

RE: Consultation on proposed 2024-5 TACC for the Octopus Fishery (Eastern Zone)



Matt Wassnig
To: Joanne E Klemke (VFA)
Cc: Melissa Schubert (VFA); Luke Osullivan (VFA)

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Thu 6/06/2024 10:05 AM

Hi Joanne,

I hope this finds you well. Advising that SIV has written to licence holders in the Octopus Fishery (Eastern Zone) regarding the proposed roll over of the current TAC and has not received any objections.

SIV would like to express our appreciation to the VFA for listening and reacting to the request for additional operators on each licence. It demonstrates consideration of the practicalities surrounding each fishery. It is understood that only one operator (entity holding the logbook) can be active at a time.

We would like to see the following matters be given further consideration to enhance environmental stewardship of the resource by (a) preventing octopus being caught twice (end/start of season), and (b) investigating the commercial feasibility of dispersing catch effort over a larger area.

- a) Greater flexibility in catching slightly over quota to allow the last line of pots for the fishing year to be pulled without any need to release a volume of product to be caught again next season. Suggestion to increase the current 20kg leeway to 5% of quota. Any volume of catch over allocated quota would be removed from the total allowed in the next fishing year.
- b) An appropriate volume of additional 'experimental quota' so that licence holders can justify spending time/effort/cost looking for new viable fishing grounds. CPUE data from areas not previously fished would need to be kept separate and not impact stock estimates or TAC calculations.

In 2023 the VFA held a meeting with licence holders in Lakes Entrance to review data, present a proposed TAC for the new fishing year and discuss opportunities to improve management of the fishery. A meeting in 2025 will be important to review the 7 years of available CPUE data and determine whether there is sufficient evidence to allow a sustainable increase in TAC.

Kind regards,
Matt



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