

## **INFORMATION BULLETIN – 27 JUNE 2008 UPDATE ON GANGLIONEURITIS VIRUS IN ABALONE**

On 18 June 2008, the Victorian Department of Primary Industries (VDPI) hosted the national abalone health work plan priority setting workshop. The workshop was attended by all industry sectors and reviewed the importance and urgency of each work priority in the draft plan. It is expected that the draft plan will now be forwarded to relevant Government agencies for consideration. The draft work plan can be viewed at [www.dpi.vic.gov.au/abalonedisease](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/abalonedisease).

VDPI is currently implementing Statewide biosecurity signage. Signs will be erected in strategic access location from the Victorian / New South Wales border to Apollo Bay. The signs will complement existing signage in place in the southwest. The signs are aimed at increasing public awareness of minimising the risk that fishers inadvertently spread the disease. The signs encouraging divers taking abalone to:

- **Wash** vessels, wetsuits, dive equipment and their hands with soapy freshwater,
- **Remove** all marine organic matter from vessels and equipment, and
- **Dispose** of abalone shell, meat and gut with their household waste.

VDPI continue to receive abalone samples form across Victoria as part of the passive disease surveillance program. Recently, three abalone samples have been taken from west of Steele's Rocks near Portarlinton. The samples submitted to Attwood for testing include two recently dead abalone and one live abalone. The abalone were negative to AVG. There have also been two other negative results reported recently from Port Phillip Bay.

For further information, please contact the Acting Executive Director of Fisheries Victoria, Mr Dallas D'Silva on (03) 9658 4360.