



Email: travis@wada.com.au
Executive Officer: Travis Baulch

16 July 2026

Luke O'Sullivan
Director – Fisheries Management
Victorian Fisheries Authority
1 Spring St, Melbourne
3000

Dear Luke,

Thank-you for the opportunity to comment on the draft FISHERIES (Abalone Data Logging Systems) NOTICE 2026. WADA is **fully supportive** of the initiative to improve data collection systems across Victoria's abalone fisheries and the draft fisheries notice proposed by VFA.

WADA has been successfully collecting georeferenced commercial fishing effort for over 15 years using Succorfish technology. The data collection program has proved invaluable when assessing fishing performance in the western abalone zone and has provided the basis for sound decision making.

Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) is the cornerstone of commercial fisheries management and quantification of this metric through the use of Gear In Gear Out (GIGO) devices are critical to constructing a database of CPUE that is measured rather than estimated. This coupled with capability to geo-reference CPUE provides the framework for understanding fine scale fishery performance, particularly during and post Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG) events. Furthermore, understanding fishery dynamics in the context of effort concentration leads to better management decisions and frameworks.

The importance of these data collection systems cannot be understated and typically time critical, especially for real-time management and assessment throughout the commercial fishing season.

I thank-you again for the opportunity to comment on the draft fisheries notice and look forward to further developing initiatives to improve abalone fisheries management frameworks.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "TB", followed by a horizontal line.

Travis Baulch

WADA - Executive Officer