

## Public submissions on the 2021/22 Sea Urchin Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC)

| <b>Submitter</b> | <b>Submission</b>  |
|------------------|--|
| Josh Cahill      | <p>Dear Travis,</p> <p>Please consider this email as my personal submission to the 2021/22 Urchin TACC.</p> <p>Setting a TACC of 60t for Port Phillip Bay is far too conservative when there is mounting independent scientific evidence produced by Dr. Paul Carnell from Deakin University that at the current rate of harvest, urchin barrens are increasing in size and causing environmental issues for commercial wildharvest and recreational fisheries. The most sensible solution to help address overgrazing concerns is to increase the allocation on each license to a minimum of 30t, as well as address ongoing quota latency issues by allowing uncaught quota to be harvested from designated areas in need of rehabilitation. Furthermore, licensed urchin divers should be permitted to fish within the Kirk Point reef code without catch being deducted from quota holdings as part of ongoing reef rehabilitation. Overgrazing in this area has become such an issue that commercial urchin divers can't harvest from this reef in an economically viable manner, which only perpetuates the issue of overabundance.</p> <p>By continuing an allocation of only 60t for Port Phillip Bay VFA are not addressing one of the largest environmental issues facing Port Phillip Bay this decade. This is not a unique issue either, we only need to look at events in California, Tasmania and New South Wales to see the immense impacts that urchin overgrazing can have on whole reef assemblages.</p> <p>The solutions which I am putting to you not only facilitate ecological habitat restoration, but also increase the value of our commercial wild harvest fisheries, increase access to high quality local seafood and improve angling opportunities for recreational stakeholders within the Metro Melbourne area.</p> <p>This is an issue that I am extremely passionate about and would welcome any further dialog between yourself or colleagues to help grow this fishery, and improve habitats throughout Port Phillip Bay.</p> <p>Yours Sincerely,<br/>Josh Cahill</p> |
| Beau Found       | <p>Dear Travis,</p> <p>Below is my personal submission to the 2021/22 Sea Urchin TACC.</p> <p>After being involved in the Port Phillip Bay Sea Urchin Fishery now for a number of years it seems that the TACC of 60t is far to conservative given the current state of Port Phillip Bay and the increasing urchin numbers. With the current TACC set at 60t and 20t per license this does not allow license holders/ divers to create and build new reefs that put out a high quality urchin. Moving the TACC to a minimum of 90t will also help with urchin overgrazing, focus fishing pressure on a wider area and benefit the recreational fishers of the bay.</p> <p>There has been mounting pressure in the media, university groups and local community groups to do something about the urchin numbers and the damage they are doing to Port Phillip Bay. Increasing the quota and involving commercial urchin divers seems like the most logical way to help reduce numbers and also create a more sustainable and viable fishery. It has been proven that with a reduction of urchin numbers reefs and habitats will recover and allow for a healthy balance.</p> <p>This is an issue that I am extremely passionate about and would be happy to have further discussions about growing the urchin fishery and helping restore Port Phillip Bays reefs.</p> <p>Yours Sincerely,<br/>Beau</p>   |
| Keith Browne     | <p>Hi Travis,</p> <p>Sorry for the late response regarding my submission for sea urchin fishery for Port Phillip Bay.</p> <p>I would like to put forward a submission to go back to the original TAC of 90 tonne of white sea urchins in Port Phillip Bay. This would encourage bigger investment into the fishery.</p> <p>On the current 20 tonne allocation at present, it is very limiting for a processor and harvester such as myself to invest in more infrastructure based on such a small allocation.</p> <p>The industry is growing and a higher TAC would be beneficial to the continuation of this growth and the promotion of local sea urchins.</p> <p>I would like to see the increase of quota instead of rolling it over to the following season.</p> <p>If you would like to discuss this further with me, please contact me directly on 0447 019188.</p> <p>Regards,<br/>Keith Browne</p>  |