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Dear Sonia,

## **RESPONSE TO DRAFT PIPI FISHERY NOTICE**

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

The draft Fishery Notice is a positive step forward and a necessary precursor to a future Victorian Papi Fishery Management Plan.

High latent effort in the fishery is of concern and is a risk to the sustainability of pipi stocks. Introducing an Endorsement Notice is an essential step to deal with unacceptably high latent effort and importantly support the economic viability and development of the fishery. Limiting the fishery to those that have a demonstrated catch history of pipi and specified catch limits is a fair and reasonable approach used across fisheries management.

Opening up new areas for the commercial sector to explore and expand is needed and supported. This strategy will reduce access conflict and concentrated fishing effort. Papis are an important bait product and the recreational fishing industry has a vested interest to ensure an ongoing supply of papis to the into the bait market.

Conflict with recreational fishers we believe can be sufficiently managed through the provision of recreationally only areas, such as what is in place at Venus Bay.

Again, we recognise these are interim measures and we will continue to work with the VFA and the commercial industry towards the development of a Papi Fishery Management Plan.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Robert Loats  
Chair  
**Victorian Recreational Fishing Peak Body**  
31 August 2017