

Final quota notice issued:

- **Blacklip abalone TACC of 280.2 tonnes** (reduction of 27.5 tonnes from 2015/16)
- **Greenlip abalone TACC of 3.4 tonnes** (no change from 2015/16)
- No change to current legal minimum sizes for blacklip and greenlip abalone
- Quota Holders' meeting on TACC, Future Stewardship and Harvest Strategy Input scheduled for 10.30am to 12.30pm and Lunch from 12.30pm to 1.15pm on Friday 18 March 2016 (venue tbc)
- Progress with data loggers and development of harvest strategy

Final Notice for 2016/17 TACC

The final abalone quota order has been issued and represents **a 9% decrease on the 2015/16 TACC**. Disappointingly the Department were not willing to shift from their draft position despite their lack of evidence to support their decision.

The department's unwillingness to consider the evidence of the state of the resource as prepared by highly respected, independent scientists, is of continuing concern.

The Blacklip quota amount of 280.2 tonnes for 2016/17 is a 27.5 tonne reduction or a 40 kilogram reduction per Blacklip unit.

We have undertaken numerous steps with the Department to underline the lack of good evidence and the measurable long term economic ramifications for the Central Zone region. Although this cut is a significant reduction in the original amount of 100 tonnes and the amount the Government proposed at the TACC workshop of 36.4 tonnes, this is a disappointing result for the central zone.

If you require financial or other support services you may wish to talk to your accountant, financial adviser or health professional. You can also contact **Beyondblue** which provides counselling assistance **tel: 1300 22 4636**. If you require specific financial or other support services I will be able to put you in touch with a government service that may be of assistance.

On the positive side, the Notice for 2016/17 does follow the Minister's Fisheries Management Plan of 30% as a maximum limit above the Optimum Target. Please note that Fisheries Notices will be installed automatically at the 30% above optimal target (OT) point, subject to any changes that may be brought about by the harvest strategy.

Quota Holders' Meeting and Strategy session

The government has provided a strong commitment to work closely with the Central Zone to improve science and management through the Harvest Strategy.

The AV(CZ) board will hold a meeting on 18 March on this TACC announcement, future stewardship steps we can take

and to gain quota holder input into the Harvest Strategy.

In addition to this the Board is currently running a strategy process which will assist the organisation in the development of the 2016/17 business plan. This will include an ALL CZ (non-government) stakeholder workshop.

Further details regarding the venue, time and agenda for these two important meetings will be provided shortly.

Data loggers

A key issue in the current quota setting environment is lack of robust data to support good science and **evidence based policy decisions**. This is an area where industry can significantly boost resource stewardship capability.

The AV(CZ) is committed to providing a comprehensive data logger program. Consistent with our current business plan, as the first step, we are trialling six data loggers from Succor Fish. These machines have arrived in Victoria and are now in the process of being installed on a number of our diver's boats.

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Sean Buck will be in touch with a number of you in the next week to ensure the Central Zone is receiving relatively even coverage. The aim is to run this trial for around one month.

The trial of succour fish data loggers will help to establish and confirm their technological capability. Eventually the data logger and measurement unit program will include 27 data logger units and six location and width measuring units.

In line with good data handling and the privacy of your information ***Dr Duncan Worthington will be the sole administrator.***

Duncan will be testing the viability of the Succor Fish data base against other options.

The next steps from here include:

- the shift from trial to full roll out.
- Purchase of measurement devices.
- Ensuring Government are happy with the way we collect, store and independently assess information.

While the data will be new, the aim is to have it used and its veracity acknowledged by Government in the 2017/18 TACC setting process (this

aggregated information needs to be provided in an industry agreed form to Government in November).

We continue to work with government to develop protocols for the collection, storage and analysis of the data to ensure that the Department can gain assurance over the integrity and reliability of data and its analysis while addressing issues such as the commercial sensitivity of industry provided data.

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Image of one of the data loggers which has recently arrived from the UK.