

SIV NEWS

January 2011

SIV Update

SIV welcomes you all into the new year. May it be a prosperous and safe 2011!

This year is already filling up fast with the 2nd Victorian Seafood Industry Awards set to take place in March (more information on page 2 and 3). Our updated strategic plan will be circulated to all license holders and provides a snapshot of the priorities SIV will be working towards for the betterment of Victorian commercial fishing industry.

Also in 2011, Seafood Directions will once again be on everybody's calendar. A special promotional offer will be given to commercial fisherman to increase this years attendance from industry. Seafood Directions is a must, you will not regret attending! (See page2).

Also on SIV's agenda is the development of Environmental Management Plans (EMP) for Victorian commercial fisheries. SIV will work towards designing a template which assists industry to create their own EMP for their particular fishery, association or business. Basically a 'fill in the gap' document which produces an EMP for use in promoting your fishery or association as having sustainable and environmentally responsible practises in resource use.

SIV looks forward to working in partnership with industry to implement positive changes to ensure that the Victorian commercial fishing industry remains secure and economically viable.

OH&S Data Analysis for the Fishing Industry

The OH&S Data Analysis project funded through the Collaborative Partnership for Farming and Fishing Health and Safety, whose members are the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing and the research and development corporations for the grains, fisheries, sugar and cotton industries and facilitated by KAL Analysis (Dr. Kate Brooks) brought together key industry members for a workshop to present the findings of the project to date. Industry members who attended were utilised for their experience to ground truth the findings and explore the various strengths and weaknesses of the reports, data and to identify appropriate future activities. The workshop specifically sought to ascertain from the industry representatives:

- If the OHS activities and interventions, risk groups and trends identified in the reports were concurrent with on the ground experience, both directly and anecdotally;
- If the issues and risk groups were agreed to have ongoing relevancy;
- If more in depth analysis will assist understanding of the issues and factors identified, and if so what the nature of that would be;
- Identify, strategically, the training and communication objectives and messages that may be required for different sectors of the industry to address identified relevant OH&S issues; and
- Exploring other factors or issues that may arise from the research requiring industry verification or input.

The workshop was run in Melbourne, at the Airport. The workshop ran from 10.00am through until 3.15pm and was also used as an opportunity to review three project proposals that the RIRDC Collaborative Partnership for Farming and Fishing Health and Safety Program was considering. Feedback and prioritisation was given on the projects in light of the discussions during the day and how the proposed research would benefit both the objectives of the Partnership and the industry. Further information can be directed at Dr. Kate Brooks KAL Analysis Kate@kalanalysis.com.au

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Seafood Directions 2011 - Registrations Now Open!

Registrations are now open for Seafood Directions 2011. Savings on your registrations fees can be made if you register before 1st September 2011. This year's conference is also offering a discount if you hold a commercial fishing licence.

See www.seafooddirections2011.com/registration.html for costs associated with registration and corresponding entitlements.



Planning a holiday?

Seafood Directions Conference
Gold Coast Convention Centre 23 - 25 October 2011

Seafood Directions 2011 sets the compass for the industry in a 3 day series of presentations, workshops and functions. Connect directly with stakeholders, government, suppliers and buyers in the stunning playground of the Gold Coast.

SEAFOOD DIRECTIONS 2011
THE PRODUCTIVITY CHALLENGE

For all queries including sponsorship and exhibition opportunities contact:

Shearwater Consulting Pty Ltd
T: (+61) 7 4031 2345
E: info@shearwaterconsulting.net
W: www.seafooddirections2011.com



2nd Victorian Seafood Industry Awards 2011



2009 WINNERS!

Seafood Industry Victoria (SIV) is proud to present the 2nd Victorian Seafood Industry Awards 2011 to be held on the 5th May 2011 at the Port Melbourne Yacht Club.

The awards hosted by SIV is open to all sectors of Victoria's seafood and fishing industry including, fishers, processors, exporters, fish wholesalers, retailers, aquaculturists, and also individuals and businesses that are involved in research, development, and training. The awards are to show our support, and to celebrate and acknowledge the efforts of individuals, businesses and organisation that have contributed towards developing Victoria's seafood and fishing industry as we know it today.

This year there is an additional award category that celebrates the contributions of our industry's Young Achievers.

So, to showcase our industry please nominate yourself or an outstanding candidate in one of the nine categories. Let us celebrate and take pride in our productive and growing industry by recognising those positive contributions made for the betterment of the seafood community.

For Nomination and Award Information please contact the SIV office or go to www.siv.com.au.

Sponsorship are also available. *Why you should sponsor.....*

The Victorian Seafood Industry Awards provides a unique environment for connecting industry, small and medium sized operators, industry associations and policy makers for the betterment of industry as a whole. Sponsorship provides;

- An excellent opportunity to promote your name, support your brands and maintain a high profile amongst industry figures,
- An opportunity to consolidate relationships,
- Widely acknowledged commitment and support for the 2011 awards by your organisation, and;

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- Exposure of your organization to a keenly interested and relevant audience.

Sponsorship Opportunities available include;

Gold Sponsor x 1 (\$8000 + GST)

Silver Sponsor x 2 (\$5000 + GST)

Bronze Sponsor x 4 (\$3000 + GST)

Award Category Sponsor x 9 (\$1500 + GST)

Award Program Sponsor x 1 (\$1000 + GST)

For more information on the entitlements associated with these opportunities, please contact the SIV office for a

Sustainable seafood assessment project comes to Victoria

The University of Technology Sydney, the Australian Conservation Foundation and a panel of marine scientists are currently conducting a sustainability assessment of several Victorian wild-catch and farmed seafood products. The Victorian project, funded by the Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation, is part of the Sustainable Australian Seafood Assessment Program being developed by UTS and ACF.

The program involves the application of assessment criteria to wild catch and farmed seafood products. The criteria have been developed by the program's Science Reference Panel and are loosely based on those in the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch program. The Panel members are consultants Dr Trevor Ward (Chair) and Dr Jeremy Prince, Greg Jenkins from Challenger Institute in Fremantle, and Professors Peter Fairweather (Flinders University), David Booth (UTS) and Mick Keough (University of Melbourne).

The Victorian project follows on from a successful pilot project in 2009-2010 which assessed five seafood products as sustainable: red emperor from the Pilbara Trap Fishery, farmed barramundi from Cone Bay near Derby, king prawns from Spencer Gulf, yelloweye mullet from the Lakes and Coorong and squid from the Hawkesbury River. At least six seafood products will be assessed in the Victorian project by the Science Reference Panel, aided by a Science Research Team that compiles the initial data and evidence base for each product. To assist their data gathering the three researchers have held discussions with the relevant fishers, farm operators and fisheries managers of the products being assessed.

The Science Reference Panel is meeting in Melbourne for three days in early February to review the data and conduct preliminary assessments. The preliminary assessments are then sent out for peer review, after which further input will be sought from the fishers, farm operators and fisheries managers of the products being assessed. To ensure transparency, openness and effective stakeholder engagement, a project advisory committee has been formed. The committee comprises Ross McGowan from Seafood Industry Victoria, Dr Murray MacDonald from Fisheries Victoria, Simon Branigan from the Victorian National Parks Association and Steve Hay, the Victorian SeaNet Coordinator.

The Sustainable Australian Seafood Assessment Program has been designed to deliver a very cost-effective and time-effective rapid assessment program well suited to smaller regional fisheries. A major aim of the Victorian project and the broader program is to reward, encourage, promote and guide the efforts of the seafood industry to enhance the sustainability of wild-caught and farmed seafood products.

It is also designed to build partnerships with the seafood industry, fisheries agencies and environment departments, scientists and environment organizations, and strong links between producers, wholesalers, retailers and consumers

It will also enhance sustainable seafood consumer choices and increase media interest in the sustainability of Victorian seafood products.

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You can find out more about the Sustainable Australian Seafood Assessment Program at www.acfonline.org.au/seafood.

For further inquiries please contact Chris Smyth at the Australian Conservation Foundation on (03) 9345 1129 or c.smyth@acfonline.org.au

SeaNet Update by Steve Hay

Happy New Year to you all and here is hoping we all get to have a beer with one another during the year. December was relaxed with the majority of the OceanWatch crew on leave and much of the industry taking a well deserved break.

I participated in the Apollo Bay Harbour *Undaria* pull which had been organised by DSE, Parks Victoria and the Southern Otway Landcare network. This was the second dive of the year and by all accounts the first dive had been very effective with only 20 fish bins worth of *Undaria* being removed compared to the 2.5 tonnes first time around. Mature plants in particular were removed from the east jetty, some vessels and the seagrass reducing the potential for spread by natural dispersal for the short term. As you know, marine pest infestations are a grave risk to both our marine biodiversity and our commercial and social assets.

Mid December I followed Barry Bruce from the CSIRO down to Corner Inlet to tag juvenile Great White sharks (up to 3 metres in length). The local fishermen were very supportive and supplied a boat, manpower and knowhow, unfortunately only one shark was tagged, a 2.8m female that is now being tracked up the coast. The implications of industry involvement is that fishermen do care about the environment by recording interactions with protected species and actively participating in their conservation as opposed to the less complimentary profiles painted by certain groups.

FRDC and DPI released a report on the selectivity and bycatch reduction of Tiger Flathead and Eastern School Whiting nets in the Danish seine fishery along with a DVD. I spoke to Matt Koopman who told me he has yet to receive any negative comments on the trial and its results. The conclusions drawn from the paper indicate wider commercial use of T90 nets would be useful in determining effects on profitability of fishing operations but this would require accurate logbook recording of gear type used.

For anyone out there interested, the Victorian Coastal Council is running its Coastal Awards again this year with nominations closing the 10th February. Whilst this may not initially grab the attention of commercial fishermen, it is a good opportunity to let the general public know fishermen are doing their bit to maintain the marine environment and support sustainability, which in turn will strengthen the buy local tagline. Don't forget the SIV hosted Victorian Seafood Industry Awards also to raise the profile of the Victorian commercial fishing industry!

Went up to Lakes Entrance and had a yarn to the locals about the Victorian Bays and inlets fishery EMS (as well as sinking a few at the Central) and after a few hiccups, this excellent document is currently awaiting further development by SIV and is supported by Fisheries Victoria. Best of luck and something all fisheries will benefit from.

That's it from me, keep an eye out for me as I will be dropping in to say g'day. Don't forget I am here to help in any way I can so please do not hesitate to call me at SIV or on 0421415973. Cheers.

Certification Requirements for Commercial Vessels - Marine Safety Regulations 2011

On the 1st February 2011 at the Port of Melbourne Education centre, 331-383 Lorimer Street, Fishermans Bend a workshop was held to inform participants of their Marine Safety Act 2010 implications for commercial vessels. The workshop was also used to obtain information of current issues confronting the commercial vessel industry and identify matters that are proposed to be covered in the Marine Safety Regulations. For more information please contact Paul Salter Project Manager, Regulatory Policy and Legislation Branch DOT Legal Department of Transport on 03 9655 6302, 0447 517 202 or paul.salter@transport.vic.gov.au

Giant Crab - Peak Season for Victoria

Pseudocarcinus gigas or more commonly known as the Giant Crab can reach a massive 45cm in carapace width and over 17.5kg! However, the more commonly found market size for these Giant Crabs are less than 20cm in carapace length. They are caught along the southern coastline using pots and are found at depths of 150-275m. Females apparently move onto the continental shelf (less than 200m) to incubate their eggs over winter.

They are a long lived, slow growing crab that require management controls to ensure sustainable fishing. The flesh is very succulent and sought after.



Giant Crab - found across the southern coastline of Australia

**If you have a great
recipe idea highlighting
Victorian seafood, why
not submit to SIV NEWS!
admin@siv.com.au**

In Brief.....

- SIV has a new format for our newsletter. The format now makes reading online easier and still allows you to print SIV NEWS if you wish. Let us know your thoughts admin@siv.com.au.
- An abalone farm at Bicheno, Tasmania has recently had an outbreak of Abalone Viral Gangleoneuritis (AVG). There are two other infected premises - a processor at Bicheno and a processor at Margate. While the Bicheno processor was identified as a traceback from the Margate processor, so far investigations have found no link between the farm at Bicheno and the other cases. DPIPWE are currently treating them as separate outbreaks, but they are continuing to investigate the possibility that they are linked. There are currently six suspect premises - ie premises that have some link to one of the infected premises and for which DPIPWE are awaiting lab test results. The recreational abalone fishery at Bicheno has been closed until further notice. It is now an offence to take abalone from this fishery. Everyone is strongly encouraged not to dive, fish or boat in this area. If you do, you must clean your boat and disinfect any diving, fishing and other gear before leaving the area.
- Three Melbourne men are facing charges after allegedly being caught with a huge haul of fish captured in an illegal net off Carrum. Fisheries Officers intercepted two vehicles on the Nepean Highway in Carrum and Edithvale in the early hours of Monday morning. They found a total of 832 fish in both vehicles, 709 of them undersize. They included black bream, Australian salmon, yellow eye mullet, garfish and flounder. It will be alleged a 37-year-old Hallam man in one car had 219 assorted fish in a nylon bag. It's claimed the two men in the second car, a 58-year-old from Eltham North and a 43-year-old from Coburg, had 613 fish and a 50 metre seine net which was seized by Fisheries Officers. Anyone who sees or suspects illegal fishing activity is urged to call the 24 hour reporting line, 13-FISH (13 3474).

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Schedule of Events

16th February	Abalone Sub Committee meeting - SIV Office, West Melbourne
17th February	SIV Board Meeting #126 - SIV Office, West Melbourne
24th February	Agrifood Standing Committee Meetings - Melbourne
24th February	Seafood Services Australia Network Meeting - Fremantle
1st-2nd March	Outlook 2011 - Canberra
3-4th March	Climate Change Symposium - Brisbane

SIV is a non government, not for profit organisation here to help YOU!

SIV represents all members involved in the harvesting, processing, wholesaling, retailing and exporting of seafood in Victoria. SIV acts on your behalf and best interests to make the Victorian commercial fishing industry environmentally sustainable, economically viable and to secure the future of your industry.

Please contact SIV if you have any concerns about your fishing or seafood industry.

Don't leave it too late!

Seafood Industry Victoria

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