

6<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Hi Travis and VFA Management Team,

I am writing to express my disappointment with the proposed Fisheries Notices.

On the 10/8/22 we had with VFA and SIV a meeting to discuss sustainable harvest of octopus with trawl and the newly established pot fishery. With lots of options put forward VFA told us they would review this and hold another meeting in 12 months time which did not happen.

Instead 2 years later we had an Inshore Trawl Meeting which was announced that a 2<sup>nd</sup> Fisheries Notice would be issued with a 100kg octopus limit for Inshore Trawl. We were told this was a Vic Inshore Trawl Licence Access Holders meeting however a [REDACTED] pointed out at the start of the meeting [REDACTED] did not fit the criteria of the invite. His son [REDACTED] who is a dual licence holder did attend clearly on behalf of trying to benefit his pot fishery investment. I am extremely disappointed with the VFA team and SIV for allowing this and the clear attempt to sabotage the Inshore Trawl operators and at one stage [REDACTED] name was mentioned by an Inshore Trawl operator which was shut down very quickly by Luke O'Sullivan.

However, my name was brought up and dragged thru the mud by both [REDACTED] several times with no intervention what so ever by VFA [REDACTED] even swore and tried to discredit me. This made me question the relationship of the [REDACTED] VFA and the intent of the meeting.

There were many questions asked in the meeting which VFA were unable to answer and we were told they would give these answers to SIV at a later date which did not happen. Whenever anyone brought up the pot fishery we were shut down and told this meeting was not about the pot fishery however all the scientific data and information about sustainability and risk of depletion have come from the pot fishery sector and not Inshore Trawl. At any point there was no evidence of Inshore Trawl causing a sustainability issue.

In the meeting Joanne told us the octopus taken by trawl was managed by the Commonwealth Fishery which after some phone calls to the Commonwealth Trawl Manager I was advised this was not correct.

As you are aware this proposed notice would severely impact my business and the access for the general public to consume fresh fish year round direct off my trawler.

Previously consumer access to octopus was supplied by the Commonwealth South East Trawl Licence and the Vic Inshore Trawl then Ocean Access operators started to pot for octopus with increased catches across all classes.

I understand the VFA had to do something but issuing stand alone pot licences and quota I believe was a very big mistake due to the lack of scientific data in Victoria and what data was obtained from Tasmania showed concerns for sustainability and local depletion. With no talk about reducing quota for the pot fishery. I believe VFA is aware of this mistake with what has recently happened in the Central Octopus Pot Zone where a small area was heavily fished causing local depletion within 18 months.

Apart from my previous submission and my email to you on the 24/4/24 requesting a meeting with active trawl operators I don't have much more to add.

I urge you to reconsider this very miniscule proposed trip limit.

Thanks for your time,

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature and name of the sender.