



SIV Board Meeting #212 of 16 August 2023

Location: Zoom

Chairperson's Summary

- This was the 212th meeting of the SIV Board.
- Key items discussed included:
 - o Skills & Workforce Analysis for SIV - Presentation
 - o Offshore Energy Policy
 - o Offshore Energy Engagement Model
 - o Climate Change workshop
 - o Southern Ocean Offshore Renewable Energy Zone Submission
 - o Report on Trans-Tasman Lobster Conference
 - o Portland Bay Code of Practice

Skills & Workforce Analysis Project

- Project commissioned by SIV to provide recommendations to progress training, skills, and development opportunities for the industry.
- Final report and presentation provided by Julian Hill from Ternes Scientific.
- Key points from the presentation included:
 - o Increased awareness of career pathways in seafood.
 - o Review of current MAR and SFI curriculum to ensure industry needs are met.
 - o Encourage work adaptation and skills development across the industry.
 - o Effective collaboration between industry, school career counselors and specialist training providers.
 - o Funding to support workforce development and access to labour.
 - o Matching and mentoring programs.
- Consensus from the Boards that on-the-job training is vitally more important than school-based learning.

Offshore Energy Policy

- Policy drafted to provide a clear position on SIV's expectations around government and the private sector planning/undertaking any activity/development, compensation for industry impacts and SIV's role/expectation for engagement (noting limited resources).
- The Board adopted the energy policy with the provision that if required, amendments or updates to the policy can be made.

Offshore Energy Sector Engagement Model

- SIV has been approached by a high number of proponents from the energy sector (petroleum and renewables) seeking assistance to distribute information to industry regarding proposed offshore activity/development.
- CEO developed model to inform how SIV engages with proponents from the energy sector.
- The proposed model is for SIV to provide relevant information to industry and be a trusted entity for industry to give feedback or express concerns, that with the appropriate permissions, can then be presented to stakeholders in the energy sector.
- Cost associated for SIV to undertake the work should be borne by those that are giving rise for the need for this activity and are going to benefit from the activity (i.e. proponent).
- Each proponent that expresses interest in engaging with SIV will be required to enter into a formal agreement.
- The SIV Board adopted the Engagement Model acknowledging there may be minor amendments required.

Climate Change Workshops

- SIV has been engaged by CSIRO and DEECA to assist in understanding the effects and future concerns regarding climate change in fisheries and aquaculture in Victoria.
- Concerns raised by SIV around:
 - o low catch rates of certain species.
 - o changes in behaviour and distribution of species.
 - o Fuel and energy prices linked to the impacts of climate change globally.
 - o Workforce supply and skill shortages.
 - o Impacts of floods on aquaculture and coastal fisheries.
 - o Requirement for support of diverse and resilient fisheries into the future.
- Case study has been undertaken by CSIRO in Corner Inlet. Steps the fishery has taken to reduce the impacts of climate change include:
 - o sea grass rehabilitation
 - o utilising lesser-known species, and
 - o a management plan that is reviewed annually.
- Meeting held by DEECA for primary industries and attended by SIV Directors. Opportunity exists for the seafood industry to make connections with other primary industries on this issue and garner support.

SIV Submission - Proposed Southern Ocean Renewable Energy Zone

- CEO attended community information sessions at ports in Western Vic to support industry engagement with Federal Gov, State Gov and Windfarm developers.
- CEO sought feedback on concepts to be covered in SIV submission to DCCEEW, due Aug 31st. These included:
 - o Importance of the seafood sector in Victoria.
 - o Concerns around wild fisheries being displaced.
 - o Concerns around threats to populations of species with ecological/commercial significance

- Requirement for no negative impact to productivity/viability of the seafood industry.

Report on Trans-Tasman Lobster Conference

- SIV sponsored morning tea on the first day of the conference.
- SIV provided an update on behalf of Victoria and also partook in a panel session.
- Good outcomes from the conference around the development of new innovations such as pot designs and apps to collect data.
- Large focus on market access.
- Discussion around the threat of spatial squeeze for industry, in particular windfarms. Learnings taken from Scottish peak body regarding impacts of offshore renewable energy.

Portland Bay Code of Conduct

- Document prepared by the VFA to manage conflict with the recreational sector and facilitate resource sharing going forward.
- Advice provided by SIV in consultation with licence holders active in the area in the past 5 years.
- The commercial sector demonstrated a willingness to compromise with resource sharing by avoiding peak periods & rec competitions, and not netting at all in a specified zone.
- Informed by VFA there was pushback from the recreational sector around signing the document.
- Awaiting next steps from the VFA who need to take the lead on identifying a solution that allows for resource sharing going forward.

Next meeting

October 2023 – Zoom

Roland Roccioletti
Independent Chair