



Ms Joanne Butterworth-Gray  
Independent Chair  
Seafood Industry Victoria  
Email: [jbutterworthgray@gmail.com](mailto:jbutterworthgray@gmail.com)

Dear Ms Butterworth-Gray

### **Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG) detection at Cape Nelson**

I am writing to provide an update on the AVG detection in the Cape Nelson area near Portland.

I'm delighted to advise the response has been immediate and implemented in a coordinated manner across Government, industry and stakeholders. Every effort is being made to contain the virus, including establishment of an Emergency Management Team to coordinate the on-ground response. Additional dive surveys are being conducted to help determine the extent of the virus and temporary laws to prohibit commercial and recreational fishing and anchoring of specified vessels in the area have been established. The VFA has also deployed operational staff to the area to enforce the temporary laws and to assist with on-ground operations.

Unfortunately, diseased abalone were recently detected outside the western boundary of the control area. In response, Biosecurity Victoria will be expanding the control area to include the western side of Cape Bridgewater. I have recently approved a revised Fisheries Notice which reflects this boundary change (see attached). This Notice will be in place until 30 June 2021, unless sooner revoked.

I am pleased to advise the revised Fisheries Notice will allow the use of certain recreational fishing equipment in most of the control area, to take fish other than shellfish, aquatic crustaceans or echinoderms. Recreational fishing equipment that does not come in contact with the sea floor or any organism attached to the sea floor, present little or no risk of spreading AVG and will now be permitted to be used. This will mean that recreational fishers can use rods and lines or handlines which do not have sinkers attached, lures or baits (live or dead) that are trolled under propulsion or neutrally or positively buoyant lures for recreational fishing in most of the control area. Recreational fishing from the Port of Portland Breakwater structures will also continue to be permitted.

The only exception to this will be around the Yumbah Narrawong Aquaculture facility, where all forms of fishing will remain prohibited within 750 metres of Yumbah's water intake pipes.

Recreational fishers should note that the taking and possession of shellfish, aquatic crustaceans or echinoderms from the control area remains prohibited, and the anchoring of vessels in the control area is prohibited.

I would like to thank everyone who has assisted with the response to the virus to date. The VFA will continue to work closely with you and Biosecurity Victoria to help manage this event.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Travis Dowling", written over a light blue wavy background.

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

28 / 05 / 2021

## Fisheries Act 1995

### FISHERIES NOTICE 2021

I, Travis Dowling, Chief Executive Officer of the Victorian Fisheries Authority, as delegate for the Minister for Fishing and Boating, having undertaken consultation in accordance with Section 3A of the **Fisheries Act 1995** (the Act), make the following Fisheries Notice under Sections 67, 114 and 152 of the Act:

28 / 05 / 2021



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

### FISHERIES (ABALONE DISEASE CLOSURE NO. 2) NOTICE 2021

#### 1. *Title*

This Notice may be cited as the Fisheries (Abalone Disease Closure No. 2) Notice 2021.

#### 2. *Objectives*

The objectives of this Notice are to protect the abalone fishery and abalone aquaculture activities by reducing the risk of Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis spread due to specified activities.

#### 3. *Authorising provision*

This Notice is made under Sections 67, 114 and 152 of the Act.

#### 4. *Commencement*

This Notice comes into operation on the day it is published in the Government Gazette.

#### 5. *Definitions*

In this Fisheries Notice –

**‘approved recreational fishing equipment’** means a rod and line or handline (which does not have a sinker attached), a lure or bait (live or dead) trolled under propulsion or a neutrally or positively buoyant lure, but does not include a weighted jig or a weighted bait jig;

**‘control area’** means all marine waters shown hatched on the plan in the Schedule;

**‘dive equipment’** includes any mask, snorkel or underwater breathing apparatus;

**‘inspector’** means an inspector of livestock appointed under the **Livestock Disease Control Act 1994**;

**‘shellfish’** means all species in the phylum mollusca except squid, octopus and cuttlefish;

**‘substrate’** means any part of the sea bed and sub-soil lying beneath the waters;

**‘the Act’** means the **Fisheries Act 1995**;

**‘VFA’** means the Victorian Fisheries Authority established under the **Victorian Fisheries Authority Act 2016**.

**6. Prohibition on the use of specified equipment in the control area**

- (1) For the purposes of section 114 of the Act, the use of any recreational fishing equipment, commercial fishing equipment or commercial abalone equipment in the control area is prohibited.
- (2) For the purposes of the Act, the catch limit with respect to –
  - (a) the taking of any species of fish in the control area is 0; or
  - (b) the possession of any species of shellfish, aquatic crustaceans or echinoderms in the control area is 0.
- (3) Sub-clause (1) and (2)(a) do not apply to a person who uses approved recreational fishing equipment anywhere in the control area, except within 750 metres of the Yumbah Narrawong Aquaculture water intake pipes, to take a species of fish other than shellfish, aquatic crustaceans or echinoderms and who is otherwise fishing in accordance with the Fisheries Regulations 2019.
- (4) Sub clause (1) and (2)(a) do not apply to a person who uses a rod and line or handline to take a species of fish other than shellfish, aquatic crustaceans or echinoderms from the Port of Portland Breakwater structures and who is otherwise fishing in accordance with the Fisheries Regulations 2019.
- (5) Sub clause (2)(b) does not apply to a person travelling by the shortest practicable route from a point outside the control area to another point outside the control area.
- (6) For the purposes of section 114 of the Act, the use of any dive equipment in the control area is prohibited.

**7. Prohibition on the use of anchored boats in the control area**

- (1) For the purposes of section 114 of the Act, the use of any boat that is anchored in the control area is prohibited.
- (2) Sub-clause (1) does not apply to a commercial boat greater than 35 meters in length anchoring in the area marked on the plan in the Schedule as the Portland Anchorage with approval of the Harbour Master for the port waters of Portland.

**8. Prohibition on collecting substrate in the control area**

A person must not collect any substrate from the control area.

Penalty: 50 Penalty units.

**9. Exemptions**

- (1) This notice does not apply to an inspector, authorised officer or police officer acting in the execution of their duties.
- (2) One or more provisions of this notice do not apply to a person specifically authorised in writing for the purpose of this clause by the VFA, authorised officer or an inspector.

**10. Application to Fisheries Reserves**

For the purposes of section 152(4), this notice applies to all Fisheries Reserves.

**11. Revocation**

- (1) The Fisheries (Abalone Disease Closure) Notice 2021, gazetted on 7 May 2021 (No. S206), is revoked.
- (2) Unless sooner revoked, this Notice will be revoked on 30 June 2021.

**Notes:**

Contravention of any prohibition under Sections 67 and 114 of the Act, as set out in this Fisheries Notice, is an offence under that section of the Act. A maximum penalty of 100 penalty units or 6 months imprisonment or both applies.

# SCHEDULE

