



SEAFOOD INDUSTRY VICTORIA

Fishing for the community

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8 March 2018

Ms Monique Leane
Fishery Manager
1 Spring Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

VIA: monique.lean@vfa.vic.gov.au

Dear Ms Leane

Thank you for the correspondence of 15 February 2018 from Travis Dowling, regarding the 2018/19 TACC setting for the Victorian Scallop (Ocean) Fishery. I have received minimal industry feedback following the distribution of the documentation. From the comments received that it is important that the TACC being set at 135 tonnes is by no mean restrictive and is acknowledged that there are opportunities to explore for scallops and this can be revised at any time.

We appreciate the work done in delivering the Victorian Scallop fishery abundance survey and the limited results of finding commercial quantities of scallops. We do note the biological nature of scallops, and historical fishing practices of 'farming' areas on a rotational basis and the frequency of seismic exposure in this area. So, while no beds were found to suggest an increase in the quota, we seek the VFA adopt an open mind approach to the coming scallop fishing season.

There are numerous operators who have indicated to SIV in recent times that they are very much looking for an opportunity to fish for Ocean Scallops in Victoria's fishery in the coming season. It is unfortunate with the current allocation system in place that this results in a mere 1.5 tonnes per licence, which is restricting the opportunity for people to go fishing with such a minimal amount of quota.

SIV urges that there needs to be some flexibility built into the allocation and the use of the quota system, otherwise we will again see very little take from what used to be a successful fishery.

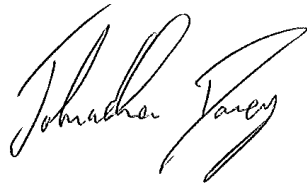
I wish to draw your attention to the most successful year in the Commonwealth Bass Strait Central Scallop Fishery last year, as area that hasn't been exposed to seismic activity for some time now. There was one bed of scallops identified mid-season (not part of their pre-season survey) that was found to be 5miles long and 2miles wide and produced approximately 1000 tonnes of scallops towards the end of 2017. Having flexibility built into

the setting of the TACC and the ability to revise or tweak the TACC during the year is of critical importance to the Victorian Scallop (Ocean) Fishery.

In closing, I would welcome the opportunity to discuss options and possible ways to increase the Scallop quota and/or allow people the ability to go fishing this season. The system being applied year on year as it currently stands, while noting the survey undertaken this year, remains broken and not fair on the Victorian scallop industry. We need to revamp and refresh the approach to this fishery if we want to have a successful Victorian Scallop (Ocean) Fishery operating.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the proposed TACC setting for the Ocean Scallop Fishery, and if you require any further information then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Johnathon Davey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Johnathon Davey
Executive Director