

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/09/26/2375041.htm>



Promising signs on abalone virus

Posted 6 hours 5 minutes ago

Updated 3 hours 14 minutes ago 26-9-08



There are doubts about the results of the initial positive test for ganglioneuritis. (ABC News)

- [Audio: Mark Daft from processor Tas Live Abalone speaks to journalists including the ABC's Fiona Blackwood. \(ABC News\)](#)
- [Map: Dover 7117](#)

There are promising signs that an abalone virus could be at very low levels in the wild in Tasmania.

The one wild abalone from the East Coast which had initially tested positive for the ganglioneuritis virus has been tested again and returned an inconclusive result.

Chief Veterinary Officer, Rod Andrewartha, says further testing will be done using tissue from that abalone to determine its true disease status.

He says the latest results are promising but more needs to be done.

"If the virus is present it is a low prevalence we haven't come across any areas of obvious disease in the wild but of course there is a lot of reef that we haven't looked at," he said.

300 square kilometres of seabed in the southern D'Entrecasteaux Channel has been closed after a fish from the area tested positive to viral ganglioneuritis.

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Dr Mark Crane from the CSIRO says declaring the abalone as infected with the disease was a line-ball decision.

"I guess the best way to describe the result is a weak positive, it's certainly on the positive side of the cut of point of the test result that we use, but very close to that cut of point," said Dr Crane.

"What we can do is take more samples from the same area to check those and see if we get any more positives which would give us more confidence or if whether the samples turn out to be more negatives which would make us less confident about it," said Dr Crane.

In the meantime, preliminary results on abalone taken from waters south of Maria Island show no signs of disease.

Abalone processor opens its doors

A southern Tasmanian abalone processor has thrown open its doors to the media after the discovery of a virus more than two weeks ago.

Three diseased fish were found in the holding tanks at Tas Live Abalone's processing plant at Mornington.

The facility has since been decontaminated and its live trade operations have ceased.

Farmed abalone have been put in the previously infected holding tanks and will be tested early next month for any signs of the ganglioneuritis virus.

The Department of Primary Industries will meet with the abalone industry later today to discuss restrictions on the processing of the fish.

<http://www.news.com.au/mercury/story/0,22884,24405116-5007221,00.html>



Abalone test eases virus fear

Article from: **MERCURY**

MERYL NAIDOO

September 26, 2008 12:00am

TASMANIA'S \$100 million abalone industry received good news yesterday after another virus test by an interstate laboratory came back negative.

Since the deadly abalone viral ganglioneuritis was identified in three blacklip abalone at Tas Live Abalone in Mornington on September 9, only one wild abalone has tested a "weak" positive to the disease.

The only DNA-positive result from a wild abalone so far has been from one of 360 specimens taken from 16 sites across the state.

Tasmanian Abalone Council president Greg Woodham said the latest secondary test found no positive result from

the wild fishery.

"There still is only that weak positive result (from the first test) from the wild fishery which histopathology tests are negative for (in the second test)," he said.

He said yesterday's result was welcome.

But authorities are no closer to piecing together the origin of the virus.

"It leaves us in a state of high precaution until we do further investigations," Mr Woodham said.

The infected wild abalone was found in waters off southern Tasmania on September 15.

The find prompted the closure of a 229sq km fishing area in D'Entrecasteaux Channel between Port Esperance and Southport.

The reopening of the seabeds will be discussed at a meeting today of the Tasmanian Abalone Council and the Department of Primary Industries and Water.

Mr Woodham said the strategy meeting would decide what action would be taken in the next week.

"We would like to get things back to normal in the fishery again but we want to be precautionary in case we have missed something," he said.

"It's a significant industry in Tasmania and we just can't take the risk."

He praised the State Government's preparation for the scare since a Victorian outbreak.

He urged all fishers to visit www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/abalonedisease for bio-security measures.

If equipment is cleaned and dried, the virus would die, he said.

Tasmanian wild abalone supplies 25 per cent of the global market.

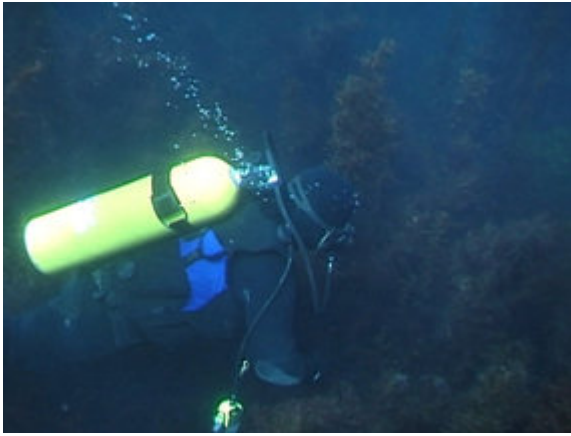
Abalone viral ganglioneuritis, a highly infectious herpes-like virus affecting the nervous tissue of abalone, causes death in the abalone in less than six days.

There is a 100 per cent mortality rate.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/09/24/2372682.htm?site=idx-tas>

More abalone sampling today

Posted September 24, 2008 09:00:00



Divers will be taking more samples of wild abalone in the south today. (ABC News)

Dive teams are preparing to take further samples of wild abalone from the southern D'Entrecasteaux Channel.

More than 300 samples have been taken and tested for Viral Ganglioneuritis, returning one positive result from an abalone that appeared healthy.

Chief Veterinary Officer Rod Andrewartha says another 300 samples are being laboratory tested, and cleansing of the southern processing plant where the virus was first detected is nearly complete.

The processing plant has re-stocked, it has finished its cleaning and de-contamination and later this week they'll be putting sentinel fish in, these sentinel abalone are put in the tanks and they'll be tested in a week's time just to confirm that there's no virus hanging around," said Dr Andrewartha.

Dr Andrewartha expects to have most of the wild testing done by the end of this week.

Viral Ganglioneuritis has threatened the \$100 million industry in Tasmania, after it was detected in a wild fish and at a southern processing plant.

Chief Veterinary Officer Rod Andrewartha says talks will now take place with the industry about short and long-term responses.

"The options have got to cover what we're doing over the next couple of weeks, but also we need to have an eye for the longer term, whilst we're in an emergency mode at present obviously we can't keep that sort of situation going indefinitely," he said.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/09/25/2373873.htm>



Abalone bans impact on wrasse fishery

Posted Thu Sep 25, 2008 9:49am AEST

Updated Thu Sep 25, 2008 9:48am AEST

The bans have been imposed after the discovery of the abalone disease, Viral Ganglioneuritis.

Abalone guts are the most effective way of trapping wrasse, which are a popular live export to Chinese restaurants interstate.

Fisherman Kevin Hursey says the industry won't survive with the bans in place.

"Our catch rate is down that far we just can't keep going the way it is," said Mr Hursey.

Wrasse processor Steve Bartell says he's likely to make huge losses.

"Turn over will likely to be down half a million dollars this year," he said.

But Alex Schaap from the Department of Primary Industries says without the bans, viral Ganglioneuritis is likely to spread throughout the state.

"The idea of using abalone gut for bait is simply not sustainable," said Mr Schaap

He says the bans are likely to be permanent.

<http://www.media.tas.gov.au/release.php?id=24847>



ROD ANDREWARTHA

Chief Veterinary Officer Department of Primary Industries and
Water

Tuesday, 23 September 2008

Abalone Update

A dive team is standing-by for improved weather conditions in order to collect further wild abalone from the southern D'Entrecasteaux Channel.

Chief Veterinary Officer, Rod Andrewartha wants to test abalone from seabed blocks adjoining the area which produced the only wild specimen to date to return a positive result to DNA-testing for Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG).

"I would expect that the presence of AVG in the wild to extend beyond a single specimen, so it makes sense to specifically examine adjoining areas to determine if we can detect it."

To date, about 360 samples from East, North, West and South have been DNA-tested for the virus.

Further DNA-based results – including those from Visscher Island (off the Forestier Peninsula) - are expected on Thursday or Friday of this week.

"In the meantime, further samples already collected continue to be prepared and put in the laboratory system," Dr Andrewartha said.

"In addition, we are reviewing and consolidating the evidence gathered so far. In keeping with best practice to bring a fresh pair of eyes to the task, a fish disease epidemiologist from Victoria has been co-opted into the State Disease

Control Headquarters for a few days to assist with the scientific review.

"A collaborative approach is usual in many emergency animal disease responses. Tasmanian experts have previously assisted other States with similar roles."

Dr Andrewartha said that cleansing of the southern processor where AVG was detected is nearly complete.

"The processor will stock with so-called sentinel fish which will be tested for the virus after about a week to verify that the disinfection process has worked."

He said that a meeting will be held with the abalone industry later this week to discuss both short and longer-term responses.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/09/23/2372077.htm>



Burke up-beat about states handling abalone virus

Posted 1 hour 30 minutes ago 23-9-08

Federal Agriculture Minister Tony Burke says he is confident the states can handle an outbreak of the abalone virus, ganglioneuritis, in Tasmania.

The virus was detected earlier this month after it devastated the abalone industry in western Victoria.

It is unclear if the virus spread to Tasmania from Victoria, but experts do not believe it will be carried on the current to Gippsland.

Mr Burke says the Federal Government is monitoring the situation but is leaving quarantine matters to the state governments.

"My concern is that if the Federal Government is going to play any sort of a role you would only do it when you were convinced that your role would be of assistance and wouldn't in any way get in the way of work that was already being done, and at the moment we're watching the state agencies, there's agreement that they be the lead agencies," he said.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/09/19/2369587.htm>



East coast free of abalone virus

Posted Fri Sep 19, 2008 6:36pm AEST

Biosecurity controls remain in place for Tasmania's abalone industry, despite the latest round of testing showing no more evidence of the ganglioneuritis virus.

Abalone taken from processors and parts of the east coast are free of the virus which has been found in three fish from a southern processor and one taken from the wild.

The Head of Biosecurity Alex Schaap says fishing and processing restrictions will be reviewed, pending results next week from an area of interest on the east coast.

"All the potential scenarios are still in play and we don't have the evidence to rule out or in any scenario, so that means the control measures that we have in place will remain appropriate," he said.

http://www.news24.com/News24/South_Africa/News/0,,2-7-1442_2391324,00.html



FS cops bust perlemoen plant

10/09/2008 18:39 - (SA)

Bloemfontein - Police arrested three people and confiscated about 920 kilograms of perlemoen (abalone) on Wednesday during a raid on a smallholding in the Bloemspruit area.

Free State police spokesperson Captain Elsa Gerber said police received information about "illegal activities" on a smallholding west of Bloemfontein and went to investigate.

"A well-equipped property for the processing of abalone was found."

Gerber said about 920 kilograms of perlemoen were found in 46 bags, each containing 20kg of perlemoen.

Three men, whose nationalities still need to be confirmed, were arrested. They could not produce any kind of identification document and therefore they might be in the country illegally, she said.

It was not known where the perlemoen came from as the investigators were unable to communicate with the suspects.

The three were expected to appear in the Bloemfontein Magistrate's Court soon.

<http://www.news.com.au/mercury/story/0,22884,24369914-3462,00.html>



Virus all-clear for abalone

Article from: **MERCURY**

September 19, 2008 12:00am

WILD abalone from North West Bay and King Island returned negative results for the deadly abalone viral ganglioneuritis yesterday.

Chief veterinary officer Rod Andrewartha said the latest results were particularly pleasing because several processing plants discharge effluent into the areas.

Divers collected samples from Visscher Island and a fisherman provided samples from St Helens which were sent for testing yesterday.

The only DNA-positive result from a wild abalone so far has been from one of 83 specimens taken from the seabed in the southern D'Entrecasteaux Channel.

Last Wednesday, three blacklip abalone from the Tas Live Abalone processing plant at Mornington returned positive DNA results for the virus.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7623341.stm>

BBC NEWS

Ownership key to saving fisheries

By Richard Black
Environment correspondent, BBC News website



Husavik in Iceland: an ITQ port

Giving fishermen long-term rights to catch fish is key to keeping stocks healthy, scientists conclude.

A global survey found that fisheries managed using individual transferable quotas (ITQs) were half as likely to collapse as others.

Long-term quotas give fishermen a stake in conserving fish stocks.

The study was published in the journal *Science* just a day after the European Commission announced a major review of EU fisheries policy.

"Under open access, you have a free-for-all race to fish, which ultimately leads to collapse," said research leader Christopher Costello from the University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB).

I have come across situations where fishermen lobby managers to decrease the catch

Professor Christopher Costello

"But when you allocate shares of the catch, then there is an incentive to protect it."

The principle of ITQs is straightforward. A safe level of catch is set for a given species or group of species in a prescribed area, and that catch is shared out between individual boats or fleets.

The total allowable catch can rise or fall from year to year according to what scientists judge to be sustainable.

But the shares are guaranteed for a set number of years. They can be traded or transferred, but no new shares are allowed.

Back from the brink

Professor Costello's team analysed a global database of 11,135 fisheries, and identified 121 that were managed using ITQs or a close variant.

Their main conclusion is that using ITQs halves the probability that the fishery will collapse.



Transferable quotas are thought to be a way of emphasising quality of fish

This figure probably under-estimates the true impact, they argue, because some of the fisheries in their dataset had already collapsed by the time ITQs were brought in.

He said there was also evidence that some stocks had recovered from a severely depleted state after adopting an ITQ-based management.

"In places without catch shares, fishermen will often lobby managers to increase the quotas," he told BBC News.

"But in fisheries with catch shares I have come across situations where they lobby managers to decrease the catch, because they know that if they back off this season, the stock will grow to a level where they can increase the harvest next time around."

'No magic bullet'

Among academics studying fisheries, ITQs have gained a somewhat stellar reputation in recent years.

But Daniel Pauly from the University of British Columbia, a leading expert in the economics of fishing, warned they were not a magic bullet.

"They are rightly seen as an elegant solution to a big problem, the problem of over-capacity," he said.

"But there is unfairness in allocating the shares initially, because you are giving something to the biggest fishers and the others are not getting access and will not get access for ever.

We will put on the table the possible introduction of ITQs

Alberto Spagnoli, European Commission

"So I think it's one of the tools that can be introduced in specific fisheries, but you shouldn't look at it with the degree of absolutism and even fanaticism that has characterised the discussion in some countries."

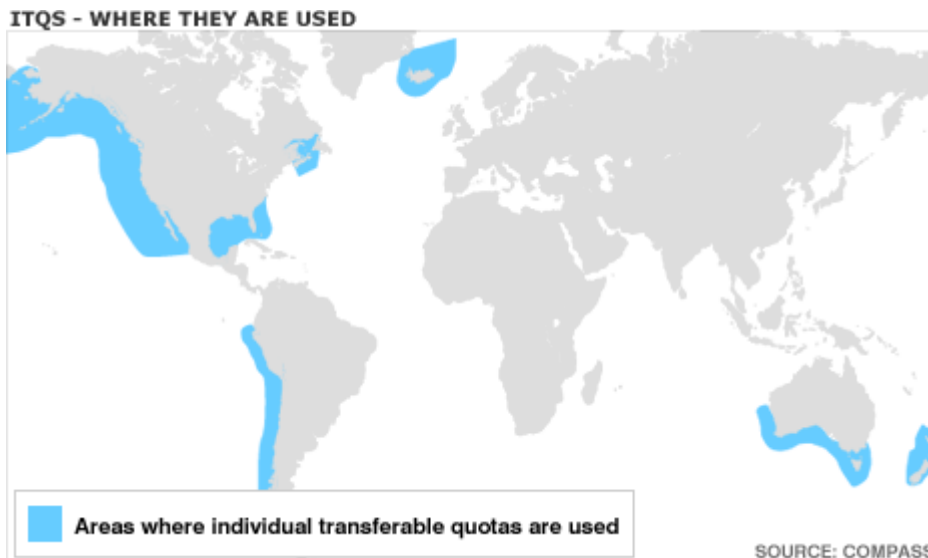
Added to which, he said, ITQ fisheries could still collapse if overall catch quotas were set too high.

Another criticism levelled at the idea is that it is not appropriate for developing countries where fishing is usually carried with many more people using much smaller boats, and often a degree of community ownership.

But, said Christopher Costello, there are ways of getting around this issue.

"Many developing countries use territorial user rights (TURFs), where you allocate communities shares of the coastline, which again provides incentives to manage stock in a sustainable way.

"That's done in Chile and in parts of Africa. Or you grant communities the right to harvest over a period, say, of 20 years, as is practised in Mexico."



Stock shot

There is little doubt that many fisheries urgently need a change of management.

UN figures show that nearly one third are exploited to the point where yields are less than 10% of their original levels.

So far, the world leaders in adopting ITOs as a method of halting the slide have been Iceland, New Zealand and Australia, although the US is quickly catching up.

One spectacular success, according to Steve Gaines of UCSB, is the Alaskan halibut fishery. By 1995, he said, it was so depleted that the fishing season was just three days long.

Now, after adopting transferable quotas, it lasts for eight months. Fewer fish are caught; but fishermen strive to land only big, mature ones and bring them in in top condition so they fetch more at market.

"Halibut fishermen were barely squeaking by - but now the fishery is insanely profitable," said Dr Gaines.

With the management of European fisheries now up for review, will it too adopt the ITQ approach to recovery?

As things stand, the decision is in the gift of member states which decide how to allocate their national quotas.

The Netherlands and Denmark are two countries already using ITQs; most do not.

"Many member states are discussing the issue," said Alberto Spagnolli, head of the economic analysis unit within the European Commission's Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Directorate.

"What we did [with our discussion paper] in 2007 was to set the ball rolling for a debate with Europe that is broader than just ITQs, including access rights in general, days at sea, collective quotas that could be more or less transferable.

"But we will put on the table the possible introduction of ITQs."

A spokeswoman for the UK Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) declined to comment directly on ITQs, but - perhaps in a hint that they are being considered - said the UK was pushing for a more sustainable European fisheries framework with "an increased emphasis on long-term management planning".

Richard.Black-INTERNET@bbc.co.uk

Story from BBC NEWS:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/science/nature/7623341.stm>

Published: 2008/09/19 08:55:27 GMT

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<http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/dominionpost/4697511a6045.html>



Two more plead guilty to illegal paua trading

The Dominion Post | Friday, 19 September 2008

Two more people caught dealing in black-market paua have pleaded guilty in court.

Of the 56 people facing more than 250 charges after dawn raids in Auckland, Wellington, Opotiki and Hastings as part of Operation Paid in May, 37 have now appeared in court.

Ivid Paenga, 31, a sickness beneficiary of Hastings, and Joanne Smoothie, 25, unemployed, of Lower Hutt, appeared in Hastings District Court yesterday.

They were among 73 people arrested after an undercover fisheries officer spent nine months posing as a buyer in the illegal trade. He bought more than nine tonnes - 36,000 paua - worth about \$1.3 million, then sold it on to buyers who supplied it to restaurants or to high-level dealers.

Paenga pleaded guilty to one charge of trading in illegally obtained paua. Paenga, Smoothie and another man drove to the undercover officer's home on March 17. They removed 588 freshly shucked paua weighing 46.5 kilograms. Paenga's share was 16kg and he was paid \$290 cash. Smoothie and the other man were paid \$550 for the rest. They told police they had caught the paua while diving at Makara.

Paenga was sentenced to 300 hours' community work.

Smoothie pleaded guilty to two charges of trading in illegally obtained paua.

She admitted driving Paenga and the other man to the officer as well as selling a further 196 paua to him for \$360.

Smoothie was granted bail and will be sentenced in November.

Operation Paid recovered nine tonnes of paua, or 36,000 individual fish, in dawn raids on May 27

* 73 people arrested

* 56 people charged

* 27 have entered not-guilty pleas to date

* Five have pleaded guilty and are awaiting sentence

* Five have received sentences varying from three years' prison to 70 hours' community work.

http://www.int.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=15&art_id=nw20080918130229961C210717



Police corner fleeing poachers

September 18 2008 at 01:47PM

Six poachers were arrested and 2 544 perlemoen (abalone) were seized after a high speed chase through Simon's Town early on Thursday morning, said SA National Parks and Marine and Coastal Management.

The organisations said they were on patrol with Table Mountain National Parks rangers in Simon's Town when they spotted and then chased the poachers on Thursday morning.

On Wednesday SANParks and MCM set up observation of the poachers operating between Simonstown and Cape Point.

The men were being held at the Simon's Town police station and would appear in court shortly.

"The latest arrest brings the number of SANParks-effected in the last 30 days to eight."

Last month two men were arrested by TMNP rangers.

In the first incident on August 19, a hiker on Platteklip Gorge informed two TMNP rangers about a man breaking into a vehicle.

The man was arrested and also found in possession of stolen goods.

On the same day TMNP rangers patrolling the Scarborough vicinity arrested a man in possession of two bags of stolen goods. - Sapa

<http://www.media.tas.gov.au/release.php?id=24814>



Rod Andrewartha

Chief Veterinary Officer Department of Primary Industries and
Water

Thursday, 18 September 2008

AVG Update

Test results for Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG) continue to be received at the AVG State Disease Control Headquarters.

The new results received as at 2pm today were from wild abalone collected from North West Bay (just south of Hobart) and further samples from King Island.

All were negative for AVG using both DNA-testing and histopathology (microscopic tissue examination). The DNA-testing is conducted by the Australian Animal Health Laboratory at Geelong and the histopathology is conducted by the Animal Health Laboratory at Mt Pleasant, Launceston.

Chief Veterinary Officer, Rod Andrewartha said that the North West Bay samples were of additional interest because of a number of abalone processors in the region which discharge to the sea.

"It is obviously pleasing that the latest results have not indicated the presence of the disease in the fish we sampled, but I do have to stress that it remains early days as yet," Dr Andrewartha said.

To date, the only DNA-positive result from a wild abalone has been from one of 83 specimens taken from the seabed in the southern D'Entrecasteaux Channel.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/09/18/2368550.htm>



More good news for abalone industry

Posted Thu Sep 18, 2008 7:49pm AEST

Tasmania's abalone industry has received some encouraging news in the latest round of disease testing.

A southern waterway has been found to be clear of the deadly virus, which is threatening fish stocks.

The abalone virus Ganglioneuritis was confirmed in Tasmanian waters on Monday, when one of 83 fish taken from the D'Entrecasteaux Channel was found to be infected.

Animal health experts are now doing DNA and tissue testing in other waterways over the next two weeks, to see if the virus has spread.

The results for North West Bay, just north of the D'Entrecasteaux Channel, and for King Island have just come in, and both areas are clean.

Tasmania's Chief Vet, Rod Andrewartha, says the North West Bay samples are particularly important, because several abalone processors discharge into the sea there.

He says the latest results are pleasing but it's still very early days.

Inspector gets bail after arrest for abalone poaching

Published in: Legalbrief Environmental

Date: Tue 16 September 2008

Category: Conservation

Issue No: 0078

A Marine and Coastal Management (MCM) inspector employed to prevent poaching is out on bail following his arrest for the alleged illegal possession of abalone worth about R115 000.

The *Cape Times* notes that Nigel Sevan also faces a charge of driving an MCM car with false number plates. He has been withdrawn from the field, is office-bound and further steps may be taken against him. He and two other men, Mohammed Gordon, and Garth Slingers, appeared in the Caledon Magistrates' Court last week. They were released on R500 bail. Monde Mayekiso, the Deputy Director-General of MCM, said he had ordered an investigation into Sevan's arrest. 'It's embarrassing for our inspectors even to be accused of this,' he said. The trio are to appear in court again on 8 October.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/09/17/2366602.htm?site=southwestvic>

Vic divers urged to follow Tas lead

Posted September 17, 2008 08:28:00

Updated September 17, 2008 08:34:00



Part of the Tasmanian coast has been quarantined after the discovery of diseased abalone. (ABC News: Cate Grant, file photo)

- [Map: Melbourne 3000](#)

The Victorian Abalone Divers Association says state authorities should follow Tasmania's lead and ban recreational diving from some waters.

Tasmania's south-east coastline has been quarantined because of the discovery of abalone virus ganglioneuritis.

Vincent Gannon, from the Abalone Divers Association, says recreational diving should also be banned around Port Campbell, where the virus has been found.

Mr Gannon says Victorian authorities have been slow to stop the spread of the virus.

"Maybe Victorians can look at what the Tasmanians have done. They're actually trying to contain the virus and or slow the virus down," he said.

"This whole issue about human movement and not taking action and controlling access to these areas have been a major concern to us."

Fisheries Victoria says attempts to quarantine the state's south west coast failed two years ago.

The authority's executive director, Peter Appleford, says the only way to stop the disease is to disinfect boats and equipment.

"Unfortunately the virus travels via the water so it just moved out of the area, we extended the area a bit further and it moved outside of it again," he said.

"And it was at that stage that we realised that bio-security measures were the best way to address the spread, not by closing the area to other people."

<http://www.news.com.au/mercury/story/0,22884,24364360-3462,00.html>



Thumbs down on abalone measure

Article from: **MERCURY**

DANIELLE McKAY

September 18, 2008 12:00am

ABALONE farmers have rejected calls for farming effluent to be recirculated or treated before spilling into the sea, saying it would be financially crippling.

Farmers say it is the state's processing plants that pose the biggest bio-security risk to the industry.

Yesterday Tasmanian Abalone Council CEO Dean Lisson called for the State Government to enforce recirculation or treatment methods on all abalone farms and processing plants.

The bid came in response to confirmation that the deadly abalone viral ganglioneuritis has been found in Tasmanian wild abalone fisheries.

Abalone Aqua Farms owner and manager Rod Crowther said the financial burden would not be viable.

"We'd be shutting down if that were the case, it's just not cost-effective and I don't believe it is quarantine effective either," he said.

Mr Crowther was an abalone diver when the virus hit Victoria and saw first-hand the devastating effect it had.

"There were hundreds of dead abalone rotting on their backs on the sea floor -- it was heartbreaking and financially crippling," he said.

Since then Mr Crowther has invested in farmed abalone, seeing it as a safe option and the future of the industry.

His abalone farm at Perkins Bay, near Stanley, pumps 400 litres of effluent back into the sea every second, every day. But he says the effluent does not pose a bio-security threat.

"We only use our own bred stock that we've grown since the size of a pinhead," he said.

"We don't have the disease and there's no chance of spreading any disease because we don't source abalone from all over the state."

Mr Crowther believes the biggest threat to his farm and the industry is the effluent from processing plants.

"They're getting fish from all over the state, holding them in their tanks and pumping their waste and bacteria back out into different regions," he said. "There is a real need for processing plants to have treated water or recirculation systems in place."

Tassie Lobster owner Steve Crocker, who also processes abalone, uses ultraviolet treatment for his effluent.

He agrees that the industry, including abalone farmers, should adopt a strategy to enforce the use of treatment or recirculation of effluent.

"It may be an expense to begin with, but without it there is the risk that we'll lose the entire industry," he said.

The Department of Primary Industries and Water said the implementation of regulatory recirculation or treatment of effluent was among several topics being discussed.

Chief veterinary officer Rod Andrewartha said test results from King Island delivered negative results for the virus yesterday.

A second processor in southern Tasmania that reported suspect fish also returned negative results.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/09/18/2367671.htm>



Abalone plant clean up begins

Posted Thu Sep 18, 2008 8:28am AEST

Updated Thu Sep 18, 2008 8:53am AEST



The company's entire abalone stock has been dumped.

- [Map: Hobart 7000](#)
- [Related Story: Positive results for abalone industry](#)

The Southern Tasmanian abalone processor where a deadly virus was found last week is counting its losses.

Tas Live Abalone in Mornington has got rid of all its stock, drained six tanks and is decontaminating the entire plant.

Three diseased fish had been found in one of its holding tank.

Before the company realised the abalone had ganglioneuritis, it placed new fish into the tank.

Tests on those abalone yesterday confirmed they too had contracted the deadly virus.

Marketing director Howard Johnson says they are in the process of decontaminating the entire plant.

"We've been emptying out our tanks and pulling all our filtration systems apart, not only washing them with fresh water and detergent," Mr Johnson said.

"Also ensuring before anything is put back together it's completely dry to try and eliminate any chance whatsoever of us having the disease present in our facility.

Mr Johnson says the company is keeping customers informed.

"The abalone product that we produce is destined for the international market place and we've certainly got a portfolio of loyal customers who we've developed a relationship with over a long period of time and were working with them to ensure that that relationship continues into the future."