



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.

