

Total Allowable Commercial Catch for the Victorian Octopus Fishery (Eastern Zone) 2025/26

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

I have decided to continue the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) of 68.7 tonnes for the Victorian Octopus Fishery (Eastern Zone) for the 2025/26 season.

Since its establishment in 2020, the Octopus Fishery Access Licence class has permitted targeted commercial octopus harvest in Victoria under sustainable management controls. These licences have been issued authorising octopus harvest in the eastern zone using unbaited shelter pots, whilst regulated through a quota management system and a TACC. The TACC has been set at 68.7 tonnes for each fishing season to date.

Consistent with previous assessments, this determination has been guided by a weight of evidence approach. The TACC has been set based on the available data of the fishery, including stock status, catch and effort data, fishery management settings, and species biology. Maintaining sustainable biomass levels of pale octopus across the eastern zone, while mitigating the risk of localised depletion, remains a critical objective to ensure the long-term sustainability of the fishery.

Consultation on the 2025/26 TACC for the Victorian Octopus Fishery (Eastern Zone) was undertaken from 22 May to 6 June 2025 in accordance with section 3A of the *Fisheries Act 1995*.



Luke O'Sullivan

Director Fisheries Management and Boating

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17/06/2025