**Submission template for feedback on the proposed 2020/21 TACC for the Ocean Scallop Fishery**

**Please return submissions by Friday 28 February to Toby Jeavons, Fishery Manager, at Victorian Fisheries Authority, 2A Bellarine Hwy, Queenscliff Victoria, 3225 or toby.jeavons@vfa.vic.gov.au.**

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| Proposed 135 tonne TACC * Supported
* Not supported – a simple roll-over is not supported without other measures in place.
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| Proposed AlternativeWe would like to see the TACC raised from 135 tonne to 522 tonnes as an initial increase, consistent with the proposal by the then Fisheries Victoria in the 2015 TACC setting process. An immediate increase in the quota will see the allocation increase from 1.5t per licence to 5.8t per licence. A B Hunter Fishing owns 10 Victorian Scallop licences and also, we have access to lease in roughly another 10 more licenses. We are also the only fishers to have fished in Victorian waters for quite a number of years and signs from some preliminary effort in 2019 suggest the fishery needs a higher TACC to allow us to invest some effort in bringing to market Victorian scallops. We would like to see the “Tear Drop System” in place meaning once we reach the trigger point caught the quota can be increased from 522 tonnes. We have used this system Scallop fishing in Tasmanian waters in the past which worked really well.Another element that we seek be considered is that in the Tasmanian Scallop fishery rules (excerpt provided below), there is the ability for ‘Research Quota’ to be issued. As the only fisher in Victoria landing scallops at present, if there is no consideration for increasing the quota then we seek this be implemented and would like to see 200tonnes of research quota established for access.*“(1)  The Secretary may allocate research quota units to the holder of a fishing licence (scallop) in lieu of payment for approved research undertaken by the licence holder.**(2)  A research quota unit allocated under [subrule (1)](https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/whole/html/asmade/sr-2010-003%22%20%5Cl%20%22GS22%40Gs1%40EN) authorises the holder of the fishing licence (scallop) to take, for commercial purposes, the amount of scallops specified under [subrule (3)(a)](https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/whole/html/asmade/sr-2010-003%22%20%5Cl%20%22GS22%40Gs3%40Hpa%40EN) .**(3)  The Secretary is to specify –**(a) the amount of scallops that may be taken under a research quota unit; and**(b) the conditions under which those scallops may be taken.**(4)  The holder of a fishing licence (scallop) who has been allocated a research quota unit under [subrule (1)](https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/whole/html/asmade/sr-2010-003%22%20%5Cl%20%22GS22%40Gs1%40EN)  –**(a) must not take more than the amount specified under [subrule (3)(a)](https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/whole/html/asmade/sr-2010-003%22%20%5Cl%20%22GS22%40Gs3%40Hpa%40EN) for that research quota unit; and**(b) must comply with any conditions specified under [subrule (3)(b)](https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/whole/html/asmade/sr-2010-003%22%20%5Cl%20%22GS22%40Gs3%40Hpb%40EN) .“* |
| Evidence to support proposalMy name is Jake Watts I’m a third-generation scallop fishermen in Bass Strait my PFN is 14079. I have scallop fished alongside my Father and Grandfather since I was roughly 8 years old. On the 1st of June 2019 I sailed the FV Northern Star into Victorian state fishing waters in search of new scallop beds. What I discovered was exceptional scallops, with high catch rates; average shell size was 90-95/100mm (last year) meaning the fish will be bigger this year and ready for harvest, 5-10 minute tows in some areas were the fish are at their thickest. Due to the low TAC I had to average out our quota over several weeks and was not able to commit myself to solely Scallop fishing. Over the course of 7 trips our two ton quota a trip only took two to three hours to catch. We caught a total of 14625 kg in the Victorian Scallop fishery in 2019 over 7 weeks, before moving into the Commonwealth fishery where the quota makes for viable fishing. I have attached photos to this submission with times/dates corresponding with my trip dates last year and hope to see a strong interest from the VFA in supporting me as a young keen fisher wanting to fish the Victorian fishery.I have also been made aware, from some of our fishing vessels and other operators in the Danish Seine fishery, that there are currently strong catches of scallops in the trawl gear being reported in the Victorian fishery boundaries. These are areas where we did not fish in 2019, but suggest there is a strong opportunity to grow the fishery through an increased TAC. |
| Other Comments |

*Note: Please attach additional pages if there is insufficient space on this form*