

SENT BY EMAIL 10/5/21

Thanks Joanne for the opportunity to respond.

SIV sought licence holder feedback and has received no responses.

**Therefore, SIV supports the VFA direction of:
Continuation of the current total allowable commercial catch (TACC) of 68.7 tonnes is proposed
for the Eastern zone of the Victorian Octopus Fishery for 2021-22.**

Noting:

This maintains the existing TACC, which was established in 2020-21 for this new fishery, for a second quota year while the fishery continues to establish and information continues to develop. It applies only to the **eastern octopus commercial fishing management zone**, with quota to be allocated to licence holders for the fishing season extending from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

- The fishery has been underway for just 9 months. Quota was allocated to 11 licence holders on 1 August 2020, following on from advice of an independent allocation panel.
- Establishment of the fishery coincided with an unusual period, with COVID-19 restrictions in place at times in some locations in Victoria. Nonetheless the fishery commenced smoothly, with logbook and research logbook data being returned to the VFA and quota transfers taking place.
- About 40 tonnes of octopus catch, of the 68.7 tonne TACC, had been reported to the VFA as of February/March 2021, with about two months left in the quota year.
- There is less than a full year's data so far from the new octopus logbooks and research logbooks. This short time series of new fishery-dependent data, alongside historic OFAL records, does not provide evidence to support a change to the TACC.

Thank you for the opportunity consult with licence holders and provide feedback on their behalf.

Joanne



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Joanne Butterworth-Gray GAICD AARLF
Independent Chair
Seafood Industry Victoria