

## Total Allowable Commercial Catch for eastern octopus zone of the Victorian Octopus Fishery 2024/25

### EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

I have decided to continue the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) of 68.7 tonnes for the eastern zone of the Octopus Fishery for the 2024/25 fishing season. As in previous years, this has been informed by a weight of evidence evaluation. This TACC reflects the level of information currently available for the fishery, including stock status, species biology, fishery management settings and recent catch and effort data.

Consultation on the 2024/25 Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) for the Victorian Octopus Fishery (Eastern Zone) was undertaken from 21 May to 6 June 2024 in accordance with section 3A of the **Fisheries Act 1995**.

The Octopus Fishery Access Licence class was established in 2020 to enable targeted commercial octopus harvest in Victoria under dedicated, sustainable management controls. Octopus Fishery Access Licences have been issued authorising octopus harvest from the eastern octopus zone using unbaited shelter pots, under a TACC and quota management system. The TACC has been set at 68.7 tonnes for each fishing season to date.

Managing sustainable biomass levels of pale octopus across the eastern zone, and minimising risk of localised depletion, is a high priority for maximising ongoing sustainable harvest in this fishery for the long term. Alongside implementation of the Octopus Fishery TACC, the VFA will work with the multiple licence classes that access octopus from the zone on sustainable management of total harvest from these octopus stocks.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Travis Dowling".

**Travis Dowling**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Victorian Fisheries Authority  
17/06/2024