

Dr Matthew Wassnig
Chief Executive Officer
Seafood Industry Victoria
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Dear Dr Wassnig

Consultation on the 2025-26 TACCs and fees and levies for the Victorian Pipi Fishery

I would like to invite your written comment on the proposed Total Allowable Commercial Catches (TACCs) for the 2025-26 pipi fishing season commencing 1 April 2025 and the associated suggested fee relief.

Proposed 2025-26 TACCs

The VFA has considered the status of the pipi stocks in the fishery and understands that there has been little recovery in the Discovery Bay pipi population. To enable Pipi Fishery Access Licence holders to monitor and explore the zones throughout 2025-26, the VFA proposes to set the Discovery Bay TACCs at 10% of previous levels. Should evidence become available during the season indicating a return of stock to the area, the VFA will, in consultation with yourself and Pipi Fishery Access Licence holders, determine an appropriate increase in the 2025-26 TACCs.

The VFA also recommends that the 2 tonne TACC for the Venus Bay commercial zone be continued for the 2025-26 fishing year.

In summary, the proposed TACCs for 2025-26 are:

- Discovery Bay (Eastern) = 4 tonne
- Discovery Bay (Western) = 1 tonne
- Venus Bay = 2 tonne

Proposed 2025-26 fees and levies

The VFA has reviewed the services provided to the Pipi Fishery in 2024-25 and those for the upcoming 2025-26 licensing period. The low level of activity across the fishery has resulted in fewer services being required. Consequently, the VFA will provide a refund on Fishery Services from 2024-25 and a waiver on the same services for 2025-26. Fishery Services include Management, Compliance, Research and Administration.

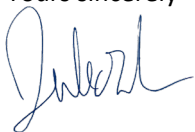
The outcome is that pipi entitlements will incur no charge for the Fishery Services for the 2025-26 licensing period. The licence renewal fee of \$42.46 will still be collected, along with a FRDC levy of \$20.63 and Grant Levy of \$524.19 (disbursed to Seafood Industry Victoria).

Under the arrangements proposed in this letter, the fees and levies charged for pipi entitlements for the 2025-26 licensing period would total \$587.28 per licence and \$0 per quota unit.

Please find attached the **draft** Further Quota Order for the proposed 2025-26 TACCs. Written comment is welcomed by **Friday 7 March 2025** to Melissa Schubert, Manager Marine Fisheries and Science: melissa.schubert@vfa.vic.gov.au.

Any submissions received in relation to the consultation being conducted by the VFA will be published on the VFA's website. In making a submission, unless the person making the submission indicates to the contrary, they will be consenting to their submission, including their name only, being published on the VFA's website for 90 days from the conclusion of the consultative process.

Yours sincerely



Luke O'Sullivan
Director Fisheries Management
Victorian Fisheries Authority
21 / 02 / 2025