



Eastern Zone Abalone
Industry Association Inc.

HELP STOP THE SPREAD

Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG)

**Decontamination Processes for Eastern
Zone Abalone Industry Association (EZAIA)
commercial divers, members and boat
operators.**

What is Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG)

- AVG is a virus that affects the nervous tissue of abalone and causes rapid death to abalone.
- Abalone with the virus appear weak, the foot may be curled inwards and the mouth part may protrude.
- The virus spreads by direct contact, through the water column as the abalone sheds the virus with mucus.
- Please DO NOT use fishing gear or equipment from one fishing area into another.

If you find sick abalone:

Please call

**Disease Watch Hotline
(1800 675 888)**

or in Victoria the Fish Reporting Line

13FISH (133474)

**Know the rules of the state you reside in and
operate in:**

NSW Department of Primary Industries

[Click here](#)

Agriculture Victoria:

[Click here](#)

As an operator in the Victorian Abalone Eastern Zone fishery – things you can do:

Decontamination:

Boats

- should be washed down as soon as possible after leaving the water.
- Mallacoota Abalone Ltd has provided a temporary wash down area at the co-op with a chemical that is known to kill the virus. Please follow the guidelines of MAL and treat the equipment with care and respect ready for use by the next operator.
- If you are not able to use the area at MAL please use soapy water or truckwash between each dive.
- All organic matter from inside and outside the vessel should be removed.

Wetsuits and Dive Equipment

- Wash wetsuits inside and out using a neoprene wash (available from dive and surf shops)
- Dive equipment, buoyancy vests, regulators, masks, gloves **that have not come into contact with abalone** can be washed down in soap free water.
- Equipment **that has come into contact with abalone** – including catch bags, gloves, knives and measuring devices should be washed in soapy water for 30 minutes then rinsed.

- ALL Bins returned from processors from all states SHOULD be re-sanitised before being used in Eastern Zone

- Bin dividers are now **single use only**, this applies to dividers being shipped to processors other than MAL.

Using dividers for local abalone to the local co-op being MAL does not need to be single use.

EZAIA members have funded supply of this poly and divers are allocated roll quantity depending on quota they fish for.

People and clothing

Divers who come into contact with abalone should:

- Wash their hands with soapy water
- Spray any waterproof clothing with soapy freshwater and rinse
- on returning home wash clothes with laundry detergent
- decontaminate vessels, wetsuits, dive-equipment and clothing, which weather permitting should dry before reusing.

