

Information Paper

Total Allowable Catch Determination- NSW Abalone Fishery

Abalone Fishery – 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021

The Deputy Director General, DPI Fisheries, as the delegate of the Secretary of the Department of Regional NSW, has made an interim Total Allowable Catch (TAC) determination of **100 tonnes** for the Abalone Fishery for the fishing period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

This interim TAC determination does not include any carry forward of uncaught quota. Further consideration on the carry forward of uncaught quota from the 2019-20 fishing period will be done with the Total Allowable Fishing (TAF) Committee during the 2020-21 fishing period.

The Department of Primary Industries will allocate quota to fishery shareholders for the 2020-21 fishing period in proportion to their shareholding prior to 1 July 2020.

The TAF Committee made a TAC determination for the Abalone Fishery for the 2020-21 fishing period on 10 June 2020, less than 30 days before the start of the fishing period on 1 July 2020. Given the short timeframe between the TAF Committee's determination and the start of the fishing period, the Minister did not have time to require the Committee to reconsider its determination before the start of the fishing period (section 40K of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (the Act)).

In accordance with section 40I(1) of the Act, the Secretary may make an interim fishing determination for a fishing period:

- if the regulations require the TAF Committee to make a fishing determination for that fishing period, and
- the TAF Committee has not made a fishing determination for that period 30 days before the start of that fishing period.

An interim TAC determination was considered necessary to enable Abalone fishers to continue fishing in the 2020-21 fishing period. An interim TAC determination must not exceed the TAC determination for the immediately preceding period, i.e. the 2019-20 fishing period TAC of 100 tonnes.

The Minister may give further directions to the TAF Committee in the 2020-21 fishing period as to matters to be taken into account, to seek pragmatic solutions to the carrying forward of uncaught quota from the 2019-20 fishing period into future fishing periods.

The Department of Primary Industries and the Commercial Fishing NSW Advisory Council (CommFish NSW) have prioritised the development of a harvest strategy for the Abalone Fishery to inform future TAC setting processes.

Where can I find more information about TAC determinations?

- Total Allowable Catch and Effort Determinations – <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/TAC>
- Commercial Fisheries Hotline: 1300 726 488