

7 January 2022

**Travis Dowling**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Victorian Fisheries Authority

Dear Mr Dowling,

**Draft Fisheries (Spider Crab) Notice 2022**

Thank you for your letter dated 21 December 2021 providing the opportunity to comment on the draft Fisheries (Spider Crab) Notice 2022 which proposes continuation of the current, reduced recreational catch and possession limit for spider crabs for a further 12 months.

Whilst the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council (MPSC) welcomes the continuation of the reduced catch limits from 30 to 15 per person, we believe the issue merits more significant and long-term restrictions across the Mornington Peninsula.

The MPSC voted unanimously in favour of a Notice of Motion on 18 May 2021, to request the Victorian government to implement an annual 'no-take' season for Spider Crabs during the aggregation, between April and July.

Please refer to the attached letter to Minister Horne dated 21 June 2021 detailing this request.

The MPSC continues to work with community and coastal user groups, including the Rye Coastal Advisory Group, Rye Community Group Alliance, the diving community, and the Spider Crab Alliance (SCA). The SCA aim to highlight the community concerns of the crabbing and netting of the Spider Crabs, during their annual aggregation.

As a major stakeholder in management of the Rye foreshore, the MPSC has also been working closely with the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA), to support additional signage, bins and roll out of a diverse educational campaign. We are committed to continuing this close working relationship with the VFA and in the lead up to the next aggregation would like to explore opportunities to partner on an engagement program involving local and broader communities.

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**Contact the Mornington Peninsula Shire**

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Yours sincerely,



Pauline Gordon  
Acting Chief Executive Officer