

Total allowable Commercial Catch for Victorian Giant Crab Fishery 2023/24

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Giant Crab Fishery is managed in accordance with the Victorian Giant Crab Fishery Management Plan. The main aim is to manage the commercial catch at levels that prevent overfishing. This reduces the risk of lowering abundance and allows 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. Furthermore, a review is triggered when there are consecutive years of declining catch rates.

In the recent 2021/22 season, the CPUE improved to a value of 0.95kg / 24-hour pot-lift. Despite this positive indication, there is a high degree of volatility surrounding CPUE as a current performance measure. This can be attributed to the recent changes in operators; a lack of overlapping effort between operators; and potential compromises in recent data collection.

Based on these considerations, and in accordance with the decisions rules set out in the management plan, I have decided to maintain the TACC at 7.5 tonne for the 2023/24 season.



Travis Dowling
Chief Executive Officer
Victorian Fisheries Authority

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