

# ABALONE

**Licence:** abalone licence required

**Size limit:** varies by species and location

**Daily bag limit:** 10 abalone

**Possession limit:** 20 abalone

**Non-licensed possession limit:** 0 abalone on state waters; 5 abalone on land

**Season:** open all year

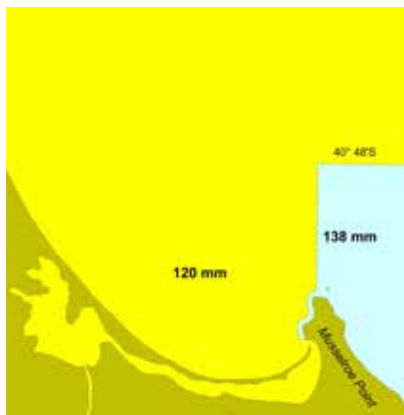
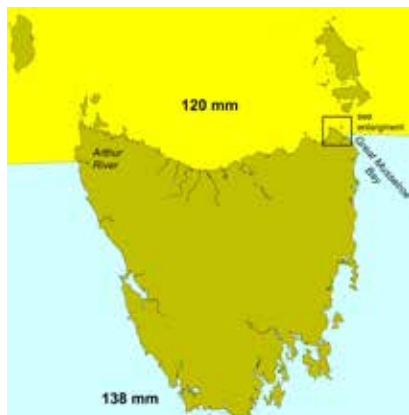
## Licence

A recreational abalone licence is required to fish for abalone. You cannot take abalone on behalf of another licence holder.

## Size Limits

The minimum size for abalone varies around Tasmania for both blacklip and greenlip. The maps show the areas corresponding to the different size limits. Please note that recreational and commercial size limits may not be the same. Get a free abalone multi-gauge from Service Tasmania outlets.

### Blacklip size limits



### Greenlip size limits



## Measuring Abalone

Abalone are measured across the widest part of the shell. **You must carry a measuring device while taking abalone.** Measure the abalone before detaching it where possible as abalone that have been cut will bleed.



Before you shuck or shell abalone, they must be brought ashore above the high water mark.

## Bag and Possession Limits

Fishers with a recreational abalone fishing licence have:

- A daily bag limit of 10 abalone.
- A possession limit of 20 abalone. This possession limit applies everywhere including the home.

If you do not have a licence you can not take abalone, however, you can possess 5 abalone without a receipt while on land. If you possess more than this number keep your receipts for purchases. If you don't have an abalone licence you cannot possess abalone while on State waters.

## Area Restrictions

Closed areas and no possession zones apply in northern Bass Strait to lower the risk of AVG entering from Victorian waters (see page 36). See page 50 for a full list of area restrictions including the Bay of Fires.

## Public Health Restrictions

Check for any current public health alerts relating to eating wild shellfish at [www.publichealthalerts.tas.gov.au](http://www.publichealthalerts.tas.gov.au).



*Greenlip abalone*



*Blacklip abalone*

## Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis

Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG) is a viral disease affecting the nervous system of abalone resulting in weakness and death. AVG only affects abalone and there are no human health implications from handling or eating infected abalone.

### Signs of AVG

- Patches of weak or dead abalone;
- Abalone with protruding mouth parts; and / or
- Abalone with the edges of the foot curling inwards, exposing clean shiny shells.

*Greenlip abalone showing the symptoms of AVG*



### Abalone Biosecurity Area

To lower the risk of AVG entering from Victorian waters, an abalone biosecurity area has been declared north of Flinders and King Islands.



You are allowed to take abalone within 50 metres of the shore of any island in the Biosecurity Area, but the abalone cannot be taken or possessed elsewhere in the area.

Recreationally caught abalone cannot be on board any vessels, other than commercial trading vessels, in the Biosecurity Area unless within 50 metres of the shore of any island.

### Help prevent the spread of AVG

The virus only survives a short time in the water so the most likely method of disease spread is through contact between infected abalone and healthy abalone (including offal, mucus, shells, contaminated fishing equipment or people).

- No abalone or abalone products can be brought into Tasmania from interstate.
- **RETAIN** all abalone waste, including shells and offal and dispose of it in land-based facilities or with your household rubbish. It is illegal to shuck abalone at sea or use abalone viscera as fishing bait.
- **CLEAN** and **DRY** all boats, fishing and diving equipment between fishing trips. This includes catch bags, gloves, knives, measuring devices, wetsuits, buoyancy vests, masks, regulators, tanks, boats and people who have come into contact with abalone. Allow equipment to dry in the sun.
- **REPORT** any suspected signs of AVG to the Disease Watch Hotline 1800 675 888 (24-hours).