

Total allowable Commercial Catch for Victorian Giant Crab Fishery 2022/23

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Giant Crab Fishery is managed in accordance with the Victorian Giant Crab Fishery Management Plan, the main aims of which are to manage the commercial catch at levels that prevent overfishing thus reducing the risk of lowering abundance and allowing stock to rebuild.

Under the decision rules of the management plan, a reduction to the TACC is triggered when the catch rate drops below the limit reference point and a review is triggered where there are consecutive years of declining catch rates.

A large correction to effort data has been applied which fundamentally changes the perspective of the CPUE trend over the last seven years and the current stock status. This indicates that CPUE declined during this time to the present value of 0.55 kg/24 hour pot-lift which is just above the limit reference point. The 2020/21 CPUE was 54% of the CPUE observed in the last 2012/13 peak which had 1.02kg/24 hour pot-lift. Whilst CPUE declined slightly from the previous assessment period, CPUE remains above the limit reference point and has not declined for two consecutive years.

I have therefore decided to maintain the TACC at 7.5 tonne for the 2022/23 season.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Padovani".

Chris Padovani

Acting Director Fisheries Management, Policy, Science, Licencing and Communications

Victorian Fisheries Authority

22 / 04 /2022