

Mr Luke O'Sullivan
A/Chief Executive Officer
Victorian Fisheries Authority
GPO Box 2392
Melbourne VIC 3001

17 July 2026

Re: Submission Supporting the Draft Fisheries (Abalone Data Logging Systems) Notice 2026

Dear Mr O'Sullivan,

Central Abalone Victoria Inc. (CAV) welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the draft **Fisheries (Abalone Data Logging Systems) Notice 2026**.

CAV supports the implementation of the draft Fisheries Notice and the mandatory use of approved boat-based data loggers and diver activity loggers across the Victorian commercial abalone fishery.

The proposed introduction of these systems is consistent with the objectives of the **Victorian Abalone Management Plan**, which specifically recognises the adoption of modern technologies as an important component of responsible fisheries management. The proposed draft **Fisheries (Abalone Data Logging Systems) Notice 2026** is to implement an existing, agreed management strategy rather than introducing a new policy direction.

In particular, **Strategy 12 – Applying Modern Technologies for Catch Logging and Vessel Tracking** states that electronic data logging technologies are an important investment in rebuilding and sustainably managing abalone stocks. The Management Plan recognises that these technologies provide a more advanced and comprehensive means of collecting fishery-dependent data, including catch, shell length, dive time, dive depth and fishing location. The Strategy also acknowledges that these systems have the potential to support finer-scale spatial management and improve future stock assessments.

Importantly, the Management Plan includes the following action:

- **Action 17:** Examine options for commercial divers to use approved data loggers to record catches and fishing locations to inform harvesting at a finer spatial scale.

CAV considers that the draft Fisheries Notice represents the practical implementation of this long-standing management actions.

CAV also supports the use of data generated from the boat-based data loggers and diver activity loggers to improve the accuracy of stock assessments, reduce uncertainty in fisheries management decisions and provide greater confidence in future Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) recommendations.

CAV has already worked collaboratively with The Scientific Working Group and Abalone Council Victoria (ACV) to facilitate implementation of these technologies within the Central Zone and supports their integration with a cloud-based data system. The collection of high-quality spatial and temporal fishing data will complement existing shell measurement programs and contribute to more informed management decisions over time.

CAV notes and supports the Victorian Fisheries Authority's commitment that installation costs will be funded through the Victorian Fisheries Authority and Abalone Council Victoria, enabling consistent implementation across the Victorian commercial abalone fleet.

CAV therefore supports the draft **Fisheries (Abalone Data Logging Systems) Notice 2026** and looks forward to continuing to work collaboratively with the Victorian Fisheries Authority, ACV and industry participants to successfully implement these important improvements to fisheries monitoring and management.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Notice.

Yours sincerely,

Sean Buck
Chairman
Central Abalone Victoria Inc.