**Public submissions on the 2019/20 Western Zone Abalone Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC)**

| ***Submitter*** | ***Submission*** |
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| Kerry Rowe | I agree with the summary and the outcomes from the Western Zone meeting held in Port fairy on 15/01/2019.  It is a well-structured process that has a very credible and safe outcome. |
| Harry Peeters (WADA) | The draft Further Abalone Quota Order and Draft Fisheries Notice specifies outcomes that are in accordance with our Western Zone Quota Workshop held in Port Fairy on 15/1/19. WADA is in agreeance with both the Draft order and draft notice. |
| Shannon Hurley (VNPA) | The Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA) thanks the Victorian Fisheries Authority for the opportunity to comment on the draft Further Abalone Quota Orders (FAQOs) and associated draft Fisheries Notices for the 2019/20 commercial abalone fishing season.  The VNPA is a leading community conservation organisation and has been advocating for the protection of Victoria’s biodiversity for over 60 years.  The Abalone Fishery is one of Victoria’s main and highly valuable fisheries. Given their importance, it is critical they are managed based incorporating ecological sustainable principles, at an ecosystem-wide level, and not a single species approach.  Given many of the biological processes and ecological relationships are not well understood, we question whether the current recommended Total Allowable Commercial Catches (TACC) will be enough to sustain the fishery in the long-term, considering the imminent impacts.  Imminent impacts likely to impact the fishery include climate change and sea urchin invasions from warming waters, which could provide direct competition with the abalone fishery.  In our view, it is important that these threats are factored into the decision making process in setting the TACC for the central and western zones.  The reduction of the TACC for blacklip abalone in the central zone and additional management requirements for greenlip are welcome, however even the FRDC lists the central zone blacklip fishery as transitional depleting and greenlip as overfished.  Feedback from the western zone workshop summary states:  “…..this is still a recovering fishery and a cautious approach should be taken”  Given this, we question the need to increase TACC from 70 to 73.2 tonnes for blacklip abalone in the western zone, and if greenlip TACC should be reviewed for decrease, and additionally considering ecosystem impacts likely to impact on the fishery.  We reiterate the need for a cautious and ecosystem-based approach. We note that the primary management objective to rebuild the abalone resource to ensure sustainability economic productivity, and suggest it should also include one that ensures ecological sustainability and production.  Thank you again for the opportunity to express our views. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information. |