



Consultation on the draft Corner Inlet Fishery Management Plan:

Summary of recreational fisher survey results

The Draft Corner Inlet Fishery Management Plan (the Plan) was released for public consultation by the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) over a 60-day period from 29 December 2021 to 27 February 2022.

The public were invited to provide their views on the Plan by sending in submissions. A short survey targeted to recreational fishers was also made available and was sent out via a Survey Monkey link in the VFA's Nibbles (recreational fishing) newsletter in January 2022.

A total of 15 responses to the recreational fisher survey were received, while 23 additional written submissions were separately received from a variety of stakeholders.

The results of the recreational fisher survey are summarised below. Given the relatively low level of response to the survey, these results are worthy of noting but should not be referenced as statistics for estimating the level of support from the recreational sector for particular proposals within the Plan or for the overall Plan.

Key take-outs from each of the survey questions were that:

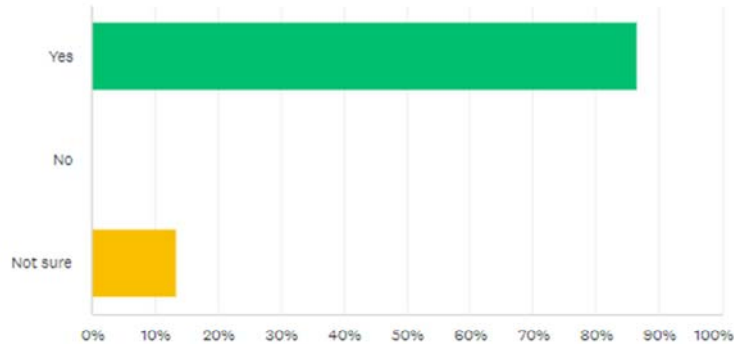
1. There was a high level of support for the revised cockle bag limit, with no respondents indicating they were against the proposed reduction from 5L per person per day to 2 litres per person per day. Only 13% (2/15 respondents) were unsure, while 87% (13/15 respondents) were in support of the change.
2. 20% (3/15) of respondents *do not* believe that all other rec management arrangements that apply in Corner Inlet provide for sustainable and quality fishing opportunities.
3. 13% (2/15) of respondents *do not* support the objectives, strategies and actions of the draft Corner Inlet Fishery Management Plan.
4. Survey profile: 60% (9/15 of the respondents) fish Corner Inlet regularly (>3 times a year), while 33% (5/15) fish Corner Inlet on the odd occasion and 7% (1/15) do not fish at all.

The survey questions, results and additional comments provided by respondents can be seen in the pages below.

Question 1 of 4.

Do you support the proposed reduction to the bag/possession limit of cockles at the Corner Inlet fishery from 5L litres to 2L litres per person per day? This is designed to better share the resource amongst the recreational fishing community and ensure quality fishing opportunities into the future (particularly in popular harvesting areas such as McLoughlins Beach)

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0





ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	86.67%	13
No	0.00%	0
Not sure	13.33%	2
TOTAL		15

Additional comments provided by respondents (optional)

1. Overharvesting at McLoughlins Beach is a massive problem and I would support the restrictions being tighter. Mud cockles are vacuumed up until none are left.
2. I would like to see a total ban on collection of cockles in corner inlet as i have seen first hand the damage and destruction caused by large groups on the areas that cockles can be found in saying a reduction will not stop this from happening as these groups will continue to rape and pillage areas by just bringing more children with them thus resulting in similar amounts that are taken today
3. And strict re-enforcement of "per person" versus "spread across the family/group"

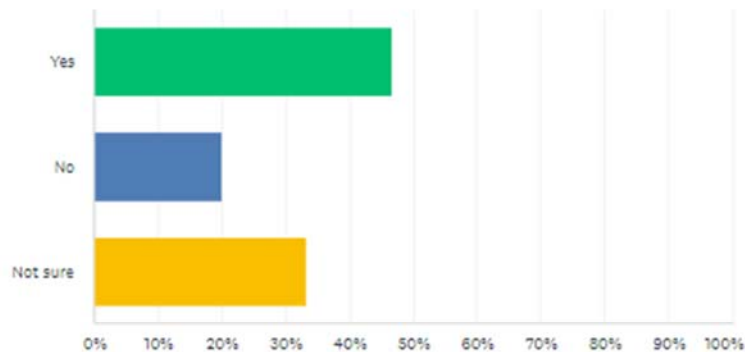
Question 2 of 4.

Q2

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In your view, do the other recreational fishing management arrangements that currently apply in the Corner Inlet fishery generally provide for sustainable and quality recreational fishing opportunities? This relates to existing size and bag limits for finfish, gear restrictions etc.

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	46.67% 7
No	20.00% 3
Not sure	33.33% 5
TOTAL	15

Additional comments provided by respondents (optional)

1. Too many pros. Load should be shared across all areas. i.e Western Port & Port Phillip. Corner Inlet is also being hammered outside in the breeding grounds by pros from the ninety mile down.
2. Very happy to support sustainable bag limits and size limits for recreational fishing. The commercial fishing arrangement needs to be addressed and more importantly policed better than they currently are.
3. Schooling/breeding estuary perch are netted ferociously and I have noticed a decline in size and abundance of these fish. If commercial netters can sort through their catch while it is still in the water I would say this is a great improvement over meshing.
4. I personally think a reduction on bag limits should be considered in particular to gunny shark down to one per person as there are still people out there who continue to fish every day and with children on board a boat or off the beach taking the bag of 2 per person no one needs this amount of fish
5. All professional fishing should be banned from enclosed waters in corner inlet to maximise recreational opportunities and tourism in the area.

Question 3 of 4.

Q3

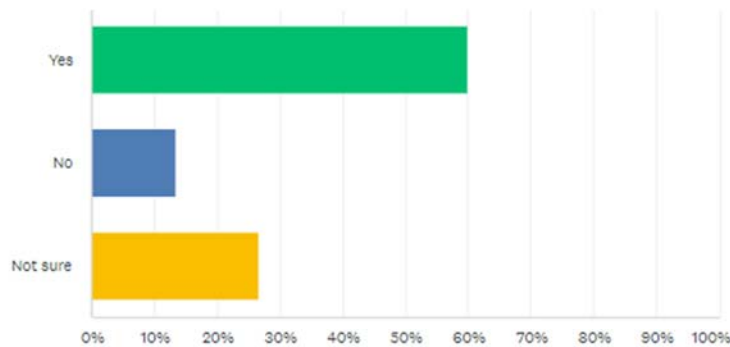


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Do you support the proposed objectives, strategies and actions set out in the draft Corner Inlet Fishery Management Plan, which are designed to ensure the fishery remains productive and sustainable?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Yes	60.00% 9
▼ No	13.33% 2
▼ Not sure	26.67% 4
TOTAL	15

Additional comments provided by respondents (optional)

1. I fail to understand why commercial fishing is currently allowed to continue to operate in Corner Inlet. In particular the arrogance of some of the operators needs urgent addressing. They have a total disregard for recreational fishermen and the current expected code of conduct is clearly being abused because of a lack of policing. Commercial fishing has been banned in many Victorian waters - why is it allowed to continue virtually unchecked in Corner Inlet?
2. 400 + tonnes of fish seems a lot to me.
3. As I don't think it goes far enough in protecting sensitive areas within Corner Inlet I would support the total ban on cockle collection also a ban on netting in more areas within the Corner Inlet system and maybe the removal of netting all together I also think that some more areas of marine parks could be added.

Q4

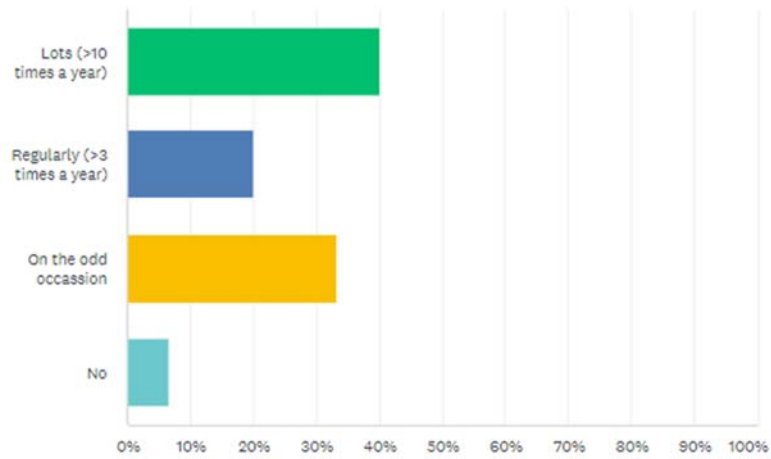


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Do you personally fish at the Corner Inlet fishery?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Lots (>10 times a year)	40.00% 6
▼ Regularly (>3 times a year)	20.00% 3
▼ On the odd occasion	33.33% 5
▼ No	6.67% 1
TOTAL	15