***Submissions on the 2017/18 Ocean Scallop Total Allowable Commercial Catch***

| ***Submitter*** | ***Submission*** |
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| Johnathon Davey, Seafood Industry Victoria | Thank you the correspondence of 23 February 2017, regarding the 2017./2018 TACC setting for the Victorian Scallop (Ocean) Fishery. I have received minimal industry feedback, however feel from the comments received that it is important that the TACC being set at 135 tonnes is by no mean restrictive and must be reviewed as outlined below.  There are numerous operators who have indicated throught he past month that they are very much looking for an opportunity to fish for Ocean Scallops in Victoria’s fishery in the coming season. It is unfortununate with the system in place that the allocation to each licence remains at 1.5 tonne, and therefore this is restricting the opportunity for people to go fishing due to the minimal amount of quota. I urge that there needs to be some flexibility built into the allocation and the use of this quota system, otherwise we will again see very little take from what used to be a largely successful fishery.  I note that two years ago, the Department was open to the idea of raising the quota to 522 tonnes without the availability of any further science. Given the interest in some members of industry in accessing scallops in the Victorian fishery, I think the most logical outcome would be to establish a working group of interested people to discuss how to make this happen. This would allow the fishery to generate income for Victoria and create catch history and scientific data to assist with future management decisions.  There are also some serious questions being asked with regards to setting/rolling-over this quota limit as it has been for a number of years now, and the associated cost recovery fees- which appear significantly overcharged in industry’s view. I intend to raise this with the Fisheries Cost Recovery Standing Committee at the next meeting, to provide fee reductions for industry who are not utilizing their licence or quota due to the restrictive nature.  In closing, I would greatly welcome the opportunity to get together with like-minded people to discuss options and possible ways to increase the Scallop quota and/or allow people the ability to go fishing this season. The system being applied year on year as it currently stands is broken and not fair on the Victorian scallop industry, it needs to be revamped, refreshed and given some life if we ever want to have a successful Victorian Scallop (Ocean) Fishery operating again.  Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the proposed TACC setting for the Ocean Scallop Fishery, and if you require any further information then please do not hesitate to contact me. |
| Stuart Richey, Richey Fishing Company | Appears to be no alternative.  No point in setting a higher TACC until stocks recover.  Appears seismic has had a substantial impact on Victorian Scallop Resources and Eastern Bass Straight Commonwealth beds. |