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Fisheries (Gummy and School Shark) Notice 2020

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

I have decided to implement the Fisheries (Gummy and School Shark) Notice 2020 after undertaking consultation in accordance with Section 3A of the *Fisheries Act 1995*.

The Fisheries (Gummy and School Shark) Notice 2020 introduces monitoring and management arrangements to support implementation of the augmented commercial possession limit for gummy and school sharks. This augmented possession limit enables eligible fishers to take, possess or land up to a total combined number of 5 gummy and school shark on any one day, of which no more than one may be a school shark.

The monitoring and management arrangements introduced in the Fisheries Notice will operate within the existing 40 tonne catch limit for gummy and school shark bycatch by Victorian commercial access licence and permit holders. This catch limit is set in Victoria's agreement with the Commonwealth under the Offshore Constitutional Settlement.

Key monitoring and management arrangements introduced under the Fisheries (Gummy and School Shark) Notice 2020 include:

- Holders of Ocean, Trawl (Inshore), Rock Lobster and Giant Crab Fishery Access Licences are eligible to apply 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.
- Endorsed licence 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.

The VFA will continue to monitor and manage commercial catch of gummy and school shark within the 40 tonne limit and is also introducing shark bycatch reporting alongside the Fisheries Notice.

Travis Dowling
Chief Executive Officer
Victorian Fisheries Authority

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