

Fisheries (Gummy and School Shark) Notice 2021

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

I have decided to implement the Fisheries (Gummy and School Shark) Notice 2021.

This Notice continues measures that were introduced through the Fisheries (Gummy and School Shark) Notice 2020.

These measures support continued implementation of the augmented commercial possession limit for gummy and school sharks - which provides for more fresh, locally caught seafood for the Victorian public to enjoy.

Under the augmented possession limit, eligible commercial fishers can take, possess or land up to 5 gummy and school shark (combined) on any one day, of which no more than one may be a school shark.

The following key measures - continued through this Notice - will maintain community confidence that catch of these shark will continue to be effectively monitored and managed within the 40 tonne bycatch limit, which is set in our agreement with the Commonwealth under the Offshore Constitutional Settlement.

- Holders of Ocean, Trawl (Inshore), Rock Lobster and Giant Crab Fishery Access Licences are eligible for a licence endorsement to access the augmented possession limit. For non-endorsed licence holders in these fisheries, the possession limit for gummy and school shark is a total combined number of 2.
- Endorsement holders are required to provide a pre-landing report to the VFA before landing any shark unless a vessel monitoring system is in place.
- A closed season may be implemented by the VFA if required to manage commercial catch within the 40 tonne limit, supported by a 36 tonne 'trigger' limit system.

Alongside the Notice, the VFA has also introduced shark discard reporting logbooks for endorsement holders.



Travis Dowling
Chief Executive Officer
Victorian Fisheries Authority

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