Should you continue with the proposal we would seriously consider an injunction to delay and challenge the decision on a legal basis, with a compensation claim if the proposals proceed.

9: We are long term operators in the bay and inlet fishing industry, are concerned about fish stocks and make decisions on sustainable stocks, as well as sustainable fishing practices. However, we see little evidence in good fisheries management through the implementation of fishing practices that are designed to protect the inefficient operator.

Kind Regards

Peter Jenkins

I wish to make a submission to the draft Fisheries (Corner Inlet) Fisheries Notice 2020.

I have read through the Fisheries Notice 2020 and supporting material and wholeheartedly offer my support for this act.

I believe that the Corner Inlet fisherman have the people of Victoria's, and indeed Australia's, best interests at heart when submitting a request to regulate their voluntary Code of Conduct to keep fishing sustainable within these waters.

The prohibition of shooting no more than two seine nets on any one day will ensure these waters are not exhausted of fish and also ensure that the seabed habitat remains intact and unharmed. The prohibition of using only one type of gear at any given time will ensure that the fish are always of the freshest and highest quality as they have not been allowed to sit undisturbed whilst other gear is in use.

These two acts will certainly ensure that my children, and my children's children, will always have access to fresh, locally sourced seafood of the highest quality, whilst also ensuring that fishing in Corner Inlet is managed responsibly.

I thank you for your time and look forward to hearing a positive outcome to this submission within the coming weeks ahead.

Kind regards,
Rani Hallums

Re: Fisheries (Corner Inlet Fishery) Notice 2020

Personal submission – Ross Winstanley

Thank you for the opportunity to make a personal submission on this draft Fisheries Notice.

I fully support the making of this Fisheries Notice, the objectives as set out in the draft and the intended commencement date of 19 June.

As to any amendments that may be needed to ensure that these objectives can be fully met, I defer to the long-time traditional fishermen.

During my career with the former Fisheries Victoria I enjoyed the opportunity of working with commercial and recreational fishers on fish Corner Inlet fish stock assessment and habitat assessment workshops. The commercial fishers have a long history of working constructively with government and researchers in studies of declines in the seagrass beds that are critical to the health and productivity of the inlet. That work continues today, with commercial fishers actively participating in seagrass recovery work.

On two occasions, Corner Inlet commercial fishers have worked with anglers to resolve conflicts within the fishery. In the late 1980s, a small group broke away from traditional commercial fishing practices, causing discord among commercial fishers and conflict with anglers. An angler group initiated a conciliation forum involving all sides, leading to the voluntary commercial fishing code of practice which fully resolved the situation.

During 2019, a breakaway from that code of practice by some operators, has threatened both the sustainability of the fishery and harmony among commercial fishers, and with anglers. Assisted by the Futurefish Foundation and anglers, the core of traditional commercial fishers have won government support for their fishery, in the form of this draft Fisheries Notice. When implemented, this should, in effect, formalise and improve on the intent of the longstanding code of practice, to the benefit of commercial and recreational fishers.

I hope the successful implementation of the Fisheries Notice will be followed by fisheries regulations and help to secure the future of this, the last remaining sustainable and active commercial inlet fishery in Victoria. I also hope that the collaboration between commercial and recreational fishers on this occasion, working with the Victorian Fisheries Authority, will lead to close ongoing relationships as occurred in the past, in regular monitoring of the Corner Inlet fishery and environment.

12 June 2020

I'm not sure if it's you to talk to but please understand that we don't want what's on that draft. I'm happy with the 2 shots per day and the one fishing Equipment at a time but not happy with the texting or phoning daily as my husband Costantino is illiterate and does not have means to send you

the requirements needed. My sons' phone cannot get satellite there We feel in fishery returns that should be enough please. As far as the GPS or whatever you call it. Where I appreciate the fisheries will pay for it, we have 3 boats we operate therefor unless it is transportable from one boat to the next, we cannot afford the gps and installation. So please leave things as they are and consider our situation. We report in fishery returns and that should be enough.

Thankyou

Serina Taranto

I am a chef from the Mornington Peninsula and have been a supporter of the Australian Marine Conservation Society's GoodFish sustainable seafood program for some time now. Please find my submission in strong favour of the full implementation of Fisheries (Corner Inlet Fishery) Notice 2020.

In October of last year I had the privilege of visiting the fisherman of corner inlet and witnessing their sustainable practises first hand. Having a connection with my suppliers and ensuring they have our support with their endeavours to look after our environment is of the utmost importance to me. I was in complete admiration when the fisherman of Corner Inlet told us of their 'voluntary code of conduct' to secure sustainable management of the fishery by limiting take of target species. I cannot foresee any reason why this voluntary code - including limiting seine net shots to two per day, and a requirement to only deploy one type of fishing gear at a time - should not be made legislation in respect to both the environment and the economic viability of the Corner Inlet fishery.

Seafood caught in the Corner Inlet Fishery is prized by chefs, and the Victorian public in the Melbourne and wider Victorian market as a local, sustainable and high-quality supply of desirable fish species. The fishery is managed and monitored using basic but effective tools that have been substantially supported by voluntary practices used by fishers that constrain catch and effort. These have been committed to and abided by the majority of License Holders and are the focus of the regulatory changes proposed in the Fisheries (Corner Inlet Fishery) Notice 2020. Implementing these measures in regulation will, in our view, support:

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Regards,

Simone Watts

Executive chef, Barragunda dining (Opening 2021)

I have two points I would like to put forward to you.

1. Is a update in regards to the Octopus fishery.

I am working approx. 1500 Occi pots at present, Market price has slowly increased to approx. \$8.00 KG but that is for a smaller quantity only.

Demined is low, until the restaurant and hotel trade get up and running again, I guess things may not improve until then.

Mean time I have done a pretty big refit on my boat FV CHARISSA. set up better than ever for Occi Fishing when things do improve.

2. Corner Inlet fishing regulations.

My opinion,

After 30 odd years of our code of practice, that has been a very successful tool in the fishing industry.

Unfortunately it has broken down through the constant abuse of one commercial fisher that refuses to sign it, and this has now got the heckles up in the industry.

Yes I do strongly agree that there needs to be a fishing reg, that 2 saine shots only in a 24 hour period.

But in my case having a successful commercial fresh fish shop for over 17 years, as I was one that did take the Ministers Sherrill Garbad' advice at the time when marine parks were introduced and got some compensation pay out to what was suggested by her to value add, I believe I was the only one in Corner Inlet to do so at the time with the compensation money, and yes it has been a successful move.

I do have to say I am one that strongly disagrees with NOT been able to have two nets in the water at one time, as most of the time my son Lucas" who is now the operator and part owner of my licence has a mesh net in the water, whitest saine fishing at the same time, so this way we can have a verity of fish when he arrives back at our Port Franklin fish shop, and that is how we have fresh daily fish.

We have been operating this way for many many years.

Unfortunately there is a element of pure jealousy in the industry, as there are a small number of older commercial fisherman that just can NOT let go to the next generation that are coming through. The hand full of fisherman that are constantly complaining, can not keep up physically any longer, so they are doing the next best thing, and that is to STOP other fishers form working, no matter what they may tell you.

In my view, we are very fortunate to do what we are doing, the fisherman that are constantly bitching got there licence for the some of \$150.00 at the time, and made a very good living over the years, and now that same licence is selling for \$600000.00. plus.

As I have suggested on many occasion that may be its time they considered selling there licence, and retiring, but no they don't want to that ether.

By splitting the fishing gear in the water at any one time, will only increase the saine net effort as the fisherman will apply more pressure on the industry as this is the preferred fishery.

There is one thing that needs to be point out,

That is once we use to be saine net fisherman, and work at right angle to the banks, now with very heavy saine nets and powerful boats that tow the saine net a full 650 Mt from point to point and sweeping the net like a trawl net fishery, over all each shot distance is covering 1300 Mt per shot, this is taking out two shot in one that we use to have, so now some of these boats are having two shots per day, when in fact, it is covering the total distance of four shots per day each, this is far cry from conservation.

In my view, this matter dose need to be addressed before any thing else, as this is what is doing the most damage to the industry.

How to fix the problem.

My suggestion to assist in fixing this matter is reduce the length of saine net from 650 MT to 500 MT as this will be a saving of 300 MT per two daily shots per working boat.

If we do some calculations, just say there are 12 saine boats working per day, this will allow an extra 3600 Mt per day of un worked ground.

Say we average approx. four working days a week, this will allow 14400 Mt per week of increased un worked area.

This would have to have a massive positive increase to the fishery in C.I. over all.

I did put this forward to the SIV board only last week, they were going to disuses my proposal and get back to me.

If you would like to discuss this matter any further, feel free to contact me, as I can come to you, or what ever you would prefer, before making a regulation decision in C.I.

Thanks Wayne Cripps.

I am a member of the Victorian food service community and supporter of the Australian Marine Conservation Society's GoodFish sustainable seafood program, please find my submission in favour of the full implementation of **Fisheries (Corner Inlet Fishery) Notice 2020**.

The premise of our restaurant and the reputation we have built has been created through our ability to provide our local community with food that is both sustainable and ethical to consume. The work that is being done by the Fisheries towards a more sustainable future is paramount to our businesses ability to operate in this way.

The Notice involves the regulatory implementation of - in the view of AMCS, long-established Corner Inlet Fishery fishers, and our GoodFish community who value seafood sourced from the fishery - a key element of what has been a voluntary industry code of practice.

In our view these measures – limiting seine net shots to two per day, and a requirement to only deploy one type of fishing gear at a time - are a simple and precautionary measure to protect the sustainability of the resource and the economic yield of the fishery.

Seafood caught in the Corner Inlet Fishery is prized by chefs and consumers in the Melbourne and wider Victorian market as a local, sustainable and high-quality supply of desirable fish species. The fishery is managed and monitored using basic but effective tools that have been substantially supported by voluntary practices used by fishers that restrain catch and effort. These have been committed to and abided by the majority of License Holders, and are the focus of the regulatory changes proposed in the Fisheries (Corner Inlet Fishery) Notice 2020. Implementing these measures in regulation will, in our view, support:

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Regards,

Zoe Birch

Chef/Owner Greasy Zöes

To begin I would like to agree we have a long proud history of sustainable fishing in Corner Inlet but to state in your opening paragraph that fishing practices have changed is entirely untrue, the number of seine shots has always been varied by all licence holders due to a number of factors including weather, break downs, tide etc all while managing the ability to be able to provide a stable income. In regards to operating 2 types of gear this goes back many generations to be able to maintain stable income **all year**-round while supplying our local fish shops and restaurants with a variety of fish. You have stated that Corner Inlet has a long history of sustainable fishing and therefore regarding the sustainability could you please provide the data that supports your need for change. The information presented on the VFA website regarding the catch and effort data history for Corner Inlet show no decrease over the last few years, and if anything, most species have increased according to data; and with the growing numbers of recreational fisherman each year this seems to be unjustified. I've also spoken to a lot of recreational fisherman and found they have also had great years

and don't see a decrease in stocks.

Please see my comments for each change below:

i. [Prohibit the operation of more than two seine net shots in any given 24-hour period\(midnight to midnight\) commencing 5pm Sunday to midnight Friday. The seine net shot commences from the "shooting" of the net.](#)

My concerns regarding the 2 seine shot limit in any given 24-hour period are based on 2 reasons; firstly when it comes to periods of bad weather, which can be weeks at a time in Corner Inlet not allowing any fishing operation, when there is a widow of opportunity

you try to make this up by completing a number of shots to recover costs and keep afloat. Secondly, when your equipment beaks down and you're out of the water for a number of days/weeks, this can

also be a time when you need to recover costs. More than 2 seine shots in a 24 hour period is not normal practice for fisherman, however to take away the opportunity to do so based on no evidence doesn't make sense.

ii. [Prohibit the use of more than one type of fishing gear by any individual Corner Inlet Fishery Access Licence holder at any given time, inclusive of mesh nets, seine nets, longline and hoop nets.](#)

Prohibiting the use of more than one type of gear I find the most concerning as this has been part of most fisherman's livelihood going back generations. We have always worked mesh nets in conjunction with a seine shot or we have shot mesh nets on the way home to pick up the next morning this has allowed us to catch our rock flathead or gummy sharks for the local fish shops or restaurants while having our seine fish to send to the Melbourne market.

If we are restricted to one type of either mesh nets or seine net at one time it would not be viable and small community businesses such as local fishmongers and fish and chip shops would be affected immensely. To pull these nets in and out of one boat each time we had to change gear and to have enough time in the day to do so is not practical, a second boat would be required at cost most fisherman would not have.

Moreover, a further consideration to this change would be the potential increase of the overall seine shots being conducted throughout Corner Inlet. As currently a licence holder can hold more than one type of gear, and therefore a number of fishermen may only do 1 seine shot a day and on many occasions will only use mesh nets, longline and hoop nets. If forced to only hold one type of gear, the overall number of seine shots across the Inlet will increase to maintain income.

My summary of these changes to suite a few individuals that do not mesh net is a huge change in our income and foreseeably a decrease in the value of our licence and an increase in our operational cost, this should be compensated if these are enforced.

Furthermore, I would also like to mention that this notice did not seem to be delivered to all fisherman to review, making this review process unfair. Like myself I did not receive any communication from the VFA and only after hearing about the letter I had to ring VFA for a copy, it seems there is a glitch that doesn't seem to send it to all email addresses. I was informed by the VFA that I should look on the web site which I find to be an unprofessional comment due to this affecting a group of fisherman's livelihoods, and the short time period you have given to respond to these changes; there could have been a number of ways to make sure this was received by the fisherman Phone calls, certified email etc.

Sincerely yours,
Scott Garland

We agree with the objectives of the (Draft) Fisheries Notice, but suggest a couple of additions,

1. That "Fishing line" be excluded from "more than one type of fishing gear"
2. That Fishing Gear not be left unattended while in use, by more than? (maybe 2 kilometers), to prevent nets being left fishing while the operator goes home. Thanks, Donald Henderson and Raymond Dunstone.

Att: To whom it may concern

I completely reject the proposed changes to the fishing practices as per your Draft Fisheries (Corner Inlet Fishery) Notice 2020 of June 5th.

Corner Inlet licence holder/owner Bill Knibbs submission to Mr Dallas D'Silva, Director Fisheries Policy, Management, Science and Licensing of the Victorian Fisheries Authority.

Part 1

How can this go forward when the last round of submission were made public and open for comment and submissions that were available for every stakeholder to have a chance to submit their thoughts. The guidelines I believe have not been followed as from the consultation of stakeholders along with the required time lines. Eg; Has the buyers/processors/sellers and consumers been informed of the potential cut back of fish production to the economy. This action is completely devoid of any scientific information on the decline of fish stocks. The proposals restrict the ability of operators to maximise their effort when wind and tide conditions are suitable and could push operators to work in dangerous conditions to maintain their income (OHS). I consider that the action you intend taking is a restriction of our rights, and trade, as there is no scientific, economic or practical basis for the regulations you propose. Should you continue with the proposal I would seriously consider an injunction to delay and challenge the decision on a legal basis, with a compensation claim if the proposals proceed.

Please click on Corner inlet for catch detail history and research for sustainable fisheries.

<https://vfa.vic.gov.au/commercial-fishing/commercial-fish-production#fp-ci-catch>

<https://vfa.vic.gov.au/about/media-releases/king-george-whiting-set-to-boom>

<https://vfa.vic.gov.au/about/media-releases/boom-times-ahead-for-king-george-whiting>

<https://fish.gov.au/report/202-Dusky-Flathead-2018?jurisdictionId=6>

<https://fish.gov.au/report/210-King-George-Whiting-2018?jurisdictionId=6>

<https://fish.gov.au/report/219-SILVER-TREVALLES-2018?jurisdictionId=6>

<https://fish.gov.au/report/230-Snapper-2018?jurisdictionId=6>

<https://fish.gov.au/report/191-Southern-Garfish-2018?jurisdictionId=6>

<https://fish.gov.au/report/201-Southern-Sand-Flathead-2018?jurisdictionId=6>

<https://fish.gov.au/report/215-Tailor-2018?jurisdictionId=6>

<https://fish.gov.au/report/185-Elephantfish-2018?jurisdictionId=6>

<https://fish.gov.au/report/181-Gummy-Shark-2018?jurisdictionId=6>

In relation to the letter sent via email on the 5/6/2020 I would like submit my thoughts with the proposed changes to the regulations 2019. Along with the submission from 2019 and the latest letter from SIV on the 11/6/2019

From the Fisheries Draft letter/Regulation changes:

The yellow is the question with the reply below.

i. Prohibit the operation of more than two seine net shots in any given 24-hour period (midnight to midnight) commencing 5pm Sunday to midnight Friday. The seine net shot commences from the "shooti ng" of the net.

Reply:

-Has the safety and OHS of the crew of the boat been thought of working all weather conditions to comply with trying to achieve 2 shots within a 24hr period.

-Proposal of 12 ring seine shots per the 5.5 working day week (Sunday 5pm to Friday 12am) this would allow the flexibility for the owners/crew to work safely without OHS issues and plan/schedule there working days due to weather and tide influences. The outcome in the end is the same as proposed but work would be carried out safely with not having the perceived pressure of having lost/missing the 2 ring seine shots in the 24 hrs period due to OHS, weather and tides.

-The 24hr time period is it from midnight to midnight or from the start of the first ring seine shot. Eg 10am ring seine shot then the 24hr period starts and finishes the next day at 10am.

ii. Prohibit the use of more than one type of fishing gear at any given time inclusive of mesh nets, seine nets, longline and hoop nets.

Reply:

Clarification on this: will this allow the owner to have a ring seine net on the boat along with mesh nets on-board?

Example: 1st day out to sea, carry out 2 ring seine shots then shoot mesh nets from the same boat?

Example 2: 1st day out to sea, Mash nets shot and then continue the rest of the work day fishing with a longline and hoop nets?

Corner Inlet licence holder/owner Bill Knibbs submission to Mr Dallas D'Silva, Director Fisheries Policy, Management, Science and Licensing of the Victorian Fisheries Authority.

In relation to the letter sent via email on the 5/6/2020 I would like submit my thoughts with the proposed changes to the regulations 2019.

From the draft regulation letter 2020:

2. Objectives The objectives of this Notice are to:

i. Prohibit the operation of more than two seine net shots by any individual Corner Inlet Fishery Access Licence holder in any given 24-hour period (midnight to midnight).

Reply:

-Has the safety and OHS of the crew of the boat been thought of working all weather conditions to comply with trying to achieve 2 ring seine shots within a 24hr period.

-Proposal of 12 ring seine shots per the 5.5 working day week (Sunday 5pm to Friday 12am) this would allow the flexibility for the owners/crew to work safely without OHS issues and plan/schedule there working days due to weather and tide influences. The outcome in the end is the same as proposed but work would be carried out safely with not having the perceived pressure of having lost/missing the 2 ring seine shots in the 24 hrs period due to OHS, weather and tides.

-The 24hr time period is it from midnight to midnight or from the start of the first ring seine shot. Eg 10am ring seine shot then the 24hr period starts and finishes the next day at 10am.

ii. Prohibit the use of more than one type of fishing gear by any individual Corner Inlet Fishery Access Licence holder at any given time, inclusive of mesh nets, seine nets, longline and hoop nets.

Reply:

Clarification on this: will this allow the owner to have a ring seine net on the boat along with mesh nets on-board?

Example: 1st day out to sea, carry out 2 ring seine shots then shoot mesh nets from the same boat?

Example 2: 1st day out to sea, Mash nets shot and then continue the rest of the work day fishing with a longline and hoop nets?

From the Fisheries Draft regulations for changes 2019/2020:

6. Prohibition on the shooting of more than two seine nets on any one day For the purposes of section 114 of the Act, the shooting of more than two seine nets on any one day by the holder of a Corner Inlet Fishery Access Licence, or a person acting or purporting to act under the licence is prohibited.

Reply:

-Has the safety and OHS of the crew of the boat been thought of working all weather conditions to comply with trying to achieve 2 ring seine shots within a 24hr period.

-Proposal of 12 ring seine shots per the 5.5 working day week (Sunday 5pm to Friday 12am) this would allow the flexibility for the owners/crew to work safely without OHS issues and plan/schedule there working days due to weather and tide influences. The outcome in the end is the same as proposed but work would be carried out safely with not having the perceived pressure of having lost/missing the 2 ring seine shots in the 24 hrs period due to OHS, weather and tides.

-The 24hr time period is it from midnight to midnight or from the start of the first ring seine shot. eg 10am ring seine shot then the 24hr period starts and finishes the next day at 10am.

7. Reporting requirements for Corner Inlet Access Licence holders The holder of a Corner Inlet Fishery Access Licence must give to the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA), in the manner required by the VFA, the following details, no more than 30 minutes after shooting a seine net in Corner Inlet

- (a) the licence number of the access licence;
- (b) the registration number of the boat involved in shooting the net;
- (c) the name of the licence holder or operator involved in the shooting of the seine net;
- (d) the date and time that the seine net was set and retrieved;
- (e) the catch and effort area code of the seine net shot.

Reply:

Reply to point 'd': this involves 2 calls for reporting with a potential of 3 calls if there was any issues encountered during the shot. Along with lack of mobile phone service in some areas.

8. Prohibition on the use of more than one type of fishing gear at any given time For the purposes of section 114 of the Act, the use of more than one type of fishing gear at any one time by a Corner Inlet Fishery Access Licence holder, or a person acting or purporting to act under the licence is prohibited.

Reply:

Clarification on this: will this allow the owner to have a ring seine net on the boat along with mash nets on-board?

Example: 1st day out to sea, carry out 2 ring seine shots then shoot mash nets from the same boat?

Example 2: 1st day out to sea, Mash nets shot and then continue the rest of the work day fishing with a longline and hoop nets?

-The percentage loss of and time/income/catch to achieve the above would range from 30% to 50% reduction to the industry sales.

Part 2

The yellow is a copy of the SIV letter. Red is the reply.

In relation to the letter sent via email from SIV on the 11/6/2020 I would like submit my thoughts with the extra proposed changes from SIV above to fisheries draft regulations 2019 draft changes.

On the 27th of May 2020 there was an opportunity to complete a survey online for SIV. This was not stated to the stakeholders that the survey would be used as a voting system for SIV to compile an accurate vote of yes/no for the proposed Fisheries draft regulation out of 18 Corner Inlet licence holders/owners. It was false information and perception to all of the licence holders. There was only 17 participants in the survey carried out and further to this I believe that people have requested to have their name removed from the code of conduct as they were not in agreement to the changes. How could this be put forward if the total of licence holders that were not informed correctly of the use of the survey and not a full participation of the licence holders?

Dear Minister

Thank you for contributing your time on the 3rd June 2020 in meeting with Johnathon Davey and myself. I am positive about the opportunities that SIV has to work with the VFA and the Victorian Government to sustain and grow commercial outcomes for the Victorian seafood and aquaculture industry, and the consequent contribution of the industry to the Victorian economy.

The SIV Board notes that 12 Corner Inlet Fishers have approached you for support to codification of the Voluntary Code of Practice that has been in operation for nearly 3 decades.

I believe that 1 of licence holders requested to have their name removed from the COD as they were pressured into a position where they did not understand what was being signed with perceived pressure like many others. The document was changed after it was signed.

As committed to you during the meeting, I am writing to you to provide the Seafood Industry Victoria (SIV) Board's position on the matter of management arrangements for the Corner Inlet

Fishery.

To support the decision-making process for the SIV Board, we have consulted with the 18 Corner Inlet Licence Holders – as per our Statement of Purposes, SIV has considered, and taken action on, issues of interest and concern to the Victorian seafood industry.

Un true as the survey was not consultation to the licence holders and there has not been any meetings for all stakeholders.

The outcome of that consultation process was majority support for codifying the Voluntary Code of Practice, and concerns were raised around the length of time mesh nets remained in the water.

Un true as the survey was not consultation to the licence holders and there has not been any meetings for all stakeholders.

The SIV Board met on 10th June 2020 and reached a decision to support:

Without consultation/meeting with the stakeholders.

- Seine shots to be limited to 2 by any Corner Inlet Fishery Access Licence Holder within any 24 -hour window.

- In-principle support for mesh nets not being used in a way that is detrimental to public perception of sustainability of the Corner Inlet Fishery – in particular restriction on the soak time of mesh nets.

This is the first mention of this over and above to the fisheries draft regulation. No consultation at all.

- Medium -term development of a Corner Inlet Fishery Management Plan that is developed in consultation with the Fishers and SIV.

SIV is required under its Statement of Purposes to promote certainty of access to seafood resource, promote the principles of ecological sustainable development, and support certainty/fairness of resource allocation. Specifically, our purposes state that we are required to:

- advocate for retention of Corner Inlet as a fishery
- support sustainable fishing practices that, by default,
- enable certainty of access to seafood resource for commercial fishers.

Therefore, the SIV Board consider it imperative that the sustainability and long-term management of the Corner Inlet fishery be underpinned by evidence-based decision making, which is best supported by the development of a Fishery Management plan. We note this is a medium term outcome, and that it will support future Commonwealth export approval requirements.

Where is the evidence, consultation and research to support this?

Minister, we thank you for this opportunity to provide you directly with the SIV Board's position. SIV will communicate our position to the Corner Inlet Fishers as well. We look forward to continuing to advocate for a long-term sustainable and viable Corner Inlet Fishery and would appreciate your consideration and support for the SIV Board's recommendation.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these matters towards securing a sustainable fishery in Corner Inlet and I would be happy to discuss this with you at any time. I also look forward further discussion on matters of industry collaboration, including our Seafood Supply Chain project and the impact of COVID-19, and other strategic opportunities

Yours sincerely

Joanne Butterworth-Gray SIV Independent Chair

Part 3

From the Fisheries Draft submissions for changes 2019.

From the fisheries draft regulations only one of the submission has been acknowledged for Corner Inlet. I would like to see the transcripts of where all the below item have been discussed between SIV/Fisheries as part of sustainability to corner inlet as there are items below that would secure the future of sustainable fishing in corner inlet as well.

The yellow is copied from the 2019 submissions. The red is the only submission that has been considered.

Considerations that had not been considered like the above from:

Regulatory Impact Statements (RIS) are prepared to explain the rationale for and impacts of proposed statutory rules. This RIS has been prepared for the Fisheries Regulations 2019 (“the proposed Regulations”), proposed to be made under the *Fisheries Act 1995* (“the Act”).

The RIS has been prepared for the Department of Transport (“the department”). A primary purpose of a RIS is to inform public consultation on the proposed Regulations. All submissions in relation to the proposed Regulations will be considered before the Minister for Fishing and Boating makes a final decision on whether to proceed with the proposed Regulations.

As required by the Subordinate Legislation Act, the assessment framework of this RIS:

- examines the nature and extent of the problem to be addressed
- states the objectives of the proposed regulations
- explains the effects on various stakeholders
- assesses the costs and benefits of the proposed Regulations and compares their impacts to other feasible alternatives.

Clarify the number of licence operators and crew that may be used under each fishery access licence class.	The current regulations specify the number of licence operators and crew that may be used under some fishery access licence classes. However, this restriction is missing from some classes and it is unclear how many operators or crew may be used. The proposed regulations will clarify the existing arrangements.	All commercial fishers	None	Medium	n/a	Very high	Administrative change only - clarifies the existing arrangements.
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2.1 Area restrictions

Suggests reinstating the “port line” at Corner inlet to provide more area for commercial fishing operations.

The VFA is working with Seafood Industry Victoria, VRFish and Corner Inlet fishers on ways to improve management of the fishery and will consider each of the suggestions raised in response to the RIS as part of these discussions. SIV recommended that changes are not made to this fishery until these discussions have occurred.

2.6 General comments

Several respondents expressed concern that the timeframe provided for submissions was too short and that the consultation process was inadequate. Other respondents also suggested that the legislation and guidelines relating to the development of the RIS had not been followed and that the late release of the RIS left little time for feedback.

Under the Subordinate Legislation Act 1994, a public consultation period of a minimum of 28 days is required. The public consultation period for this Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) satisfied and exceeded that requirement. The release of the RIS is the primary avenue for all stakeholders to provide feedback on the proposed Regulations. Initial consultation was conducted in early 2019. The VFA wrote to key stakeholders as preliminary consultation (SIV, VRFish, Game Fishing Association of Victoria and Native Fish Australia) and the Statewide Recreational Fishing Roundtable. Written comments on any areas of concern with the existing regulations were also sought from these stakeholder groups in December 2018. In addition, the VFA also discussed the review of the existing regulations at various forums in early 2019.

2.1 Area restrictions

Suggests that the VFA should guarantee the life of all commercial fishing licences (i.e. prevent them being bought out).

The maximum period under which a fisheries access licence may be issued is defined under Section 38 (4) of the Fisheries Act 1995 and is outside the scope of the proposed Fisheries Regulations 2019.

2.6 General comments

Believed the RIS ignores the biggest stakeholder (ie. the consumer) and that this sector had not been consulted.

The release of the RIS is the primary avenue for all stakeholders to provide feedback on the proposed Regulations. The RIS was publicised through a wide range of media platforms including; social media, newspapers and events. Consumers of fish, in fact all members of the public, were invited to provide input into the re-making of the Regulations.

2.9 Management arrangements

Several respondents made submissions expressing concern with the current management arrangements for commercial fishing in Corner Inlet, for a variety of reasons. For example, the following suggestions were received:

- requests that the Corner Inlet commercial fishing Code of Conduct be transferred into the proposed regulations
- suggests the number of seine net shots be restricted to a given number per day (e.g. two shots per 24-hour period)
- fishers should be restricted to operating one set of fishing gear at any given time (particularly mesh nets, seine nets and long-lines)
- the soak time for mesh nets should be restricted to a given time period (e.g. a maximum of six hours)
- nets should be retrieved without the aid of mechanical devices such as winches or spoolers
- restrictions should be placed on the depth at which nets should be set
- believes a governance committee should be appointed to approve the gear types permitted in Corner Inlet.

The VFA is working with Seafood Industry Victoria and Corner Inlet fishers on ways to improve management of the Corner Inlet fishery and will consider each of the suggestions raised in response to the RIS as part of these discussions. SIV recommended that changes are not made to this fishery until these discussions have occurred. The VFA is also of the view that the introduction of VMS technology will significantly improve the management of this fishery and so has not pursued immediate regulatory changes to address the issues raised at this point in time. The VFA commends the initiatives taken by Corner Inlet commercial fishers to ensure their fisheries is managed in a sustainable, safe and responsible manner.

2.11 Ocean Fishery Access Licences

Believes that OFAL licences should be transferable or saleable.

There are currently over 150 OFAL holders who are permitted to take a range of species using multiple gear types. There are also no restrictions on the number or amount of fish that can be taken under this licence class. These arrangements represent a significant risk to the resource, and fishing under this licence class needs to be monitored and managed carefully. The majority of OFAL licences are unused, which has enabled fishing under this licence class to occur without any major implications to the sustainability of fish stocks. Enabling transferability of OFALs could result in re-activation of the unused licences and a significant increase in commercial fishing effort along the Victorian coast. This could result in overfishing or localised depletion of fish stocks. Hence, the VFA does not support transferability of this licence class

2.13 Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

Suggests using mobile phone tracking instead of VMS.

Proposed regulation 468 will require vessels operating within a fishery requiring VMS to be fitted with a device known as an automatic location communicator (ALC), of a type that is approved by the VFA. The ALC is used to track the location of a boat by transmitting information such as the geographical position, course and speed of the boat. The VFA is currently working with industry to determine the approved type(s) of ALCs that will be permitted for use in Victoria. As part of this process, the VFA has committed to purchasing and activating the VMS equipment to be used in

fisheries which are not currently required to have it and is considering a number of potential ALC systems that could be used to track vessels. Mobile phone coverage cannot be guaranteed across the Victorian coastline which can result in coverage 'blackspots' and this will be a key consideration when deciding which system(s) will be used.

SIV survey

5. You answered 'no' to supporting these measures being implemented in Regulations.

Are there any of these measures you support on their own?

I support that Seine net shots are limited to a maximum of 2 shots in any 24 hour period (midnight to midnight) commencing at 5pm Sunday to midnight Friday. To simplify enforcement - that a Seine Net shot starts from the commencement of shooting the net.

I support one type of fishing gear (ie: mesh nets, seine net, longline or hoop nets) is allowed in the water at any given time. Not a combination of gear.

I do not support any further regulation being applied to restrict effort.

6. What impact would these measures have on your business?

The more detail you can provide to assist the SIV Board in understanding your views will be greatly appreciated.

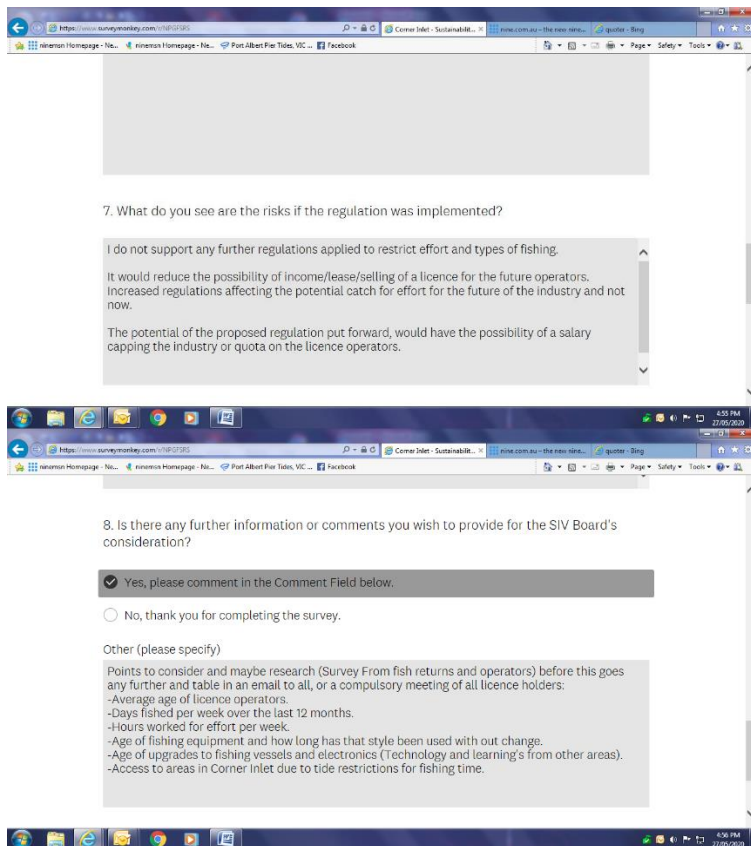
Would reduce my catch (please indicate in the comment box a rough amount of catch reduction).

Reduced catch would reduce my income (please indicated in comment box the estimated income reduction).

Would significantly affect my business model (please provide further insight in comment box).

Other (please specify)

Reduce catch by 50%
Reduce catch income by 33%
Business model would change due to opportunities missed on types of fishing.



I am a member of the Victorian food service community and supporter of the Australian Marine Conservation Society's GoodFish sustainable seafood program. Please find my submission in favour of the full implementation of Fisheries (Corner Inlet Fishery) Notice 2020. Hogget Kitchen values working so closely with the fisherman in corner Inlet and knowing exactly what fish species come out of the water and straight to our customers and Gippsland community. Sustainability is key to our ecosystem we care so much for. We not only send you this on behalf of our business, but for those in our community who appreciate having access to such a high- quality product that would not be possible without the already high sustainability standards in place by our fisherman that these regulations would ensure to protect. The Notice involves the regulatory implementation of key elements of what has been a voluntary industry code of practice to secure sustainable management of the fishery by limiting take of target species. In our view these measures (including limiting seine net shots to two per day, and a requirement to only deploy one type of fishing gear at a time) are a simple and precautionary way to protect the sustainability of the resource and therefore the economic viability of the fishery. Seafood caught in the Corner Inlet Fishery is prized by chefs, and the Victorian public in the Melbourne and wider Victorian market as a local, sustainable and high-quality supply of desirable fish species. The fishery is managed and monitored using basic but effective tools that have been substantially supported by voluntary practices used by fishers that constrain catch and effort. These have been committed to and abided by the majority of License Holders and are the focus of the regulatory changes proposed in the Fisheries (Corner Inlet Fishery) Notice 2020. Implementing these measures in regulation will, in our view, support:

- The reputation and value of the fishery to consumers and chefs;

- The social license to operate the fishery within the wider community;
- The protection and sustainability of fishery and environmental values of Corner Inlet.

Kind Regards,
Trevor Perkins