

# SIV NEWS

March 2011

## SIV Update

**17th February** - SIV held Board meeting #126 at the West Melbourne offices, from which Ross McGowan continued on to attend the DPI Future Fish Strategy meeting, followed by a roundtable forum on Friday 18th.

**23rd February** - Ross McGowan met with Minister Peter Walsh MP to discuss the Victorian commercial fishing industry and to affirm the governments commitment to both industry and SIV. Following on from the meeting with the Minister, Ross attended the National Seafood Industry Alliance meeting in Fremantle to discuss issues at a national level.

**24th February** - Whilst in Fremantle, Seafood Services Australia ran their Network Meeting which SIV attended. The issues for each state/territory were presented to the forum and allowed an update of industry knowledge.

**1-2nd March** - Outlook was attended by SIV. This conference gives an economic overview of agricultural industries including fisheries.

**3-4th March** - SIV attended the QSIA Climate Change and Fisheries Symposium. More details page 2.

**15th March** - The Rocklobster Resource Assessment Group met in Queenscliff, with SIV present. The science was presented and discussed in reference to determining Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE).

**17th March** - The National Framework for Research, Development and Extension met in Melbourne to discuss the issues of extension and adoption.

**24th March** - The National Research Providers Network met to discuss issues of working collaboratively with research providers.

## Victorian Seafood Industry Awards 2011!

### Nominations Open!

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. 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 these positive contributions made for the betterment of the seafood community

### Sponsorship Opportunities

Sponsorship opportunities are available for the 2nd Victorian Seafood Industry Awards 2011. For more details please contact the SIV office or [www.siv.com.au](http://www.siv.com.au).

The nomination deadline has been extended until the 15th April 2011!

SIV acknowledges our sponsors;

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**MSC**  
MELBOURNE SEAFOOD CENTRE

**Award Category Sponsors**

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[www.basslink.com.au](http://www.basslink.com.au)

Seafood Industry  
Icon Award



[www.leftrade.com.au](http://www.leftrade.com.au)

Research and Development  
Award



[www.frdc.com.au](http://www.frdc.com.au)

# Sustainable Fishing - Healthy Seafood

## Climate Change Symposium

### Climate overview

Weather events such as cyclones, bushfires, floods and drought are all part of the Australian way of life, but the magnitudes of our climatic events are becoming more extreme. Climate change is not only about dealing with slowly rising sea levels and temperatures, it affects the whole community through property damage, insurance premiums, health, welfare, increased cost of living and lost productivity.

Much of the variability in Australia's climate is connected with the atmospheric phenomenon called the Southern Oscillation, a major see-saw of air pressure and rainfall patterns between the Australian/Indonesian region and the eastern Pacific. The Southern Oscillation is measured by a simple index, the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI), which can also be related to specific changes in the temperature of the underlying ocean, commonly referred to as El Niño and La Niña events (Bureau of Meteorology).

The switch from El Niño to La Niña across the South Pacific has brought cooler than average temperatures to eastern Australia for 2010 and is associated with increased probability of wetter conditions. The current La Niña is likely to draw to a close before the middle of 2011.

### Queensland Symposium March 3-4th 2011

#### Adaptation is the key....

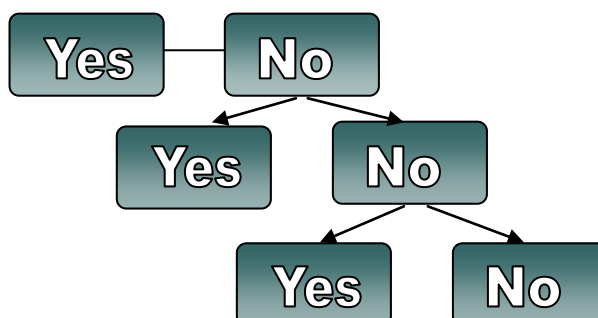
Queensland Seafood Industry Association's Eric Perez brought together a range of scientists, fisheries managers, peak body representatives and industry members to discuss climate change and the commercial fishing industry. The general view is that the fishing industry is very adaptable to any type of change encountered, not just those changes due to climate change. The main disadvantage for industry and their quest for adaptability is current operating regulations. The time and cost involved with completely changing the regulatory system we have in place now is not feasible, therefore fisheries managers (and industry) will need to have the flexibility with their management tools to provide opportunities for adaptation in a timely manner.

Example; Your license is species specific. The predicated outcome of climate change and warming sea surface temperatures will have the potential effect of your target species migrating southward to cooler waters, to avoid its upper thermal tolerances. How will you adapt? Do you have the ability to fish other areas? What if your species crosses jurisdictional boundaries? Can you change your license to target another species for the interim?

These are questions that were raised by industry members as well as fisheries managers. Advice given by a presenter Dr. Andrew Tobin of James Cook University (commercial fisherman, researcher and QSIA Board member) was to be prepared for temporary hardships and back it up with money in the bank. If you can't fish, be prepared to wait it out and a profitable business is more adaptable to change. Andrew gave an overview of Tropical Cyclone Hamish and the effects on the Great Barrier Reef fishery targeting Coral Trout. Andrew stated that many operators had to relocate to find their target species after TC Hamish had decimated most of the Great Barrier Reef. These relocated fishing grounds were producing coral trout that were not as vibrant red in colour and would not be acceptable in the live trade market into Asia. One adaptation of the Coral Trout fishery was to work with fisheries managers, and quickly make adjustments to regulations to allow the development of a domestic fillet market in the interim. This allowed the operators targeting Coral Trout (all but one) to continue running their business.

Social researcher Dr. Renae Tobin devised an 'Options Tree' based on the outcomes of the Great Barrier Reef Fishery.

Can you follow the target species?



Can you change the target species?

Can you change fisheries?

If you answered no you would have to consider leaving the fishery altogether

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The Options Tree shows that industry needs to be able to diversify to cope with change. The development of niche markets or fisheries reduces adaptability, and in saying this, some adaptive techniques comes with consequences and are not easy decisions for fishers to make. If you chose to change locality what are the risks to your catch rate and profitability, or the risks of concentrated effort and competition at new grounds? Renae Tobin made the point of not re-inventing the wheel, network and talk to other fisherman as they may be facing the same issues as your business.

Dr. Alistair Hobday of CSIRO gave a set of questions to ask yourself about your business, and assess your adaptive readiness;

- How will the environment change?
- Will there be new opportunities?
- Is my business adaptable to climate change?
- Is management policy compatible with climate change?
- What would you do differently if you had information about the future?

The main message from all the speakers was to be flexible and adaptable. Assess risks and know how environmental changes are going to effect you business.

### *What about the Carbon Tax?*

Simon Boag CEO of South East Trawl Fishery Association (SETFIA) has first hand experience on pricing carbon and its effects on the fishing industry in New Zealand under their Emissions Trading Scheme. Presenting on a panel discussion, Simon outlined some of the expectations associated with a price on carbon. With Australia introducing a price on carbon on July 1 2012, expect to see increases in fuel prices, increase in electricity price by approximately 10% and the introduction of carbon labelling on products. The labelling will be incorporated onto the food labels we currently see today, listing fat content, carbohydrates and CARBON! Opportunities for carbon neutrality with huge marketing benefits for companies will exist and fuel savings will be made through behavioural change and not gear changes.

Information is the key. Some websites to keep you informed;

[www.climatechangefishing.com.au](http://www.climatechangefishing.com.au)

[www.climatechange.gov.au](http://www.climatechange.gov.au)

[www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)

[www.csiro.au](http://www.csiro.au)

[www.nccarf.edu.au](http://www.nccarf.edu.au)

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## **DAFF Recognising Rural Women Farmers**

Minister for the Status of Women, Kate Ellis, stressed that we must celebrate the enormous contribution that rural women make to Australia's economy and their local communities.

“Research shows that women in rural areas have the highest rate of workforce participation of all Australian women aged over 35. One in four rural women is self employed, and many Australian women are running and operating successful farms and rural businesses,” Minister Ellis said.

“To give support for projects that build the leadership and representative capacity of women in primary industries, the government provides Recognising Women Farmers grants. I'm proud to be able to support organisations and projects

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which strengthen rural communities. Applications are now open for grants of up to \$50 000. I am personally committed to ensuring that we continue to recognise the talent and diversity of women in our primary industries," Minister Ludwig said.

Applications for Round 3 of the Recognising Women Farmers and Next Gen Farmers grants close on 28 March 2011. Visit [www.daff.gov.au/cncb](http://www.daff.gov.au/cncb) for more information.

## Abalone Virus Update - By Vin Gannon

On Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of March, 2011, VADA organised a survey of 14 locations in the area of Cape Otway, close to the last sightings of the AVG virus. There was no evidence of any AVG virus activity at any site. All sites had healthy populations of abalone.

This survey marks the 12 month period of no active virus in Victoria, which highlights the effectiveness of good bio-security, communication and support from the community and many sectors. The virus was only active for 2 months last year in the Cape Otway area from December 2009 to February 2010. The virus does not appear to have spread any further east since that time. On the Westerly front the AVG virus was last seen at Cape Bridgewater in December, 2007.

The Victorian Abalone Divers Association (VADA) has completed the 2<sup>nd</sup> tests for a project funded by Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC 2009/075) to identify whether or not the surviving abalone from the AVG virus are resistant or not to the disease. The project is also supported by VADA/WADA and CSIRO, and involves testing surviving abalone and 1<sup>st</sup> generation abalone from 5 different locations for resistance to the AVG virus. Each of the testing locations were heavily infected by the AVG virus and each test takes approximately 2 to 3 weeks to run the trials.

VADA still has supplies of viru-kill which is distributed free to all commercial and research divers. If you are running short of supplies there are several locations around Melbourne, Geelong and the Mornington Peninsula where viru-kill can be sourced. A free truck wash is also available at these locations. Recently, VADA also supplied 55 bottles (and specification sheets) to DPI for distribution to their coastal offices, to ensure availability, in order to assist in the response of any suspect reports.

VADA would once again like to thank the Rock Lobster industry, other commercial fishers and the recreational fishers who are steering clear of the location. In particular we have received strong support from rural communities in relation to spreading the word about washing fishing equipment and dive gear between locations. It was with your help and support that we were able to make the best of this opportunity.

**VADA would like to remind everyone that:**

**Biosecurity is of great concern, and everyone is requested to ensure that they wash their vessels and/or equipment between each fishing location. A lot of the large jumps in distance of this virus can be linked to human activity.**

**All commercial and recreational fishers should ensure that they clean their fishing gear and equipment between prior to changing fishing locations. This includes using detergent to wash down fishing vessels, equipment and dive gear.**

**VADA recommends that there should be no human activity in areas known to have active AVG virus in them.**

The VADA website keeps an up to date map of the virus location and people can check the website if unsure.

Codes of Practice and bio-security information can be located on the VADA website at <http://www.vada.com.au/> and follow the links. For further information you can contact Vincent Gannon on 0418 292 004 or at [vin@vada.com.au](mailto:vin@vada.com.au)

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## Octopus - Peak Season for Victoria

Octopus species are mostly caught off eastern and southern Australia with one species being taken as bycatch from the Western Rocklobster fishery. Octopuses cover marine areas from shallow tide pools to depths over 3000m. Commercial species are generally found closer inshore among seagrass and on muddy, sandy or reefy bottoms on the continental shelf. Most species are solitary, either burying in the substrate or living in holes or under rocks.



Octopus species

The firm arm flesh of the species should be tenderised before cooking. When cooked octopus are firm and dry with a delicate flavour.

## Grilled Octopus *SBS Food*

### Ingredients

1kg octopus, tenderised  
2 cups dry white wine  
1 ¼ cup extra virgin olive oil  
2 lemons juiced  
10 sprigs rosemary leaves  
4 tablespoon rigani  
1 tablespoon sea salt  
1 tablespoon cracked black pepper

### Method

Start preparing this dish 1 day ahead of serving. Rinse the octopus well in several changes of water, place in a large saucepan with the wine, adding water if necessary to cover.

Bring slowly to the boil, cover and reduce the heat and simmer for 1 ¾ hours. Drain, rinse very well, remove excess skin, this will scrape away very easily. Cover and refrigerate overnight.

Prepare the grill. Take the octopus and cut the legs from the top, discard the top section and leave the legs whole.

Whisk together 1 cup of olive oil, the lemon juice & rigani in a shallow bowl. Add the octopus and turn to coat with the marinade. Set aside.

Heat a charcoal grill and throw on the rosemary leaves. Take the octopus pieces from the marinade and place on the grill for a few minutes on either side or until lightly browned, brushing once or twice with the marinade.

Place on a plate with lemon wedges and parsley, serve with a Greek salad.



## SeaNet Update - Steve Hay

I have been involved with the Victorian Sustainable Seafood Assessment Project run by Australian Conservation Foundation, researching snapper longline bycatch issues through boat trips within Port Phillip Bay.

The roll out of the improved Invasive Marine Pests questionnaire nationally has been successful and I am continuing to speak further with more fishermen in the Victorian industry.

I also have been given the opportunity by VRFish to present at a workshop in Ballarat addressing the similarities between recreational fishers and commercial, specifically the growing number of green groups wanting to shut all forms of fishing down.

I am available at the SIV offices during the week on 9329 5660 or 0421 415 973 if you wish to contact me to discuss any of these or other issues further.

# Sustainable Fishing - Healthy Seafood

## In Brief.....

- The Victorian Auditor General's Office in March 2011 released a report on the Environmental Management of Protected Areas. The report conclusion found that Parks Victoria cannot show that marine biodiversity is being protected or that the related management obligations of applying resources as intended are being discharged. The audit points to systemic weakness and planning, program management and resource allocation that should be addressed.
- Fisheries Victoria is proposing new protection measures for the large wrasse species eastern blue grouper (*Achoerodus viridis*) and western blue grouper (*Achoerodus gouldii*) in Victorian waters. If you want further information to provide a comment please contact the SIV office. Comments are due to the Department by the 4th April 2011

## Schedule of Events

4th April	VicFRAB Meeting - SIV Office, West Melbourne
5-6th April	National Sustainable Food Summit - Melbourne
7th April	FRAB Stakeholder Workshop - Canberra
8th April	Rocklobster Resource Assessment Group - Queenscliff
14th April	Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence - Melbourne Museum
19th April	SIV Board Meeting #127 - Brighton
20th April	Abalone Industry Committee Meeting - SIV Office, West Melbourne
29-30th April	East Gippsland Field Days - Bairnsdale

### **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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