

Submission on the 2017-18 Abalone Recreational Open Days



Via e-mail to: toby.jeavons@vfa.vic.gov.au

17/02/16

Toby Jeavons
Abalone Fishery Manager
PO Box 114
Queenscliff, 3225
Victoria

Re: Proposed recreational abalone open days 2017-18

Dear Toby,

The SCUBA Divers Federation (SDFV) is a peak body representing Victoria recreational SCUBA diving clubs, and has a long history as a key stakeholder and constructive contributor to the management of dive fisheries such as rock lobster, scallops and abalone.

It was disappointing that this year was the first we had not received an invitation to comment on the proposed Fisheries Notices for the recreational abalone open days. We request inclusion on the list for future consultation.

Regarding the new draft notice - we note that the status quo has not changed and have no comments as such.

Regardless - however long it has endured, this status quo remains a strange and unfair way to manage the central zone abalone fishery as a whole. That is - with the fishery formally closed to recreational fishers, with limited access (~64 days per year) only by these temporary annual fisheries notices. That the commercial fishery remains formally open with access to a much larger proportion of the year is at odds with the idea of a shared resource that is available to the people of Victoria as well as for the purposes of commercial exploitation.

As far as I know, this is the only fishery in Victoria, if not Australia to be managed as such.

We would appreciate an invitation to comment on future abalone-related matters.

Regards,

Stephen Fordyce,

Vice-President – Statutory
SCUBA Divers Federation of Victoria, *Inc.*