

Maddison J Watt (VFA)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 26 April 2023 11:38 AM
To: Maddison J Watt (VFA)
Cc: Geoffrey Muldoon; Ian Knuckey; Mike McCarthy; [REDACTED]
Subject: Public consultation on 2023/24 Abalone Quota for the western zone of the Victorian Abalone Fishery
Attachments: Australian-Seafood-Traceability-Workshop-series-final-report.pdf
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello Maddison

The recent IUCN Red-list of Abalone, it's concerning that viewing Abalone in Melbourne restaurants, I can't tell if the Abalone in the fish tank, is a legitimately harvested Victorian sourced Abalone, or an illegally sourced one

with this in mind, I hope we can improve the identification of commercial live Abalone in the market place, noting that commercial canned processors are unique

I've attached the Traceability report for some reference, the report commission by the WWF with Fishwell

just an idea, that's been floating around in the belfry.

Tagging live Abalone, with a reference to their origin

Red Tag- Western Zone

White Tag - Central Zone

Blue Tag - Eastern Zone

I know there's an issue with Abalone from Tasmania & SA. being outside the VFA control, something to think about

Kind Regards

Craig Starritt [REDACTED]

SCUBA DIVERS FEDERATION of VICTORIA

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30 April 2023

Maddison watt

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Victorian Fisheries Authority,
1 Spring St
Melbourne. VIC. 3000

via: maddison.watt@vfa.vic.gov.au

re: 2023/24 Draft Further Quota Order and Fisheries Notice (Western Abalone Zone)

Dear Maddison,

The SCUBA Divers Federation of Victoria (SDFV) represents recreational divers who fish for abalone, and we take a deep interest in the health of the stock and the management of the fishery.

The SDFV did not receive notice of the TACC workshop for the Western Abalone Zone, and so we did not have the opportunity to have a representative attend and participate. We rely on the information detailed in the Stock Assessment report and the Workshop Summary which have subsequently been provided to us.

The Stock Assessment report is detailed and appears thorough in canvassing the history of the fishery, rebuild strategy after AVG, and the use of various sources of data to inform estimates of abundance. The rebuild approach, and harvest strategy, are clearly conservative. Nevertheless, the Assessment reports a decline in the estimated abundance, and it is significant to us that there is concern about the uncertainty in the stock level estimates due to inadequate or insufficient data. We note with interest that the conclusion of the stock assessment is that more conservative decisions about the TAC (TACC) are prudent to ensure recovery of stocks and the future of the fishery.

The 2023/24 draft Quota Order is for a catch reduction (*ca* 10%) compared to the previous year. We also note that the draft Quota Order reflects the recommended catch reductions from the TACC Workshop. Given the state and history of the zone, we therefore support the draft Further Quota Order and Fisheries Notice.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

(signed)

Mike McCarthy,
Chair, SDFV.