

## ***Total allowable Commercial Catch for Victorian Giant Crab Fishery 2024/25***

### **EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

The Giant Crab Fishery is managed in accordance with the Victorian Giant Crab Fishery Management Plan. The main aim is to manage the commercial catch at levels that prevent overfishing. This reduces the risk of lowering abundance and allows 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. Furthermore, a review is triggered when there are consecutive years of declining catch rates.

In the recent 2022/23, the CPUE improved for a second consecutive year to a value of 1.10kg / 24-hour pot-lift. This is a substantial increase compared to the 2020/21 season CPUE of 0.55 kg / 24-hour pot-lift. A longer timeseries of CPUE data, based on the new operators, will provide improved insight into biomass trends. Should this trend in key indicators continue, the VFA is supportive of implementing TACC increases in the coming seasons.

The VFA looks forward to developing this fishery as it commences a review of the current harvest strategy. This review will be conducted by a dedicated sub-committee of the Rock Lobster and Giant Crab Resource Assessment Group (RLRAG).

Based on these considerations, and in accordance with the decisions rules set out in the management plan, I have decided to maintain the TACC at 7.5 tonne for the 2024/25 season.

Yours sincerely,

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

Travis Dowling  
Chief Executive Officer  
Victorian Fisheries Authority

13 / 05 / 2024