

# ATTENTION

## Recreational fishers and divers in Bicheno

The recreational abalone fishery in waters between the southern point of Diamond Island and Cape Lodi is closed (see map).

The recreational take of abalone in this area is prohibited as a precautionary measure in response to the detection of the Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis (AVG) virus in this region.

You are strongly encouraged not to dive, fish or boat in the Bicheno area. If you do so, you must clean and dry your boat and disinfect any fishing, diving or other gear before leaving the area.

### What is AVG?

It's a viral disease that affects the nervous system of abalone resulting in weakness and death. There are no human health implications from handling or eating infected abalone. The AVG virus is easily spread by contact between diseased and healthy abalone and also on fishing, diving and other gear, boats and people.



### Report signs of this disease

If you see sick abalone outside the closed area, collect a sample in a sealed bag, record the exact location (GPS or the best description of the location). Refrigerate but do not freeze the sample. Don't go swimming, boating or fishing anywhere else without thoroughly cleaning your equipment first. Contact DPIPWE's emergency disease hotline on 1800 675 888. For more information: [www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au](http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au)