

Total allowable Commercial Catch for Victorian Giant Crab Fishery 2021/22

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Giant Crab Fishery is managed in accordance with the Victorian Giant Crab Fishery Management Plan, the main aims of which are to manage the commercial catch at levels that prevent overfishing thus reducing the risk of lowering abundance and allowing stock to rebuild.

Under the decision rules of the management plan, a reduction to the TACC is triggered when the catch rate drops below the limit reference point and a review is triggered where there are consecutive years of declining catch rates.

New information including observer coverage for the fishery indicates that the limited data available to assess the stock may have been compromised in recent years. Based on the available information, the VFA would have reviewed the TACC in previous assessments as both the limit reference point was breached and consecutive declines in CPUE occurred over multiple years.

Whilst further work is undertaken to better understand current biomass levels it necessary to apply the precautionary principle in setting the 2021/22 TACC to ensure the sustainability of the resource.

I have therefore decided to reduce the TACC to 7.5 tonne (3 tonne reduction) for the 2021/22 season.

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

Travis Dowling
Chief Executive Officer
Victorian Fisheries Authority

16 / 06 / 2021

A %Address%
E %Email%
T %Telephone%

