

Draft Victorian Pipi Fishery Management Plan

The Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) has prepared the draft Victorian Pipi Fishery Management Plan in consultation with a stakeholder-based Victorian Pipi Fishery Management Plan Steering Committee, comprised of representatives from Seafood Industry Victoria, VRFish and the VFA. Input was also received from commercial licence holders, traditional owners, conservation representatives and other stakeholders.

The key management objectives provide for long-term sustainability of the pipi fishery, equitable resource access and use, and cost-effective and participatory management.

The term of the plan will be for at least five years or until it is replaced or cancelled in accordance with the requirements of the *Fisheries Act 1995*. A review will take place after two years.

This is the first plan for the Victorian pipi fishery. It establishes a framework for a viable, profitable and sustainable pipi fishery in this State.

For the commercial fishery, the plan introduces a quota management system, a total allowable commercial catch, spatial management zones, an ongoing specific commercial entitlement and improved reporting requirements.

The recreational fishery remains as is, including the retention of the 'recreational pipi fishing only' area in eastern Victoria.

The plan notes the involvement of the VFA in negotiations to facilitate access rights for traditional owners through Natural Resource Agreements

The draft plan is now available for public comment.

Written comment on the draft plan will be accepted by Friday 13 July 2018. Please direct your submission to:

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Please contact Sonia Talman at sonia.talman@vfa.vic.gov.au or on 0436 650 202 if you would like further information