2023/24 Total Allowable Commercial Catch for the Victorian Sea Urchin Fishery

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The framework for adjusting the sea urchin Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) is set out in the <u>Sea Urchin Fishery Baseline Management Arrangements</u>.

The multi-level approach to adjusting the TACC involves a progression from low cost, conservative TACC at Level 1 (baseline arrangements) to higher cost, optimum yield at Level 3.

After ten years of fishing under a quota managed framework, the fishery remains at baseline levels with annual commercial catches below the TACC set for each zone. Based on this and current management arrangements, I have decided to maintain the TACC at current levels.

The TACC for the season commencing 1 July 2023 is set at:

- 60 tonnes of unshucked white sea urchin in the Port Phillip Bay Sea Urchin Zone;
- 57 tonnes of unshucked white sea urchin in the Eastern Sea Urchin Zone; and
- 114 tonnes of unshucked black sea urchin in the Eastern Sea Urchin Zone.

Travis Dowling Chief Executive Officer Victorian Fisheries Authority

16/06/2023