



DRAFT FISHERIES (VICTORIAN PIFI) NOTICE 2017 - Information Page

The proposed management arrangements provide an opportunity for commercial fishers to access the fishery in a sustainable manner until the Victorian Pifi Fishery Management Plan is finalised and implemented.

These are interim arrangements only. Management arrangements, and the determination of longer term access entitlements in the fishery, will be guided by the Plan, which is currently under development.

The draft Notice proposes to implement the following management arrangements for commercial pifi harvest in Victoria:

1. Opening marine waters to commercial pifi harvest except for a specified closed area in Venus Bay (to minimise conflict with recreational pifi harvest);
2. Specifying a zero catch limit for all Fishery Access Licence (FAL) holders with an authorisation to fish for pifi, except for FAL holders who are issued with an Endorsement Notice;
3. For FAL holders who are issued with Endorsement Notice, specifying:
 - a. a catch limit of 150kgs per day/trip (5 bags), and 8 fishing days per calendar month;
 - b. a minimum size limit of 35mm;
 - c. a requirement to prior-report, and post-report, fishing activity; and
 - d. a requirement to harvest pifi via one of three access points in Discovery Bay. No access points are specified for other parts of the State.

The three access points specified for Discovery Bay are the Nelson Ocean Beach Walking Track, the Noble Rocks Walking Track and the Swan Lake Access Track.

In addition, there will be total catch limits for two areas in Discovery Bay: 40 tonne from the South Australia/Victoria border to Sutton Rocks, and 60 tonne from Sutton Rocks to the northern border of Discovery Bay Marine National Park.

In order to qualify for an Endorsement Notice, FAL holders must have harvested 1 tonne, or more, between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2016, in any part of the State. In order to meet the aim of a sustainable, viable, small-scale, commercial pifi fishery, it is necessary to restrict the number of participants as there is considerable latent effort in the Ocean Fishery Access Licence class.