

Commercial Fishing Guide

Abalone Supplement

Incorporating information relevant to Abalone Fishery Access Licence

Edition 2 2023

DISCLAIMER

This publication may be of assistance to you, but the Victorian Fisheries Authority, State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequences which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

This publication is a guide only, it does not replace the *Fisheries Act 1995*, the *Fisheries Regulations 2019* or other Acts and subordinate legislation applying to, or affecting, commercial fishing.

Copies of the Act and Regulations can also be downloaded from www.legislation.vic.gov.au

This guide provides a summary of the law at the time of publication and cannot be used as a defence in Court.

Fishing laws change from time to time. It is your responsibility to ensure you are acting within the law.

It is the responsibility of fishers to be aware of any changes that are made to fisheries rules and regulations. You can do this by:

- routinely checking the Fisheries Notices on Victorian Fisheries Authority website at www.vfa.vic.gov.au/operational-policy/legislation-andregulation/fisheries-notices
- in respect to abalone fishing, contact the abalone fishery manager or
- discuss any queries with your local Fisheries Officers

Published by Victorian Fishery Authority

2023 (Edition 2)

© VFA

For more information contact Customer Service Centre on 186 386

CONTENTS

Disclaimer	b
Abalone Supplement	1
Legal framework	1
Legislation	1
Management plan	1
General information	1
Definitions	2
Abalone fishery	6
Initial Abalone Quota Order	6
Management zones	6
Spatial management units	7
Limited entry	7
Abalone Licences	7
Minimum quota holding	7
Tracking quota	8
Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC)	8
Exceeding quota allocation - less than 10 kilograms	8
Fishing areas summary	9
Licencing	10
Licence renewal	10
Abalone Quota Management System (AQMS)	10
Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS)	11
Fishing restrictions	12
Port Phillip Bay greenlip restrictions	12
Area closures	12
Harvesting abalone	13
Harvest rules for abalone across zones	13
Daylight harvest only	13
Harvest rules for Blacklip Abalone across size zones	13
Harvest rules for Mallacoota Airport Area	13
Boats are not to be used as a base for underwater diving	14
Minimum legal size	14
Measuring legal size	14
Divers must carry a measuring tool	14
Returning fish to water	14
Shucked abalone is not permitted	15
Abalone must be placed in sealed bins	15
Bin Tags	15
Abalone bins	16
Sealing bins with bin tags	16
Fish must remain on the boat until the place of landing	16
Reporting biosecurity risks	17
Monitoring health	17

Landing abalone	17
Landing at specified port or mooring	19
Consigning abalone	19
Receipts and Fish Movement Records	20
Abalone licence holders	21
Fish movement records	21
Record keeping requirements	22
Emergency Contacts	23
Key VFA Contact	24
Appendix 1: Authorised ports and moorings for	
landing abalone	26

ABALONE SUPPLEMENT

This guide provides a summary and clarifies the specific management arrangements that apply to Commercial Fishery Licences, relevant to the abalone fishery. This supplement is to be read in conjunction with the *Commercial Fishers' User Guide*.

Legislation

- Fisheries Act 1995
- Fisheries Regulations 2019
- Fisheries (Fees, Royalties and Levies) Regulations 2017.

(i) Information

- www.legislation.vic.gov.au
- Current fisheries notices can be found at www.vfa.vic. gov.au/operational-policy/ legislation-and-regulation

Management Victorian Wild Harvest Abalone Fishery Management Plan

- https://vfa.vic.gov.au/__data/ assets/pdf_file/0016/341134/ Victorian-Wild-Harvest-Abalone-FMP_March-2015.pdf
- https://vfa.vic.gov.au/ operational-policy/fisheriesmanagement-plans/abalonemanagement-plan-summary

(i) Information

Abalone Commercial Fishery www.vfa.vic.gov.au/commercial-fishing/abalone

Legal framework

Legislation

Legislative requirements for the Abalone fishery are detailed in the Fisheries Act 1995, the Fisheries Regulations 2019 and Fisheries (Fees, Royalties and Levies) Regulations 2017. Fisheries Notices may also regulate abalone fishing, supplementing or varying the regulations.

It is your responsibility to familiarise yourselves with these documents and regularly check if any changes have been made to the management arrangements of the fishery.

Management plan

The Victorian Government's primary objective for the abalone fishery is to optimise its long-term value for the Victorian community, in accordance with the objectives and provisions specified in the *Fisheries Act 1995*.

The Victorian Wild Harvest Abalone Fishery Management Plan (the Plan) specifies the objectives, strategies and actions for managing the fishery. The major focus of the current management plan is to rebuild the abalone biomass through the implementation and progressive refinement of revised harvest strategies, with new decision rules that provide clear guidance for future management actions and which take account of the circumstances in each zone of the fishery.

The Plan will undertake future review to ensure alignment with primary objectives are maintained.

General information

Further information can be found on the Abalone Commercial fishing page of the Victorian Fisheries Authority's (VFA) website.

DEFINITIONS

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019 Part 1 Preliminary Regulation 5

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019 Part 8 Abalone Regulation 312

Abalone Quota Management System

The Abalone Quota Management System (AQMS) is an audit system for tracking quota.

Abalone label

An abalone label is the mark or label that must accompany packaged abalone.

Abalone tool

An abalone tool is a blunt lever with rounded ends and does not include a screwdriver or a knife. Abalone tools must be used to take abalone. Catch bags can also be used.

Biosecurity

Preventative measures to reduce risks associated with the transmission of diseases, pests and exotic species.

Bin insert

A bin insert is a type of non-absorbent material that is used as protective layer when packaging live abalone.

Bin tags

Bin tags are individually numbered tags that the VFA issues to each licence. These tags are used to secure individual bins of abalone on landing so that abalone cannot be added to or taken out of the bin prior to transiting to the processor.



Bin tags

Commercial abalone reef area

A commercial abalone reef area means the areas of marine water within the commercial abalone fishery that contains abalone habitat.

Commercial Fishers Duty Officer

A Victorian Fisheries Authority staff member is always available to take enquiries from fishers and processors if problems occur with FisherWeb or Vic-eCatch or if they seek clarification about a specific regulation or process (phone: 0418 519 215).

Deckhands

Deckhands do not dive for abalone. The role of a deckhand is to assist the diver. Deckhands do not have to be listed on the Licence and are referred to as 'crew' under the regulations.

Divers/licenced operators

Divers collect abalone underwater. Divers must be listed as an "Operator" on the Licence.

FisherWeb

FisherWeb is web-based platform where licence holders and operators can view a variety of information related to quota, spatial management, and some transactions. The viewable content for each user will vary depending on their particular licence or endorsement.

Fisheries Notices

Fisheries Notices are an important management tool that allow the Victorian Fisheries Authority to implement fisheries management measures promptly and in response to emerging fisheries issues.

Fisheries Notices contain new rules or conditions of operating. It is the responsibility of all divers, operators and licence holders to be aware of changes to rules enacted through Fisheries Notices.

Fisheries Notification Service

The Fisheries Notification Service means the telephone service or internet application (e.g., Vic-eCatch) through which licence holders:

- provide electronic catch and effort records
- provide notifications of post fishing activities.

Through the telephone service or internet application the VFA may:

- confirm the receipt of information provided by the licence holder
- provide information about fish consignment and time of landing to processors.

i Information

All current Fishery Notices are listed on this site https://vfa.vic.gov.au/ operational-policy/legislationand-regulation/fisheries-notices

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 2 Commercial fishery
licences
Regulation 319
Schedule 28

Landed

Landed means the place where abalone are taken ashore or removed from a boat onto any man-made fixed structure (such as a pier, jetty, wharf or an artificial extension of the shore). In practical terms for commercial abalone fishers, this includes removing a boat from the water with abalone onboard. In this instance, the abalone have been *landed*.

In the abalone fishery, abalone can only be landed at the places specified in regulation 319 (Schedule 28), which are listed on page 30 of this supplement.

In addition, abalone may be at other place(s) ONLY if authorised by the VFA.

Net weight

In the abalone fishery, net weight means:

- abalone in shell the weight of the whole abalone including the viscera (the internal organs of the abalone), shell and any growth (algae, etc.) attached to the shell
- shucked abalone (meat) the weight of the abalone meat not including any brine or other fluid.
- abalone in cans
 the drained weight of the abalone meat in the can.

Operations Duty Officer

A fisheries officer - Operations Duty **Officer** - is always available to take calls from fishers so they can:

- report a protected species interaction;
- request permission to fish without an operational VMS;
- to notify the VFA of a recreational fishing trip in a commercial fishing boat
- or for any other instruction stated in individual licence or permit conditions.

To contact the Operations Duty Officer phone 0419 844 781.

Quota period

The quota periods within the abalone fishery are for one year and are currently:

- Eastern Abalone Zone 1 April to 31 March;
- Central Abalone Zone 01 July to 30 June; and
- Western Abalone Zone 01 July to 30 June.

Quota unit balance

The quota unit balance is the amount of abalone that is available to be taken on an Abalone Licence. This amount is calculated by subtracting the amount of abalone caught on a licence from the amount of quota allocated to the licence.

Legislation detail

Fisheries Act 1995 Definition Provisions Section 4(1)

Process

Process means shell, skin, shuck, fillet, dismember, mince, open, cut, break, cook, pack, chill, freeze, can, preserve or otherwise treat abalone.

Reef area code

A commercial abalone reef area code is a code the VFA assigns to a designated area of abalone habitat.

Spatial Management Unit (SMU)

A geographically identified management area, made up of a series of Reef Codes, within a fishery management zone.

Size zone

A specific unit of area (delineated by Reef Codes, Spatial Management Units and /or georeferenced coordinates) within a fishery or zone of a fishery that has assigned a specific minimum legal size.

Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC)

The weight of abalone that may be taken by Abalone Licence holders within the annual quota period.

Vic-eCatch

Vic-eCatch is an electronic application which is used to report fisheries information to the VFA. The app has several purposes, including:

- report catch and effort data
- send post fishing notifications
- allocate catch to quota
- create and send catch disposal record
- view quota balances.

Vic-eCatch Portal

This a web-based portal that allow processors to receive consignments of abalones. Contact the Abalone fishery manager for access to this portal.

(i) Information

The Quick Reference Guide for Vic-eCatch for abalone and helpful videos explaining app features can be accessed here https://vfa.vic.gov.au/commercial-fishing/featured/vic-ecatch-support.

ABALONE FISHERY

The state of Victoria owns the wild abalone resource on behalf of the Victorian community.

The Victorian Government manages the commercial harvest of abalone through the allocation of:

- an Abalone Fishery Access Licence (Abalone Licence) and
- individual abalone quota units.

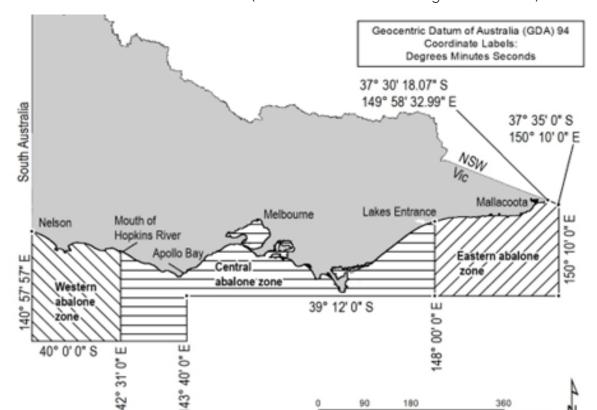
Initial Abalone Quota Order

The Initial Abalone Quota Order (IAQO) outlines the management arrangements of the abalone fishery in Victoria. It establishes the nature of quota management applied to the fishery in addition to other prescriptive requirements made under Section 66C of the *Fisheries Act 1995*.

Management zones

The Commercial Abalone Fishery is based on the blacklip species and is divided into three management zones:

- Western Abalone Zone (all marine waters west of longitude 142° 31′ East)
- Central Abalone Zone (all marine waters between longitude 143° 31′ East and longitude 148° East)
- **Eastern Abalone Zone** (all marine waters east of longitude 148° East).



Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 1 Preliminary
Regulations 5
Schedule 4

Spatial management units

Spatial management units (SMU) are large blocks or areas along the coastline used to manage the fishery at finer geographic scales, particularly to address biological aspects of the fishery.

Within a fishing zone, spatial management units are delineated by georeferenced coordinates and further broken up into Reef Codes, which can provide for finer spatial management depending on the zone of operation.

Spatial management units and reef codes can have assigned:

- catch targets, thresholds and limits, and
- a specific legal minimum size.

NOTE: The composition of reef codes and extent of spatial management units vary depending on the management function.

Limited entry

The Commercial Abalone Fishery is a limited-entry fishery.

There are 71 Abalone Licences in the Victorian Abalone Fishery:

- 14 in the Western abalone Zone
- 34 in the Central abalone Zone
- 23 in the Eastern abalone Zone.

Abalone can only be taken from waters in the zone specified on an Abalone Licence.

Abalone Licences

An Abalone Licence entitles the holder to:

- take abalone for sale
- use or possess commercial abalone equipment
- pack abalone into bins
- have other persons carry out activities authorised under the Licence in the zone specified on the Licence.

Licence holders must be Australian resident individuals, single corporations or a co-operative. Licence holders cannot be a partnership or a consortium.

Licence holders / operators must consign their catch to the holder of a Fish Receiver (Abalone) Licence, often called a processor.

Minimum quota holding

A minimum of five blacklip abalone quota units must be always nominated to an Abalone Licence.

There is no limit on the maximum number of quota units that can be held by an individual or on a licence.

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 2 Commercial fishery
licences
Regulations 22 and 23
Schedule 17

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019
Part 8
Regulations 307, 308 and 309
Part 2 Commercial fishery
licences
Regulation 43

(i) Information

For more information on the management of individual abalone quota units, including holdings, please

 contact the Commercial Fishers Duty Officer

Tracking quota

As wild abalone are taken under the authority of an Abalone Licence, the net weight of the catch is subtracted from that Licence's quota balance.

When all of a Licence holder's quota is caught, the Licence holder must:

 acquire more quota units (by completing a Form 28; https://vfa.vic.gov.au/commercial-fishing/forms-licences-permits-boats)

or

stop fishing until the start of the next quota period.

Before the next quota year, Licence holders must ensure:

- their Abalone Licence has been renewed, and
- quota has been allocated to this Licence.

Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC)

TACC is the primary method used to manage the Abalone Fishery.

A TACC is set annually for each fishing zone for a 12-month period (the quota period). This period is 01 April to 31 March in the Eastern Abalone Zone and 01 July to 30 June in the Central and Western Abalone Zones.

For each quota period and each zone, the following are created:

- 1. a Further Quota Order sets the TACC and quantity of abalone comprising an Individual Abalone Quota Unit (IAQO); and
- 2. a Fisheries Notice sets spatial management measures and size limits.

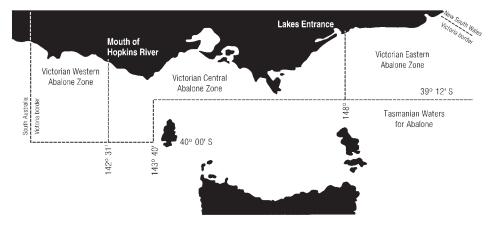
Exceeding quota allocation – less than 10 kilograms

A provision of the IAQO allows for a licence holder/operator to exceed the quota allocated to their licence by an amount not exceeding 10 kilograms on the last day of their fishing activity. This provision does not apply if the quota balance is zero (or less) prior to undertaking activity.

This over-catch provision must be deducted from the quota allocation applying to that licence in the following quota period.

If a quota allocation is exceeded by an amount greater than 10 kilograms in a quota period, it will constitute an offence under the *Fisheries Act 1995*.

Fishing areas summary



Commercial Fishery				
	Western Zone	Central Zone	Eastern Zone	
Zone boundaries (Figure 1)	South Australian border to Longitude 142°31′E and south to Latitude 40°S	Longitude 142°31′E to Longitude 148°E and south to Latitude 39°12′S	Longitude 148°E to New South Wales border and south to Latitude 39°12′S	
Maximum number of licences	14	34	23	
Number of backlip individual quota units	280	680	460	
Number of greenlip individual quota units	14	34	0	
Maximum number of licences per boat	Not limited			
Minimum quota holding per licence	5 Units Blacklip			
Maximum quota holding per licence/ individual	No maximum			

LICENCING

Both the Abalone Fishery Access Licence are issued for one year and must be renewed prior to expiry:

- Abalone Fishery Access Licence Holders (Eastern Zone) have up until 31 March to renew their licence.
- Abalone Fishery Access Licence Holders (Western Zone) and Abalone Fishery Access Licence Holders (Central Zone) have up until 30 June.

The licence cannot be used until it is renewed.

Licence renewal

There is an automatic right of annual renewal of commercial fishery licences and quota units, subject to the licence holder:

- applying to renew the Licence (which contains a fit and proper declaration)
 and
- paying the applicable levies.

The VFA sends out information relating to the renewal of a Licence and quota. Payment must be received before commencement of the quota period. It is illegal to dive on an expired Licence.

Licence holder and all people who operate on the Licence are required to be fit and proper.

Abalone Quota Management System (AQMS)

The AQMS is used to:

- track abalone transactions from the point of landing through to point of export or domestic retail sale
- monitor the compliance of Licence holders against their quota allocations
- monitor inventories of stock held by abalone processors.

The AQMS requires:

- abalone be transported whole from place of landing to processors
- abalone be transported in sealed bins with bin tags attached
- abalone to arrive at an authorised abalone processor within 24 hours of landing
- the processor to report transaction details to Vic-eCatch no later than 25 hours after landing.

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulation 2019
Part 17 General
Part 2 Commercial fisheries
licence
Regulation 77
Part 17 General
Regulation 469–477

(i) Information

For more information relating to its use, please refer to the Regulatory Guide for VMS at

- https://vfa.vic.gov.au/__data/ assets/pdf_file/0004/539401/ RG-4.2-Vessel-Monitoring-Requirements-July-2020.pdf
- https://Vfa.vic.gov.au/ commercial-fishing/vesselmonitoring-systems

VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEMS (VMS)

- VMS must be installed on all vessels listed on the licence.
- VMS unit must be turned on when the vessel leaves the Port on a commercial fishing trip
- VMS unit can be turned off when the vessel returns to Port.

NOTE: VMS units do not have to be turned on when the vessel is not commercially fishing (for e.g. refuelling or traveling to a slipway).

If the VMS system does not operate or malfunctions:

- before a fishing trip commences, fishers can request permission of the VFA to fish and use a manual reporting system.
- during a fishing trip, the fisher must immediately contact the Operations Duty Officer.

VFA contact details

If you have any questions about VMS or its administration contact:

 Commercial Licencing unit (business hours) 03 8392 6860

If your VMS is not working and you are seeking approval to manually report during your fishing trip contact:

Operations Duty Officer (24 hours) 0419 844 781

Installing VMS on your Vessel

You must:

- ensure the VMS device is of a type approved by the VFA.
- send the Communication notice to the VFA within 5 days of its installation (and before the boat is used for fishing).
 - This notice advises the VFA of the method of communication with the VMS (mobile/Satellite phone) and its number.
- ensure the VMS is not interfered with, tampered with or damaged.

Note: Vessels used in abalone fishing operations must be registered with the VFA (see Commercial Fishing Guide page 11).

Fisheries Regulation 2019 Part 8 Abalone Regulation 299

Port Phillip Bay greenlip restrictions

Greenlip abalone cannot be harvested from Port Phillip Bay, under an Abalone Fishery Access Licence unless a permit is issued permitting this activity.

Area closures

Spatial management in each zone aims to ensure catches are maintained near to targets set during annual quota workshops with industry. As part of this process, Optimal Targets are set for each SMU or reef code in some circumstances, flanked by lower and upper thresholds and limits. This framework aims at maintaining catches as near to Optimal Targets as possible to best inform fisheries stock assessments.

If an Upper Limit is exceeded, there are different provisions in place depending on the zone. These can vary from industry driven voluntary closure to immediate legislated closure under a Fisheries Notice. If an area is closed, industry participants will be notified accordingly. Participants have access to relevant information, including FisherWeb, to inform diving practices prior to harvest.

Divers must not:

take abalone from closed waters.

i.e. divers must not take abalone from any spatial management unit or reef code for which an upper limit has been reached and a legislative closure applies

NOTE: It is suggested that divers review catch levels prior to fishing via FisherWeb, or other system endorsed at a future time by the VFA, to ensure fishing operations are not undertaken in spatial management areas or reef codes that have exceeded upper limits;

- possess abalone in or on closed waters unless:
 - the person possessing the abalone is on board a boat underway and travelling by the most direct route to reach:
 - a point of landing or
 - an open specified water for the purpose of commercial abalone diving.

Fisheries Regulation 2019
Part 8 Abalone
Regulation 314
(referring to actions required by regulations 317, 318, 319 and 320)

Regulation detail

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulations 2019 Part 8 Abalone Regulation 298

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulation 2019 Part 8 Abalone Regulation 313

HARVESTING ABALONE

Harvest rules for abalone across zones

If a Licence holder is authorised to take abalone from two abalone zones, the licence holder must ensure that abalone taken from one zone is landed and all notifications have been made to the VFA relating to this catch **BEFORE** any abalone can be taken from another abalone zone.

Daylight harvest only

The Abalone Fishery operates only from sunrise to sunset. No fishing can take place at night.

Harvest rules for Blacklip Abalone across size zones

Abalone divers:

- must not take abalone under an Abalone Licence from more than one size zone on any fishing trip
- must not possess abalone taken from more than one size zone on board any boat being used under an Abalone Licence
- must not land abalone taken under an Abalone Licence from more than one size zone.

Harvest rules for Mallacoota Airport Area

The five reef codes that comprise Mallacoota Airport Area have two harvesting strategies:

- Collection at a minimum size of 120 mm; or
- Collection at a minimum size of 110 mm.

These strategies are applied in the same area, and are differentiated by using unique reef codes for two sizes

- Reef codes for collecting 120 mm minimum size are 24.10; 24.11; 24.15; 24.16; and 24.21
- Reef codes for collecting 110 mm minimum size are 25.10, 25.11, 25.15, 25.16 and 25.21

A licence condition in the Eastern Abalone Zone requires divers to report their intention to fish at the smaller size limit in this area to the Commercial Fishers Duty Officer (phone: 0418 519 215) before launching and starting fishing operations.

Collecting at the smaller size limit requires fishers to use the correct reef codes for the 110 mm size when reporting. When collecting at the smaller size limit, fishing activity at other reef codes is not possible.

Abalone taken at the small size limit from the Mallacoota Airport Area must not exceed the total annual catch allocation listed on each Eastern Abalone Zone Licence (4,750 kg).

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulation 2019 Part 8 Abalone Regulation 311

(i) Information

Fishery Notices are posted on this site

 https://vfa.vic.gov.au/ operational-policy/legislationand-regulation/fisheriesnotices

Boats are not to be used as a base for underwater diving

Licence holder must ensure that any boat used to take abalone is only used by people authorised on the licence and only for the take of abalone.

The boat cannot be used as a base for underwater diving operations for people not listed on the licence.

Minimum legal size

The commercial minimum legal size for abalone varies across zones, spatial management units and other management strategies.

Commercial size limits are set annually by Fisheries Notice. Size limits are shown on zonal reef code maps provided to divers and outlined on the VFA website. Whilst these are generally consistent, they can be subject to change.

Licence holders and operators should make sure they understand the size limits applying to their proposed fishing area before they undertake fishing activity.

Size limits are detailed in the appropriate Fisheries Notice for each zone, published prior to the commencement of each quota period. (See weblink in information box in the side pane).

Measuring legal size

The size of abalone is measured across the widest part of the shell (regardless of whether the shell is broken or not).



Abalone measuring diagram

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulation 2019 Part 8 Abalone Regulation 316

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulation 2019 Part 2 Commercial fishery licences Regulation 61

Divers must carry a measuring tool

Divers must carry a measuring tool when taking abalone.

Returning fish to water

Divers must immediately return abalone to the water, with the least amount of injury or damage, in the following circumstances:

- The abalone are under the size limit
- The abalone is not required or unwanted
- Any other circumstance whereby the diver has no authority to retain the abalone.

It is the diver's responsibility to ensure they measure abalone before taking them. A diver commits the offence of taking undersize abalone the moment an undersize abalone is placed in a catch bag or is not immediately placed back on the reef: see Fisheries Act 1995 section 68A(2)(b), (3)(a), (5) and section 11(4).

The VFA allows for a deckhand to measure all abalone coming out of a catch bag as an added precaution to confirm measuring done by the diver under water.

To comply with Regulation 61, the deckhand should alert the diver immediately to the presence of undersize abalone amongst his catch so that the abalone can be returned immediately to the approximate reef location from where taken.

Throwing abalone over the side of the boat is not returning the fish to the water with the 'least possible injury or damage' due to the risk of predation and/or final resting location on the bottom.

Accumulating undersize abalone on a vessel whilst waiting for the diver to surface does not fit within the definition of 'immediately'. A mechanism needs to be incorporated into harvesting activity to relay unwanted abalone back to a diver underwater.

An effective system of double-checking sizes by the deckhand and immediately returning fish to the reef by the diver will be taken into account by Fisheries Officers if any undersize abalone are detected in a diver's catch-bag before the deckhand measures the fish. The number of undersize abalone in the catch-bag will also be taken into account.

A strict approach will be taken on:

- undersize fish found in fish-bins or elsewhere on the boat, ie where the deckhand has had the opportunity to measure the fish
- the deckhand's tossing abalone over the side of the boat.

Shucked abalone is not permitted

The licence holder/operator must not:

- shuck abalone or
- possess shucked abalone or
- allow any person, acting on their behalf, to shuck abalone or possess shucked abalone.

Abalone must be placed in sealed bins

Bin Tags

Bin tags can only be possessed by:

- abalone licence holder/operator
- fish receiver (abalone) licence
- people who use or possess a bin tag in connection with conveyance, sale, marketing or transport of abalone in accordance with the Act and the Regulations.

Bin tags must not be altered or written on without the permission from the VFA. The VFA will consider each request and may give this permission, in writing, if it considers the request necessary or reasonable in the particular circumstances.

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulation 2019 Part 8 Abalone Regulation 315

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulation 2019 Part 8 Abalone Regulations 334, 335 The written permission will include:

- the period during which the authority applies
- the circumstances in which the authority applies
- any conditions which apply and must be followed.

Unused bin tags must be returned to the VFA within 48 hours after the date of:

- transfer
- cancellation
- suspension or

Abalone bins

expiry of the licence, unless otherwise authorised by the VFA.

Regulation detail

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulation 2019

Part 8 Abalone Regulation 336

Fisheries Regulation 2019 Part 8 Abalone Regulation 317(1)

The only packaging allowed in abalone bins are bin-inserts (see definitions).

Blacklip and greenlip abalone cannot be placed in the same bin.

Whilst individual practices vary amongst divers, one successful strategy includes ensuring abalone from different reef codes are clearly separated in different bins. This assists with the accurate reporting of catch at the conclusion of diving.

Sealing bins with bin tags

Once fishing is completed abalone must not be moved from a boat until sealed with bin tags. In this process 1 or 2 tags can be used to attach the lid to the bin so that:

- so the lid cannot be removed without breaking the bin tags, AND
- abalone cannot be added to OR removed from the bin without breaking the bin tags.

NOTE: The licence holder/operator must ensure that once the bins are sealed:

- 1. the bin tag(s) are not removed, damaged or broken
- 2. no abalone removed from or added to the bin.

Fish must remain on the boat until the place of landing

While at sea (in or on Victorian waters) the Licence holder/operator must ensure that:

- fish are not sold or removed (transferred) from the boat used under the licence to any other boat
- fish are not sold, transferred or delivered to another person at sea, whether on a boat or not.
- fish are not received at sea, whether on a boat or not.

NOTE: Abalone must be landed at the mooring and ports specified in Appendix 1.

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulation 2019
Part 8 Abalone
Regulations 317(2) and 318

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulation 2019
Part 2 Commercial fishery
licences
Regulation 70
Part 8 Abalone
Regulation 319(a)
Schedule 28

Reporting biosecurity risks

(i) Information

Biosecurity control measures https://vfa.vic.gov.au/ operational-policy/pests-anddiseases/abalone-disease/ biosecurity-control-measures

Monitoring health

It is important to be vigilant and monitor stocks for signs of disease or infection in order to minimise the risk of transmission of a potentially infectious disease.

If commercial divers encounter abalone that they suspect may be diseased or otherwise affected, they must report it immediately. If you see dead abalone, please report it immediately to the 24-hour Emergency Animal Disease Watch hotline on 1800 675 888.

Fishers encountering diseased abalone should take the following action:

- collect a sample of the suspect abalone and immediately cease fishing
- place the sample in a sealed plastic bag, add oxygen if available, label and keep on ice (if possible).
- call the Animal Disease Watch Hotline (phone: 1800 675 888) and provide the following information:
 - diver contact details
 - Reef Code and description of the area where the abalone was found (GPS coordinates and depth of water)
 - basis for suspecting disease (clinical signs, number of dead or dying abalone).

A Biosecurity Officer or other authorised official will contact you to collect the sample, as appropriate.

NOTE: Abalone shell and gut must not be put back into Victorian waters.

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulation 2019
Part 2 Commercial fishery
licences
Regulation 96
Part 8 Abalone
Regulations 319, 320, 321, 322

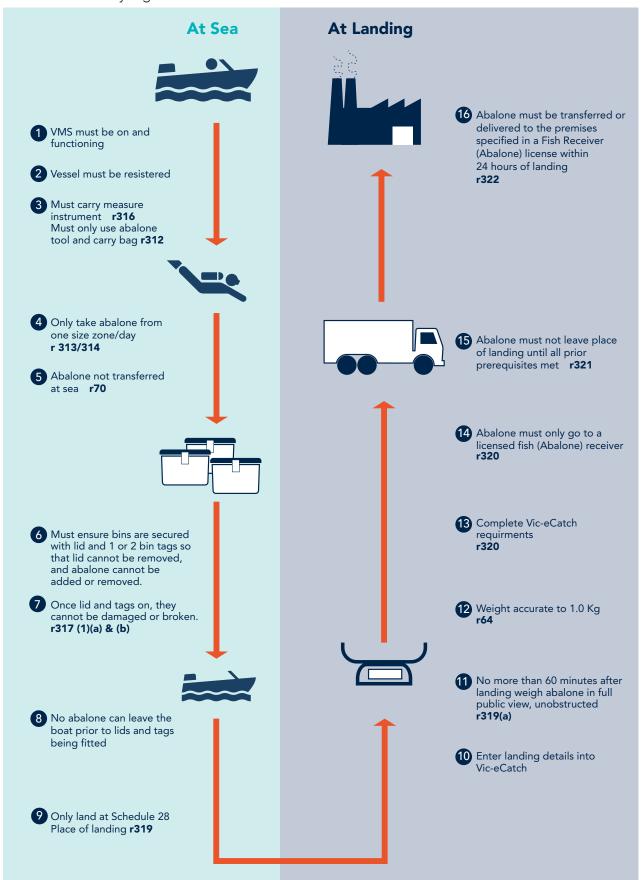
LANDING ABALONE

By following the instructions in the Vic-eCatch manual for abalone, fishers will automatically comply with the regulations relating to:

- reporting of catch and effort data
- appropriate notifications to the VFA
- consigning catch to processors

Completion of all Vic-eCatch requirements, will ensure that electronic records are forwarded and constitute a record of catch for both VFA and fisher purposes.

The diagram below summarises the regulations that apply to each stage of the landing process. It also summaries key regulations associated with the harvest of abalone.



Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulation 2019
Part 8: Abalone
Regulation 319
Part 2 Commercial fishery
licences
Regulation 64(1)

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulation 2019 Part 8: Abalone Regulation 321

Landing at specified port or mooring

Within 60 minutes of landing:

- abalone must be weighed in full public view, which is unobstructed
 - the process MUST be clearly visible and not blocked or concealed in any way
 - all weights are to be recorded within an accuracy of 1.0 kg.

NOTE: Until all the Vic-eCatch reporting has been completed, fishers must not allow their catch (abalone) to:

- to leave the place of landing
- to enter any premises on which fish is processed or held.

NOTE: Eastern Zone Abalone operators need to adhere to licence conditions relating to landing at port 190, Bastion Point

Consigning abalone

All abalone harvested under an Abalone Fisheries Access Licence MUST be consigned to the holder of a Fisheries Receiver (Abalone) Licence, otherwise known as a processor. There are some exemptions to this process, however these relate to specific permits or authorities granted by the VFA.

RECEIPTS AND FISH MOVEMENT RECORDS

To ensure the integrity of the commercial fish supply chain, FR(A)L holders (processors) must ensure:

- a receipt is issued for the amount of abalone that has been sold at the time of a sale; or
- a fish movement record is issued to account for the movement of fish outside a sale and for fish located on commercial premises.

The flowchart below shows the movement of abalone and subsequent receipting requirements for Fish Receiver (Abalone) Licence holders (*Processors*):

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulation 2019 Part 14 Fish Receipts and other documentation requirements Regulations 448–453

i Information

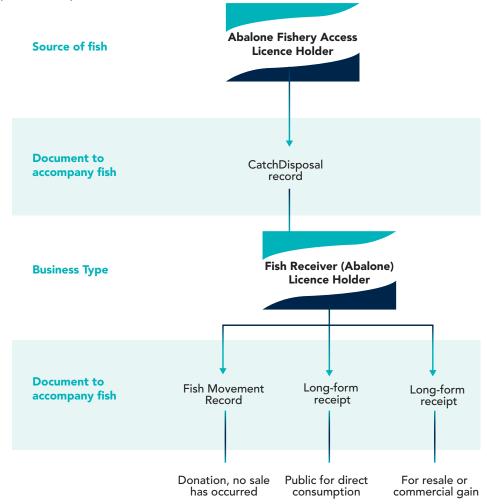
Safe and legal Seafood Receipt examples https://vfa.vic.gov.au/ enforcement/buy-safe-andlegal-seafood/receipt-examples

(i) Information

Abalone short-form receipts must contain all the information on a long-form receipt except for the name and address of the purchaser and the price per unit measure for each species

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulation 2019 Part 14 Fish Receipts and other documentation requirements Regulation 450(2) (2A) (2B)



NOTE: Long-form receipts can be completed in 2 stages.

- Stage 1: Licence holder fills in all of the required fields except for the fields
 - name and address of the purchaser,
 - price per unit measure (kilogram, packet, etc) for each species, and
 - total price paid for each species.

The receipt along with fish is given to a person solely for transportation or storage for later sale i.e. not a purchaser)

Stage 2: The seller of the fish, once a sale has been completed, must ensure these details are given to the purchaser of the fish.

Abalone licence holders

For Abalone licence holders, electronic records are generated by the ViceCatch app when they consign their catch to FR(A)L holders (Processors). This ensures transparency of all abalone between fishers and FR(A)L holders (*Processors*).

Processors

FR(A)L holders (Processors) are required to issue receipts for all abalone sold. The detail that must be included on receipts for abalone sales is prescribed in the Regulations (r.450(2)). This detail and examples of required receipts can be viewed at https://vfa.vic.gov.au/enforcement/buy-safe-and-legal-seafood/receipt-examples

NOTE: Abalone processor are exempt from sales receipt possession requirements when they receive abalone through the Vic-eCatch CDR process from the holder of an Abalone Licence

Outside this specific circumstance processors are required to issue receipts and have (possess) receipts for all product that leaves or enters the premises respectively.

Fish movement records

Fish movement records are used in circumstances where the Vic-eCatch process has not been utilised pursuant to regulatory requirements or a fish receipt has not been issued. This generally occurs when no sale has taken place and can include circumstances such as:

- when abalone are given to a transporter for delivery to market or coop where no sale has yet occurred – this would occur when abalone are transported between Processors for example; or
- when abalone are donated again, when no sale has occurred; or
- when the FR(A)L holder (Processor) has abalone or fish (other than that that accounted for through other regulated processes) on commercial premises before an appropriate fish receipt has been generated.

NOTE: The appropriate documentation (e.g. CDR, receipt, and/or fish movement record) is required to be kept to account for all fish purchased, possessed and/or held on the premises.

NOTE: Examples of Receipts and Fish Movement Records are available at https://vfa.vic.gov.au/enforcement/buy-safe-and-legal-seafood/receipt-examples

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulation 2019
Part 14 Fish Receipts and other documentation requirements
Regulation 450(2)

(i) Information

Safe and legal Seafood Receipt examples https://vfa.vic.gov.au/ enforcement/buy-safe-and-legalseafood/receipt-examples

Regulation detail

Fisheries Regulation 2019
Part 14 Fish Receipts and other documentation requirements
Regulations 448-453

Record keeping requirements

- A copy of each purchase, acquisition or sale record required by the Act and the Fisheries Regulations 2019 must be kept at the place where the fish are sold, received and possessed.
- If requested by an authorised Fisheries Officer, the person must present the record for inspection.
- All records must be kept for three years, be legible and in English. This can be in electronic format (such as emailed tax invoices), so long as a copy can be emailed or printed out at the time of request from a Fisheries Officer.
- Any person completing fisheries records must ensure that the information is not false or misleading. It is a serious offence under the Act to make or furnish false or misleading statement or documents.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Fisheries Victoria	
Commercial Fisheries Duty Officer	0418 519 215
Operations Duty Officer	0419 844 781
13FISH Offence Report Line	13 34 74
Agriculture Victoria	
24-hour Emergency Animal Disease Watch	1800 675 888
Lifesaving Victoria	
LSV Communications (for info on shark sightings, beach closures etc.)	13 SURF (13 7873)
Victoria Police	
Rescue Coordination Centre / Water Police	(03) 9399 7500
State Police Operations Centre (SPOC) (during business hours)	(03) 9247 6963 / (03) 9247 6946
State Police Operations Centre (SPOC) (after hours via D24 Supervisor)	(03) 9247 3222
Emergency Management Victoria	
State Control Centre	(03) 9032 3600
EMV Media Line	(03) 9262 8779
Warnings and Advice Duty Officer – 24 hours (WADO)	(03) 9262 8779
EMV Duty Officer – 24 hours	0427 507 079
State Air Desk	1300 13 4144
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action	
Whale and Dolphin Emergency Hotline	1300 136 017
Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions	
Emergency Animal Welfare Hotline – 24 hours	(03) 5430 4525
Department of Health and Human Services	
DHHS Emergency Management Duty Officer – 24 hours	1300 790 733
Parks Victoria	
Duty Officer – 24 hours	13 19 63
Diver Emergency Service	
Diver Emergency Service Hotline	1800 088 200

KEY VFA CONTACTS

Luke O'Sullivan

Director Fisheries Management, Policy, Science and Licensing luke.osullivan@vfa.vic.gov.au

Toby Jeavons

Fisheries Manager, Marine and Estuarine Fisheries toby.jeavons@vfa.vic.gov.au

Paul Shea

Fisheries Operations Manager enforcement@vfa.vic.gov.au

Commercial Licensing Enquiries

Commercial Fisheries Licensing commercial.licensing@vfa.vic.gov.au 03 9392 6860

APPENDIX 1: AUTHORISED PORTS AND MOORINGS FOR LANDING ABALONE

Abalone can only be landed at the following:

PORT NAME AND MOORING AREAS	PORT CODE
ALTONA BOAT RAMP CAR PARK	520
APOLLO BAY BOAT RAMP	20
BASTION POINT	190
BAY OF ISLANDS BOAT RAMP	552
BLACK ROCK BOAT RAMP	40
CAPE BRIDGEWATER BEACH	305
CAPE CONRAN BOAT RAMP	402
CLIFTON SPRINGS BOAT RAMP	262
COWES JETTY	70
FLINDERS BOAT RAMP	100
FRANKSTON BOAT RAMP	110
HASTINGS BOAT RAMP	140
INVERLOCH BOAT RAMP	150
KILLARNEY BOAT RAMP	284
KIRKS POINT MAIN BOAT RAMP	452
LORNE-GREY POINT BOAT RAMP	180
MALLACOOTA MAIN WHARF	195
MARLO JETTY	404
MORNINGTON BOAT RAMP (SCHNAPPER POINT)	210
NEWHAVEN BOAT RAMP	230
OCEAN GROVE BOAT RAMP	32
PATTERSON RIVER BOAT RAMP	52
PETERBOROUGH – BOAT RAMP CARPARK	550
PIER 35	312
POINT ROADKNIGHT	12
PORT ALBERT BOAT RAMP	250
PORT CAMPBELL JETTY	270
PORT FAIRY BOAT RAMP	280
PORTLAND BOAT RAMP	302
PORTLAND FISHERMANS WHARF	300
PORT WELSHPOOL BOAT RAMP	320
QUEENSCLIFF BOAT RAMP	330
RHYLL BOAT RAMP	232
RYE BOAT RAMP	530
ST HELENS BOAT RAMP	122
ST KILDA MARINA CARPARK	340
SANDY POINT	540
SAN REMO FISHERMANS WHARF	360
SHALLOW INLET CARPARK	370
SORRENTO BOAT RAMP	380
STONY POINT BOAT RAMP	390
TAYLORS BAY BOAT RAMP	282
THE BASIN CARPARK	442
TORQUAY BOAT RAMP	420
WALKERVILLE NORTH	434
WALLY'S RAMP	303
WARRNAMBOOL BOAT RAMP	440
WERRIBEE SOUTH BOAT RAMP	450
WEST BANK RAMP	610
AAFOL DVIIAIV IVAIAII	010

Victorian Fisheries Authority I Commercial Fishing Guide – Abalone Supplement