

Dear Mr Beaver,

I am writing to provide comments on the draft Fisheries (Western Port / Port Phillip Bay Fishery Catch Limits) Notice 2026 and the draft Further Quota Order (FQO) for snapper.

I would like to acknowledge and support the VFA's ongoing efforts to manage the fishery sustainably. In particular, I support the zero-catch limits on high-value or vulnerable species such as King George whiting, calamari, kingfish, and mulloway.

I offer the following comments for consideration:

1. Monitoring and Enforcement

- I encourage continued monitoring and clear enforcement of catch limits to support sustainable fishing practices, particularly in ensuring commercial fishers adhere to the specified annual and species-specific limits.

2. Local Ecological Observations

- Based on observations in Westernport, populations of King George whiting appear limited in certain areas, reinforcing the need to maintain the zero-catch limit for commercial fishing.

3. Snapper Quota Considerations

- While the 88 ton snapper quota appears reasonable, it may be valuable to periodically review this limit in light of seasonal or environmental changes to ensure continued sustainability.

4. Transparency and Stakeholder Engagement

- Ongoing communication and accessible reporting of stock assessments and quota adjustments would help maintain stakeholder confidence and support community engagement in fishery management.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Notice and FQO. I look forward to the continued sustainable management of the Westernport and Port Phillip Bay fisheries.

Kind Regards,
Darren Wilson

Sea Country Team Leader
Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation