

Attachment 4: Summary of submissions received for 2024/25 Eastern Abalone Zone TACC

Author	Affiliation	Position on recommended TACC	Main points of submission (using author's words)
Brett Menke	Eastern Abalone Zone quota holder	Support a greater TACC reduction	This quota order does not go far enough. The quota total should more in the vicinity of 150t total. When quota at the end of season is being shuffled around between reefs, this is quite damning of the state of the resource. Other rebuilding techniques should definitely be considered at this stage or complete collapse could be imminent. Even SA is conducting restocking trials.
Paul Menke	Eastern Abalone Zone quota holder	Support a greater TACC reduction	<p>I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) in administering the fisheries resources. However, I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the proposed quota of 208.5 tonnes, as I believe it is insufficient to address the ongoing depletion of the abalone resource in the eastern zone. The resource has declined 55% (20t down to 9t) in the past 7 years primarily due to fishing pressure.</p> <p>The decline in the effectiveness of fisheries independent surveys (FIS) and the absence of adequate re-building techniques, such as re-stocking, are alarming trends that demand urgent attention.</p>
EZAIA	Industry representative body	Supportive	<p>At our TACC meetings held in December last year, the Eastern zone members met the day before the TACC meeting for open and honest discussions on the state of the resource with a mixture of quota owners and divers present.</p> <p>Those present agreed with the final recommendation of a 2024/25 TACC of 208.5 tonnes, with all SMU's considered to have an upper Limit of 10% except for Mallacoota Large SMU which is to be closed at the Optimal Target.</p> <p>This was a considerable drop which was arrived at by voluntary consensus with the major concern and highest priority being the state of the resource.</p> <p>It should be noted that the recommended quota drop proposed by Eastern zone members was 29.9t more than what the Stock Assessment science group, MRAG proposed using the lower range of what they recommended.</p> <p>VFA must take action with the sea urchin fishery management and start to issue permits like they said they would in May 2023 correspondence, to encourage new entrants into the area and fishery. VFA should consider removing the urchin quota of 114t. This has never been caught and if removed would open the door for more entrants and accelerated urchin removal something EZAIA has advocated for, for many years.</p> <p>Review and adjust the upper fishery limits back to the 15% and 30% limits, except for Mallacoota Large, to stop pulse fishing. This does not mean that the quota will be exceeded but provides flexibility for divers to move between reefs and fish in productive areas.</p>
SIV	Industry representative body	No position	Thank you very much for providing that information. Given abalone licence holders are not members of SIV we typically defer to Abalone Council Victoria for comment on these matters.
Mallacoota Abalone Ltd	Processor	Supportive	I'm writing to follow up on the desire of the group to see the large SMU split equally amongst the quota holding in the zone. As we discussed at the quota workshop, we have very quickly arrived at a point where we need to maximise the value on every single kg of abalone that comes through our door, not only as our duty as the zone processor, but for our survival. If we don't survive on lower throughput (which remains to be seen of course), the value of this Victorian resource will plummet overnight.
SDFV	Eastern Abalone Zone stakeholder	No position	<p>It is with interest the substantial agreed annual reduction in commercial harvest by 27%, this 24/25 season. It is also very interesting the influence of sea urchin on the availability of abalone.</p> <p>Also the only significant measure of abalone being CPU!!, and its questionable manipulation.</p>

Author	Affiliation	Position on recommended TACC	Main points of submission (using author's words)
			<p>Finally I would say it was disappointing that the recreational stakeholder (SDFV) was discouraged from attending this forum. We would hope for improved inclusiveness in the future.</p>
Craig Starritt	Recreational Diver	No position	<p>I'm concerned with the rebuild of the Blacklip Abalone Biomass & in my opinion we can improve on the transparency between the stakeholders, what's heightened my concern is the recent IUCN listing.</p> <p>In my opinion, more co-operation between the 4 stakeholders, Commercial, Recreational, VFA & the Victorian public ""consumer"" is required. There are items in my opinion that need a state wide review & the Eastern Zone Abalone Fishery should be the driving force to any restructure of the Blacklip Fishery given it's size & significance to the state.</p> <p>Eastern Zone TACC Meeting should of, in my opinion had a representative from VRFish or the SDFV as an invitee.</p>
GLAWAC	Traditional Owner	No position	<p>Daniel provided a personal response thanking VFA for sharing this information.</p>