



## **SIV Board Meeting #205 of 4 October 2022**

**Location: Zoom Meeting**

### **Chairperson's Summary**

This was the 205<sup>th</sup> meeting of the SIV Board.

Key items discussed included:

- Pre-election commitments
- Aquaculture Levy
- SIV Annual General Meeting
- WP/PPB Weighing at point of landing regulation

### **Pre-Election Commitments**

- SIV has submitted the following election commitments to Minister Kilkeny and provided the Minister with a detailed report into urgent changes required in the seafood industry.
  - Extrapolate commercial fisheries management from the VFA and transfer it to Agriculture Victoria
  - Increased secondary catch limits for species other than snapper in the WP/PPB licence class
  - Issuing of a permit from the Minister for Environment to commercial pipi fishers for a two-year period to allow the use of motorised vehicles on beaches at Discovery Bay and Venus Bay
  - All the Ocean Fishery Access Licence (OFAL) and the Purse Seine (Ocean) Access Licence to be transferrable
  - Allocate \$750,000 to the VFA to implement a new licencing and quota management system
  - Allocate \$750,00 to the VFA to implement its electronic reporting system across the remaining wild-catch fisheries and implement enhancements to the abalone/rock lobster platforms
  - Allocate \$500,000 to SIV to implement the 2022 Aquaculture Fisheries Strategy in collaboration with the VFA and licence holders
  - Commit to a fair and reasonable cost recovery program
- The Board noted that Government has not provided an update on election commitments requested by SIV and that dialogue between the Minister's Office and I/CEO is ongoing.

### **Aquaculture Levy**

- The Board clarified SIV's position on whether the Victorian Government should implement the SIV grant levy on aquaculture licence holders. Motion was passed in favour by the Board.
- The Board noted that there is some angst among licence holders on the inequality of the grant levy being paid by the wild catch sector and not the aquaculture sector.
- Interim CEO contacted five key aquaculture licence holders to gauge their opinion on the issue. All five provided their in-principal support for the implementation of a mandatory grant levy on aquaculture licence holders subject to:

- SIV adjusting its current mandate and work program to ensure that the entire Victorian seafood industry is represented – both wild catch and aquaculture licence holders.
- That a fair and reasonable grant levy calculation be determined in partnership between SIV, VFA and aquaculture licence holders.
- The Board agreed to write to Minister Kilkenny requesting a SIV grant levy be applied to aquaculture licence holders.

#### **SIV Annual General Meeting**

- New SIV rules to be tabled at the AGM to be held via zoom on Friday 14th October 2022 at 10:00am. First notice sent to all licence holders and members via post and email on the 12 August. A correction to the definition of a licence holder has been made. Email and post of the amended rules sent to all licence holders and members 28 September 2022.
- Nominations for board positions closed 8th September 2022. All positions received a nomination with the Eel, bait board position receiving two nominations (Grant Leeworthy and Luke Anedda). As per current SIV rules a ballot form was sent (28 September 2022) to all licence holders seeking their vote – voting closes 6th October 2022.
- SIV Financial report finalised by the auditors, to be reviewed and signed off by the FAC on 4 October 2022. Report to be included in the annual report and distributed to members at the AGM.
- The Board noted the need for a minimum of 5% member attendance at the AGM to constitute a quorum and that 75% of the voting members in attendance would need to support the motion to adopt the new SIV Rules.

#### **WP/PPB Weighing at Point of Landing Regulation**

- The Board noted the opposition from WP/PPB fishers to the introduction of a fisheries regulation where they are required to weigh their catch at the point of landing.
- Concern was raised by the Board into the health and wellbeing of affected WP/PPB fishers following the Governments decision knowing that they are still feeling the impacts of the Port Phillip Bay netting closure and catch limits.
- The Board noted the concerns raised by the fishers about the potential conflict between the recreational fishing sector and licence holders that could occur at busy boat ramps if the regulation was to pass.
- The Board noted the advice given by both Primesafe and WorkSafe that some licences are unable to meet the regulatory requirements of all three agencies based on historical fishing practices and that it was unfair to ask fishers to financial invest in changing their fishing methods.
- The Board noted that several potential solutions have been put forward by both fishers and SIV, however they have not been supported by the VFA, citing the integrity of the quota system would be compromised by those options. It was agreed that the Board write to the Minister seeking an exemption to the regulation citing an AMSA precedent.

**Next meeting:** AGM -Friday 14 October 2022,

Joanne Butterworth-Gray  
SIV Independent Chair