



SIV Board Meeting #209 of 23 March 2023

Location: Melbourne Seafood Centre - Boardroom

Chairperson's Summary

This was the 209th meeting of the SIV Board.

Key items discussed included:

- SIV Responses to Fisheries Notice
 - Port Phillip Bay
 - Banded Morwong
- Independent Chair recruitment
- CEO Update
- Strategic Discussion with Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF)
- Resignation of Board Director

SIV Response to Fisheries Notice – Port Phillip Bay

- The 8 licence holders were issued with a draft fishery notice by the VFA for upholding current catch limits per licence for species other than snapper, i.e. one tonne of shark and 2 tonne total of other species (excluding several species including Calamari, Whiting and Mulloway). Licence holders sought a reasonable increase in catch limits allowing them to catch whiting and calamari in relatively low quantities outside of the typical snapper season to meet local demand and maintain business viability.
- VFA notified SIV that they will be reinstating the current catch limits for another year.
- Opportunity may exist for fishers to list other operators under their licence, allowing them to pool resources and maximise total collective catch.

SIV Response to Fisheries Notice – Banded Morwong

- SIV provided a submission to the VFA following consultation with the two licence holders who raised several concerns about a proposed total allowable catch reduction of 30% based solely on recent catch per unit effort (CPUE) data.
- The licence holders raised several factors bringing into question the reliability of CPUE data in recent years as an indicator of current stock health. They would like a more rigorous assessment and are willing to assist in the collection of biological samples and/or a fish tagging program to contribute data.

Independent Chair – Position Description

- SIV is in the process of recruiting a new Independent Chair. Current contract to expire May 19, 2023.
- Position Description for the role has been developed and the role will be advertised on SEEK and LinkedIn.

CEO Update

Rock Lobster

- Meeting held in Queenscliff to review the draft management plan. Draft management plan to be finalised by the VFA with certain aspects presented by VFA/SRL/SIV at the port visits scheduled for mid-April.
- SRL seeking in principle support from the SIV Board on the proposed direction of the management plan regarding conservative TACC's aimed at facilitating stock rebuilds and achieving MSC certification.
 - ✚ SIV Endorsement – The Board accepted that the recommendations put forward by the Rock Lobster Management Plan Steering Committee (RLMPSC) represent a long-term view that will maximise the likelihood of sustainability accreditation which will in turn broaden the industry's access to domestic and global markets.

Corner Inlet MAC

- Catch rates for King George whiting, snapper and calamari have been strong based on good spawning and recruitment.
- VFA seeking support for the rules currently in force for fishing practices to be moved into regulation to provide future certainty. Some consensus amongst industry representatives. SIV board can only take a position following extensive consultation with industry.

Eel Fishery

- Glass eel trial commencing later in the year to see if commercial quantities can be harvested and exported to be on grown overseas in aquaculture facilities.
- Recognition from the eel industry that they need to be proactive in looking at options to minimise protected species interaction.

ASAG

- Primesafe: Consensus for a roundtable approach to facilitate development of a more robust and inclusive risk assessment criteria for management of blue green algae outbreaks.

Aquaculture: VFA looking at developing their own strategy. SIV insisted the recent industry strategy be considered. SIV look forward to working with the VFA on synergies and opportunities in this space.

Energy sector

- Several meetings held/planned with proponents to discuss previous work SIV has carried

out in relation to consultation with industry. Role for SIV to be the conduit to ensure that industry is well informed on what is happening and have opportunity to provide feedback.

Strategic Discussion with Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF)

- The SIV Chair met with VFF President Emma Germano to discuss opportunities for a mutually beneficial relationship.
- VFF is keen to develop a working group with SIV to discuss policy challenges that both the ag sector and commercial fishing sector are facing. Key focus of an understanding between the two parties would be joint advocacy on efficient food production, food security, right to farm/fish, etc.

Resignation of Board Director

- SIV Chair informed the Board that Helen Burvill will be stepping down as the director representing the abalone sector. She has been appointed as a Director of the Abalone Council Australia. SIV Chair thanked Helen on behalf of the Board for her work.
- The Abalone Council Victoria has put forward Travis Baulch as the replacement for Helen on the SIV Board.

Next meeting

May 2023 – Microsoft Teams

Joanne Butterworth-Gray
SIV Independent Chair