

## Public Submissions – Fisheries (Portland Bay Commercial Fishery) Notice 2024

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**Sent on:** Tuesday, October 8, 2024 1:03:31 AM  
**To:** Have Your Say (VFA) <Haveyoursay@vfa.vic.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Portland Fisheries Notice

Hi Luke,

This is David [REDACTED] an ex commercial and avid recreational fisherman from Portland, I would like to see the current Portland Fisheries notice regarding no netting in Portland Bay, rolled over for another 12 months then moved into the regulations as soon as possible!  
Thanks David

**Sent on:** Tuesday, October 8, 2024 8:05:10 AM  
**To:** Have Your Say (VFA) <Haveyoursay@vfa.vic.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Draft Fisheries (Portland Bay Commercial) Fisheries Notice 2024

Thankyou for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft Fisheries (Portland Bay Commercial) Fisheries Notice 2024.

I have reviewed the document and I am supportive of the implementation of this Draft Fisheries Notice for the next 12 months with the expectation that the specified commercial fishing restrictions will be adopted into the Fisheries Regulations during the next review.

Regards,

Scott [REDACTED]

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**Sent on:** Monday, October 7, 2024 10:47:45 PM  
**To:** Have Your Say (VFA) <Haveyoursay@vfa.vic.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Portland fisheries notice

Hi Luke, On behalf of Portland Complete Angler we would like to see the current Portland Fisheries notice regarding no netting in Portland Bay, rolled over for another 12 months then moved into the regulations for the future.

**Sent on:** Monday, October 7, 2024 10:47:03 AM  
**To:** Have Your Say (VFA) <Haveyoursay@vfa.vic.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Portland Fisheries Notice

Hi Luke,

On behalf of the Portland Bay No Netting Committee, we wish to have the current fisheries notice rolled over for another 12 months. After this we would like to see the no netting notice put into the regulations to ensure that netting never occurs again in our designated zone for Portland Bay.

Thanks Mathew [REDACTED]

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**Sent on:** Tuesday, October 8, 2024 12:42:52 AM  
**To:** Have Your Say (VFA) <Haveyoursay@vfa.vic.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Portland Fisheries Notice

Hi Luke,

This is Ella [REDACTED], from Portland, I would like to see the current Portland Fisheries notice regarding no netting in Portland Bay, rolled over for another 12 months then moved into the regulations for the as soon as possible.

Thanks, Ella [REDACTED]

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**Sent on:** Tuesday, October 8, 2024 1:18:56 AM  
**To:** Have Your Say (VFA) <haveyoursay@vfa.vic.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Portland Bay Fisheries Notice

Hi Luke,

This is Jesse [REDACTED] from Portland, I would like to see the current Portland Fisheries notice regarding no netting in Portland Bay, rolled over for another 12 months then moved into the regulations for the as soon as possible by the VFA.

Thanks,  
Jesse [REDACTED]

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**Sent on:** Friday, October 11, 2024 5:06:13 AM  
**To:** Kylie E Wohlt (VFA) <Kylie.Wohlt@vfa.vic.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed Fisheries (Portland Bay Commercial Fishery) Notice 2024

Dear Sir/Mam,

The VFA has increased our Ocean access licence levies and have added insult to injury by taken away our democracy right to utilise our Ocean access licence in a profitable and sustainable method. For a hundred years fishing conditions have not changed, our methods and fish stocks are sustainable.

You department has allowed a handful of recreational fisherman to dictated our livelihood and the non access of fresh locally fish to the Victorian public.

Shame shame you are punishing a hard working sustainable industry.

Regards

Luigi [REDACTED]

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**Sent on:** Tuesday, October 8, 2024 11:29:45 PM  
**To:** Have Your Say (VFA) <Haveyoursay@vfa.vic.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed Fisheries (Portland Bay Commercial Fishery) Notice 2024

Dear Mr Dowling,

I am responding first as a member of your Aquatic Strategic Action Group, second as a director of Apollo Bay Fisherman's Co-Op, third as long serving member of the Victorian Seafood Industry specialising in Abalone. I am also an enthusiastic consumer of Victorian Seafood.

Implied in the Fisheries Act 1995 is the welfare of all Victorians; that they all benefit from their precious resources. A healthy well managed commercial fishery actually benefits recreational fishers. Equitable access to our resources creates social unity. Division does not make Victoria a better place.

Further closure of the Victorian commercial fishing industry will deliver certain consequences.

1. Reduce supply of Victorian wild caught fish to Victorians and visitors.
2. Negatively impact coastal visitors' high expectations of a valued Victorian seafood experience.
3. Continue the decline in commercial fishing infrastructure and skills to critical levels.
4. Negatively impact regional economies.
5. The shut down of licenced commercial fisheries will cause growth in the illegal sector thereby increasing occupational safety for Fisheries Officers as is evidenced in NSW and reduces effective management and preservation of species. <https://psnews.com.au/nsw-fisheries-officers-take-industrial-action-following-violent-attacks-by-poachers/145631/>
6. Denying Victorians access to their wild and fresh fish resource will eventually cause strong public criticism of Government policy and management.

Unless it is the only alternative, the proposed closure does not meet the objectives of the Fisheries Act 1995 which states –

- (c) to promote sustainable commercial fishing and viable aquaculture industries and quality recreational fishing opportunities for the benefit of present and future generations;
- (d) to facilitate access to fisheries resources for commercial, recreational, traditional and non-consumptive uses;
- (e) to promote the commercial fishing industry and to facilitate the rationalisation and restructuring of the industry;

You are aware of my passion for the creation of a vibrant Domestic Seafood Industry. Strategic planning is key to ensuring sustainable and socially acceptable commercial fishing meets the needs of all Victorians. Whilst I admit to being parochial I envy The Sydney Fish Market redevelopment and what it will do both for Sydney as a tourist hot spot and for the local community. We may not have an equivalent Fish Market but we do have our coast. Victoria can do much to add economic and social value through its proper management and use of commercial wild fisheries, hence my ongoing support for ASAG.

The Fisheries Act is quite powerful. It enables VFA to manage any particular negative actions of any irresponsible fisher/s. This is an opportunity for VFA to provide a constructive rather than a reactionary process to build a future for all Victorians so that they may enjoy their resource rather than be consigned to eating imported and inferior product. I have no doubt that all fish consuming Victorians would prefer to see alternatives explored that did not cause further decline in the availability of quality fresh wild caught Victorian fish.

In closing I urge ASAG to review the options to ensure commercial fisheries and their regional communities have a valued future.

Kind Regards,

**Kaz Bartaska**  
Executive Chairman



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**Sent on:** Monday, October 7, 2024 6:43:45 AM  
**To:** Have Your Say (VFA) <Haveyoursay@vfa.vic.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Proposed ban on netting Portland

It is with great regret that I have received this notice. As an ocean license holder and the fact that I have plans to utilise it using nets, I would like to keep my right to use nets as per my license.

As you may be aware I am a professional fisher who has continuously been targeted as a result of false and misleading information against me so that you can have the right to remove the use of gear in this case nets in the waters that I can legally fish until you make it illegal by changes to the law.

I'm not sure if you understand how I feel because it seems I may be outnumbered however if I were to approach consumers who have expressed their concerns about not having the right to local fish you know very well I will be supported and those who claim to dislike commercial fishing will also be outnumbered.

I have been removed from other fisheries in the past and yet your so called fake policies to support commercial fishers and promote them has been proved as lies after lies. There is no education rather accepting people's misjudged opinions but how are you going to explain to people that eating fish 3 times a week is good for mental health as well as physical when you know very well there will be no professional fishers left to go and catch it for them.

It's about time the govt stopped being accepting of false accusations against commercial fishing and even though a town may be against an operator shooting nets in their backyard, they need to understand that the commercial fishing grounds were there long before people settled and that fish don't swim into nets in someone else's backyard.

Regards

John [REDACTED]