



**Eastern Zone Abalone
Industry Association Inc.**

25th February 2026

Melissa Schubert
Senior Manager
Commercial Fisheries and Science
melissa.schubert@vfa.vic.gov.au

RE: Consultation on the 2026/27 Draft Eastern Zone Abalone Quota Order and Fisheries Notice.

Dear Melissa,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the **2026/27 Draft Eastern Zone Abalone Quota Order and Fisheries Notice**.

EZAIA appreciated the strong attendance and constructive engagement at the TACC forum held in Mallacoota on 3 February 2026. It was encouraging to see tangible progress on several matters previously identified in stock assessment reports as important to strengthening the scientific basis of the fishery. The zone particularly welcomes the pending implementation of succorfish loggers and looks forward to contributing additional data to enhance the annual assessment process.

EZAIA notes the request from the forum for a mid-year review to assess the percentage limits applied at reef code and SMU level. We support this as a practical mechanism to ensure settings remain responsive to in-season performance and aligned with harvest strategy objectives.

Looking ahead, these measures will significantly improve the quality, resolution and timeliness of data available to scientists, strengthening annual stock assessments and supporting more informed, evidence-based management decisions. Ongoing collaboration between industry, management and science will remain critical to ensuring these tools are implemented effectively and deliver sustained benefits for the long-term sustainability and resilience of the fishery.

There was a shared sense at the meeting that the voluntary quota reductions adopted over recent years are beginning to demonstrate positive outcomes. Industry has made these adjustments in good faith to support stock rebuilding and stability.





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Members also raised concerns regarding evidence of illegal poaching activity, particularly in relation to potential cross-border incursions from NSW. There is a strong desire within the zone to ensure that the significant sacrifices made by licence holders are not undermined by unlawful activity. We appreciate the continued efforts of VFA and compliance officers in addressing this issue and trust that all apprehensions will be managed appropriately under the legislative framework.

EZAIA looks forward to continuing to work constructively with VFA, the management team, the incoming abalone fishery manager, the Scientific Working Group, and through the processes of Abalone Council Victoria to support sustainable and transparent management of the Eastern Zone abalone fishery.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "H. Burvill", is written over a light blue circular background.

Helen Burvill
Executive Officer

