

CEO Report



October 2019

Catch Update

1-Oct-18

	2018 TAC kgs	Total Caught	Total Uncaught	% of TAC taken
Bass Strait Blacklip	91,000	75,201	15,799	82.6
Eastern Blacklip	294,000	217,543	76,458	74.0
Greenlip	133,000	88,568	44,432	66.6
Northern Blacklip	98,000	64,582	33,418	65.9
Western Blacklip	717,500	476,838	240,662	66.5
Total	1,333,500	922,732	410,769	69.2

1-Oct-19

	2019 TAC kgs	Total Caught	Total Uncaught	% of TAC taken
Bass Strait Blacklip	91,000	68,597	22,403	75.4
Eastern Blacklip	252,000	184,614	67,386	73.3
Greenlip	108,500	91,139	17,361	84.0
Northern Blacklip	98,000	73,243	24,757	74.7
Western Blacklip	717,500	373,523	343,977	52.1
Total	1,267,000	791,116	475,884	62.4

From the TACL Processor Chair:

The year so far up to mid-October

Predominately to the live Market - landed abalone East and West;

October 2018 694,380 Kg

October 2019 558,130 Kg

136,246 Kg Less in sales at the same time last year.

Abalone to be fished for the rest of the year: East and West combined;

As at 1 October 2018 317,120 kg

As at 1 October 2019 411,363 kg

94,243 kg More to sell than at same time last year.

***LESS what has been taken during recent west coast pattern



Average Quarterly Beach price spreads (all product forms) -

\$30 to \$36/kg in 2013

\$33 to \$39/kg in 2014

\$39 to \$45/kg for 2015

\$44 to \$56/kg for 2016

\$47 to \$56/kg for 2017

\$59 to \$72/kg for 2018

\$62 to \$71/kg for 2019 so far



distribution of *Centrostephanus rogersii*

- barrens patches
- no barrens, individuals common
- no barrens, individuals rare
- uncertain

2005

St Helens
(1978)

Bicheno
(~1980s)

Maria Island
(~1980s)

Tasman Peninsula
(during 1980s)

0 50
Kilometres

ABALONE INDUSTRY REINVESTMENT FUND

Broadly speaking, the objectives of the AIRF fund are to:

- support projects to increase abalone stock rates and
 - support projects to reduce the long spined sea urchin population on the East Coast
- The fund is administered by the AIRF committee which consists of membership from the Tasmanian Abalone Council (TACL), the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) with advice provided by the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies from the University of Tasmania. The AIRF Committee is chaired by Dr Ian Dutton, Director, Marine Resources.

ABALONE INDUSTRY REINVESTMENT FUND

Available Investment Funds:

Year 1	2018/19	\$600k
Year 2	2019/20	\$900k
Year 3	2020/21	\$1.2 M
Year 4	2020/21	\$1.2 M
Year 5	2022/23	\$1.2M

TACL CENTROSTEPHANUS HARVEST SUBSIDY 2016 TO 2019



As of September 2019, a total of \$510,000 has been paid out as Centro roe harvest subsidy to 21 urchin divers. NOTE: Of the 21 urchin divers, 16 are dual license holders – i.e. hold abalone and commercial dive (urchin) licenses.

The Centro subsidy has so far facilitated the harvest of 770.5 tonnes of live Centro – this equates to the removal of over 2.3 million urchins from Tasmania’s east coast since the subsidy commenced in 2016.

The AIRF Committee have nominally set aside \$420k for the Centro subsidy (harvest and/or culling) for the balance of the 2019/20 year.



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Resurvey of the longspined sea urchin (*Centrostephanus rodgersii*) and associated barren reef in Tasmania

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Citation

Ling, SD and Keane, JP, Resurvey of the longspined sea urchin (*Centrostephanus rodgersii*) and associated barren reef in Tasmania, Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania, Hobart, Tasmania, December (2018) [Government or Industry Research]



Multiplying observed *C. rodgersii* densities across available rocky reef habitat within the 4 to 18 m depth range leads to an estimated increase in the *C. rodgersii* population from ~6.7 million to 9.9 million individuals between 2001/02 and 2016/17 (a 48% increase over the 15 year period or an average of ~200,000 urchins per year).

SOout to 18m depth, centro population is estimated at around 10 million



Scaling urchin densities across the full width of available reef (4 to 40m depth), the population of *C. rodgersii* is estimated to have grown from ~11 million to more than 18 million over the 15-year period (a 60% increase over the 15 year period or an average of ~460,000 urchins per year); equating to a biomass increase from ~3,000 to ~5,500 tonnes, or an average increase of 170 t per year. Inclusive of the sizeable population on Kent Group reefs in Bass Strait, the population of *C. rodgersii* in Tasmanian State Waters is estimated to have exceeded 20 million individuals by ~2017.

SO.....from 4 to 40 meters in depth, centro population is around 20 million

Clearly we still have some work to do.....

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It looks like a yellow human tongue. Here's Australia's booming seafood delicacy

Landline By Margot Kelly

Posted 10 Aug 2019, 5:18am



VIDEO: Sea urchins, though a delicacy in parts of Asia, are not to everyone's taste. (Landline)

Tasmanian Seafood Industry Awards Night 2019 - Winner Environment Award

CENTRO COLLABORATION: TACL/TCDA/RTS PAUA Co



Australian Seafood Industry Awards 2019
Nominee: Environment Award



ABALONE INDUSTRY REINVESTMENT FUND

In the second quarter of 2019, the AIRF Committee initiated a process inviting expressions of interest (EOI's) for project funding.

Examples of the areas and types of suitable projects sought included:

- abalone stock enhancement
 - habitat survey and long spined sea urchin barren mapping
 - management and mitigation of long spined sea urchins
 - effects of global warming on abalone and abalone habitat
 - public outreach and education to promote understanding of issues such as abalone fishery
 - management and urchin control strategies
- The AIRF Committee has reviewed a number of projects to further the objectives of the AIRF. So far six (6) projects have been approved and have either commenced or are about to commence.
- <https://dpi.wa.gov.au/sea-fishing-aquaculture/commercial-fishing/abalone-fishery/abalone-industry-reinvestment-fund/2019-airf-funding-round>

Principal Investigator: Jeremy Huddleston

Funding: \$28,400

Start date: October 2019 End Date: November 2019

Status: READY to COMMENCE

Aims and Objectives - summary:

Whilst the urchin harvesting subsidy has been very effective in encouraging divers to target Centro in the northern and central parts of the east coast, the southern extremities of Centro distribution have not been harvested to any significant extent. This is largely because they are not plentiful enough to be commercially attractive to harvesters. It may be a more effective mitigation strategy to encourage targeted culling of Centro along the coast between Lagoon Bay and Cape Pillar. This project is a trial to determine the cost effectiveness of targeted culling as an alternative means of mitigation with a view to potentially initiating culling in other sections of the east coast.

CALL FOR EOI'S FROM DIVERS/SKIPPERS FOR FURTHER TARGETED CULLING

BABEL ISLAND??

ABALONE INDUSTRY REINVESTMENT FUND

The AIRF committee is currently in the process of engaging a Communications Officer who amongst other things, will be responsible for:

- Liaising regularly with the Principal Investigators of each AIRF project to develop a comprehensive understanding of all facets of each project and report back to the AIRF Committee on a regular basis.
- Write a quarterly e-newsletter (i.e. 4 per annum) summarising AIRF project outcome/progress for distribution to stakeholders.
- Create a website which is the go-to portal for industry stakeholders and the public to access. Website to have general information about the AIRF, AIRF project summaries and progress updates in a format suitable for "general consumption"



Australasian Abalone Convention



Hotel Grand Chancellor
Hobart, Tasmania
29-31 July 2019



120 Delegates from Australia and New Zealand

Guest speakers from Australia, NZ, South Africa, China
Thought provoking presentations.....

www.abalonecouncil.com.au

NATIONAL ABALONE LEVY BALLOT

READY TO GO.....

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THOSE WHO HAVE PROVIDED
COMMENT VIA THE ABALONEPAL WEBSITE, EMAILS, PHONE
CALLS.....



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture
ABARES



FRDC

**FISHERIES RESEARCH &
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Abalone Levy Ballot

- Levy Packs are being posted to all quota holders across the five abalone producing states
- Expect to start receiving them in early November 2019
- 5 weeks to vote
- A simple YES or NO to the proposed levy



**Abalone Council
Australia Ltd**

Abalone levy ballot

Ballot Pack includes;

- Letter from Abalone Council Australia
- Investment Proposal
- Consumer Education and Promotion Program
- How to vote paper
- Voting paper

Vote may be cast electronically or by returning the ballot paper by mail.

Ballot Process is managed by Corp Vote – a company endorsed by the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture

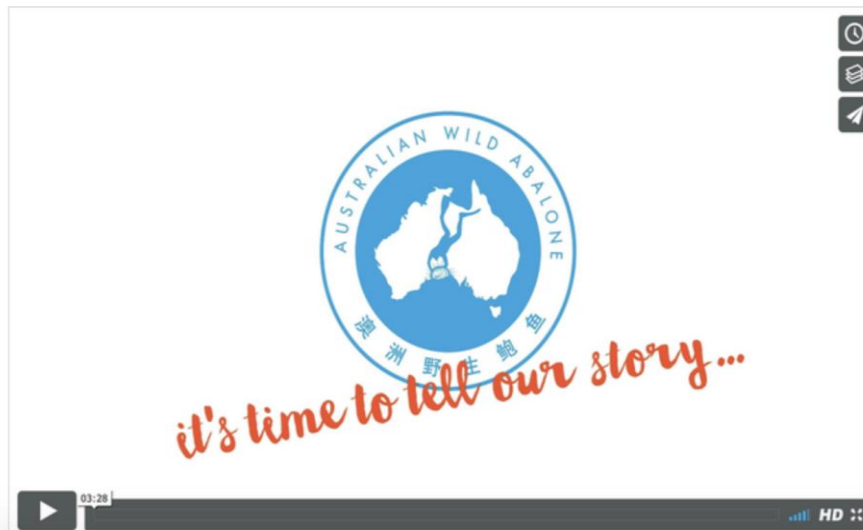


Australian Government
Department of Agriculture
ABARES

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Investing in Marketing

for the future of the Australian Wild Abalone Industry

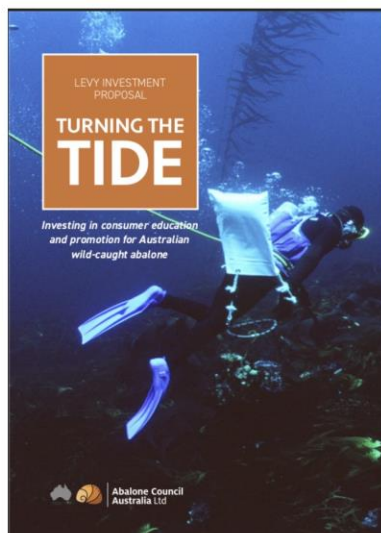


Until around 2000 Australia was the dominant supplier of Abalone globally - with about 50% of market share. Due to the rapid growth of the Abalone aquaculture industry since then, Australian wild harvest Abalone now represents less than 3% of total global supply. With such a small market share it is now more important than ever for Australia to stand out from the crowd and ensure the future of the industry.

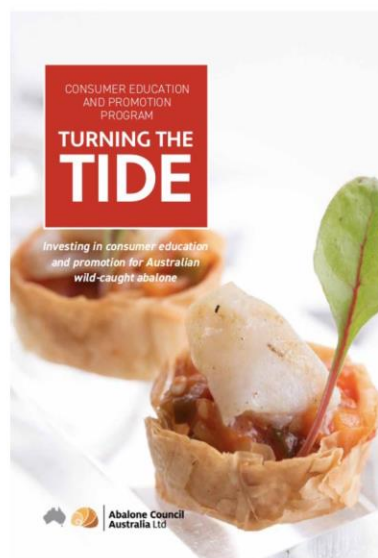
In order to effectively differentiate our product, the industry must



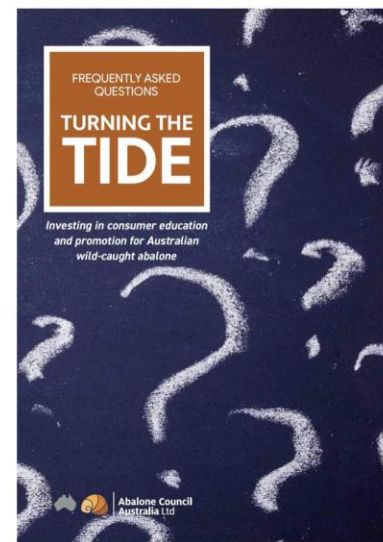
Consumer Education and Promotion Levy Documents



Turning the tide: Investment Proposal



Turning the tide: Consumer Education and
Promotion (CEP) Program



Turning the tide: Frequently Asked Questions

Investment Scenario Calculator

Use this calculator to determine the return on investment based on changes in the volume and value of Australian wild-caught abalone.



OffshoreSMS

- **Benefits for Divers and Deckhands:**
 - A simple safety management system that is easy to apply in day-to-day operations
 - A tool that is much more likely to make fishermen compliant with MO504 and WHS laws
 - A greater focus on deckhand and crew safety than ever before
 - An easy way to formally manage and record daily safety obligations
 - A better way to monitor and record the qualifications and personal information of deckhands



- Value to the Tasmanian Abalone Industry:
 - An opportunity to lead the Australian seafood industry with regard to fisherman and deckhand safety
 - Demonstrates the industry's focus on delivering safety outcomes to members
 - A rapid and effective way to improve fishermen safety under the Code of Practice
 - Promotes a new culture of safety in the industry and an easy learning platform for newcomers



New GPS and Depth Loggers