



2021/22

Abalone TACC

Statutory Consultation Plan

CONTENTS

<u>2021/22 ABALONE TACC</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>STATUTORY CONSULTATION PLAN.....</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>PREAMBLE.....</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Closing date for submissions</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>FLOW CHART OF CONSULTATION</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>CONSULTATION PLAN.....</u>	<u>4</u>

PREAMBLE

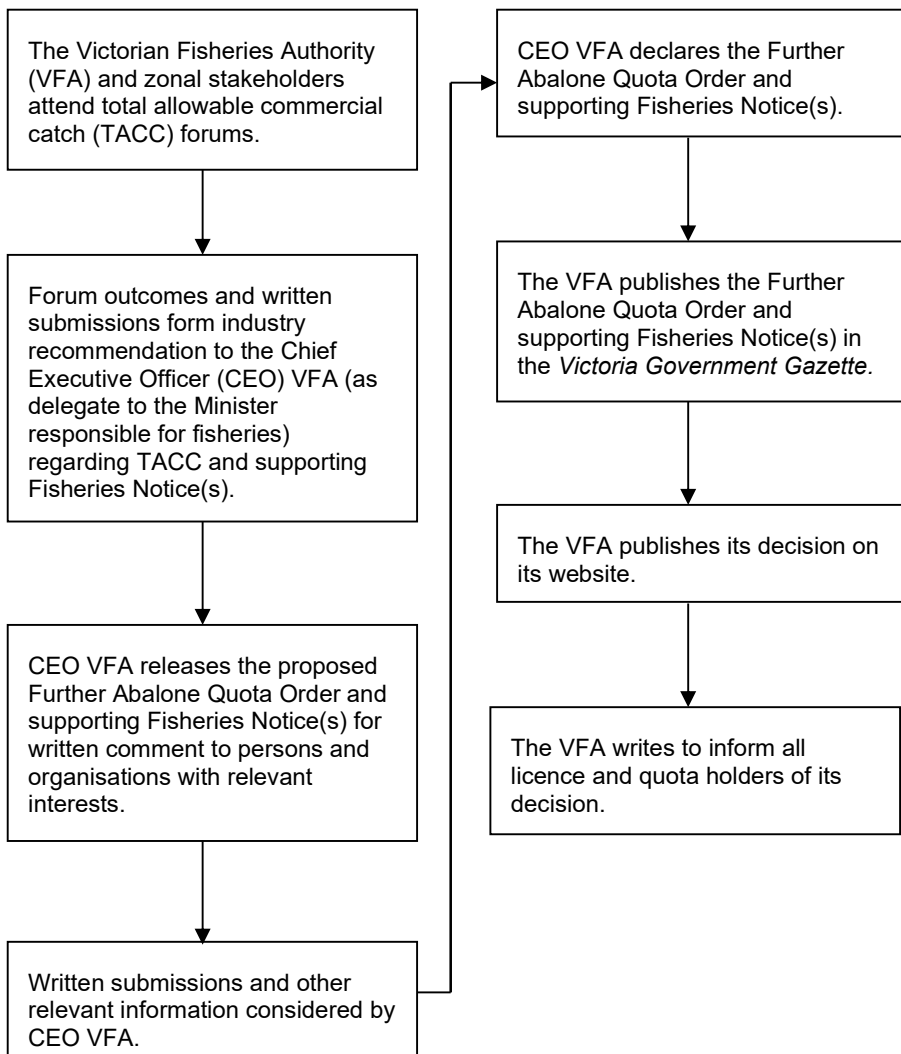
Any submissions received in relation to the consultation conducted by the Victorian Fisheries Authority will be published on the Authority's website. In making a submission, unless the person making the submission indicates to the contrary, they will be consenting to their submission, including their name only, being published on the Authority's website for 90 days from the conclusion of the consultative process.

Closing date for submissions

The closing date for the receipt of submissions for consultation on the total allowable commercial catch (TACC) for each abalone fishery zone will be 10 working days after publication of the draft further abalone quota order (FAQO) and any associated fisheries notices.

Statutory consultation documents will be published on the VFA website following the TACC advisory forums with an expected completion date of 5 February 2021 for the Eastern Zone and 30 April for the Central and Western Zone.

FLOW CHART OF CONSULTATION



CONSULTATION PLAN

1	Consultation Title	2021/22 Abalone TACC Setting Process
2	Representative group/s being consulted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Commercial wild-catch (Quota and licence holders, Western Abalone Divers Association, Eastern Zone Abalone Industry Association, Abalone Victoria [Central Zone] Ltd., Seafood Industry Victoria) ✓ Recreational fishing (VRFish, Scuba Divers Federation of Victoria) ✓ Aboriginal communities (The Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations, Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation, Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation) ✓ Conservation interests (Environment Victoria, Victorian National Parks Association)
3	Managing Officer	Travis Baulch, Fishery Manager.
4	Target Start Date	02 December 2020
5	Target End Date	30 April 2021
6	Background/ History	<p>The abalone fishery is one of Victoria's most valuable commercial fisheries.</p> <p>The fishery has been managed under a system of quota controls since 1988. The TACC and the quantity of catch comprising an abalone quota unit is set for each quota period by a Further Abalone Quota Order published in the <i>Victoria Government Gazette</i>. Fisheries Notices that establish legal minimum lengths for relevant zones may also be required.</p> <p>TACCs are set for blacklip abalone in the western, central and eastern zones and greenlip abalone in the western and central zones.</p> <p>The next quota period extends from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 for the Eastern Zone and 01 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 for the Central and Western Zones.</p>
7	Relevant Statutory provision	Statutory consultation with stakeholders under Section 3A of the <i>Fisheries Act 1995</i> is required prior to the Minister or delegate making decisions related to Further Abalone Quota Orders and Fisheries Notices.
8	<i>Purpose/objectives/scope</i>	To seek comment on the draft 2021/22 Further Abalone Quota Order and relevant Fisheries Notices.
9	Method	<p>Initial consultation on the recommended TACC to inform the Further Abalone Quota Orders and Fisheries Notices is undertaken via three zonal TACC advisory forums attended by industry stakeholders, invited stakeholders and VFA management, science and enforcement staff.</p> <p>Scheduled dates for these forums are:</p> <p>Eastern Abalone Zone: 02 December 2020</p> <p>Central Abalone Zone: 03 March 2021</p> <p>Western Abalone Zone: 25 March 2021</p> <p>Statutory consultation on the draft Further Abalone Quota Orders and Fisheries Notices is conducted via letters to persons/groups noted in section 2 of this consultation plan and the Departmental website.</p> <p>The consultation period will extend for 10 working days following the release of the draft Further Abalone Quota Orders and Fisheries Notices.</p> <p>All consultation is expected to be completed by no later than 8 April 2021.</p>
10	Communication Plan	<p>Decisions regarding Further Abalone Quota Orders and Fisheries Notices are communicated through notices published in the <i>Victoria Government Gazette</i> and the VFA website.</p> <p>Letters informing stakeholders of decisions regarding Further Abalone Quota Orders and Fisheries Notices are sent to all identified stakeholder groups listed above.</p>

11	Information provision	Stakeholders will be provided with a copy of the draft 2021/22 Further Abalone Quota Order and supporting Fisheries Notices. Other detailed information is presented in the zonal TACC forums and published on the VFA website.
12	Resources/advice (inc. purchase of advice)	Internal resources of VFA.
13	Output (documentation / implementation)	The 2021/22 Further Abalone Quota Order and supporting Fisheries Notices; letters to stakeholders; notices published in the <i>Victoria Government Gazette</i> ; the departmental website; and a media release.
14	Publication of results of consultation	<i>Any submissions received in relation to the consultation being conducted by VFA will be published on the VFA website. In making a submission, unless the person making the submission indicates to the contrary, they will be consenting to their submission, including their name only, being published on the VFA website for 90 days from the conclusion of the consultative process.</i>

Consultation Plan prepared by:

Approved by:




Travis Baulch

Dallas D'Silva

Fishery Manager

Director Fisheries Management and Science

Date: 16 / 11 / 2021

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