



## **Victorian Rock Lobster Committee (VRLC) Meeting #7 – 28 August 2023**

**Location: Zoom Meeting**

### **Chairperson's Summary**

This was the seventh meeting of the Victorian Rock Lobster Committee.

Key items discussed included:

- Update on FRDC Project 2020-29 (ITQ)
- SIA Wild Catch Advisory Committee
- SIV Southern Ocean offshore wind submission
- Trans-Tasman Rock Lobster Conference 2025
- Draft 5 Year Management Plan consultation
- Industry advances project

### **Update on FRDC Project 2020-29 (ITQ)**

- Project put on hold following several concerns raised by industry. Additional consultation required.
- FRDC to convene a forum with stakeholders to discuss the project, its activities and objectives and answer questions from attendees including concerns that have been raised. VRLC to request an invitation.
- The forum will result in recommendations for changes to the project and its future execution.

### **SIA Wild-catch Advisory Committee**

- Wild-catch Advisory Committee is to inform Seafood Industry Australia on how to deal with issues related to the wild-catch sector in Australia.
- The Committee is made up of a diverse group of experienced and passionate leaders. VRLC has two representatives.
- Consensus that this new committee needs to be a strong advocate for industry when dealing with Federal Government on areas such as resource access, trade and industry development.

### **SIV Southern Ocean Offshore Wind Submission**

- Submission to be provided by SIV to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), regarding the proposed area in the Southern Ocean for offshore wind.
- Email sent to all licence holders requesting input and encouraging individual submissions.
- VRLC agreed that the draft submission provided by SIV was well written and articulated. Committee made a few minor suggestions for amendments to the submission.
- Proposal currently at the very early stage, noting that each phase may take several years to be implemented if it does go ahead. This will be a long and protracted process.
- Strategy on how to handle the renewable energy sector is of a high priority and there is likely to be a requirement for resources at SIV to manage consultation.

### **Trans-Tasman Rock Lobster Conference 2025**

- SIV approached to host the Trans-Tasman Rock Lobster Conference in Victoria in 2025.
- Good opportunity to raise the profile of the Victorian rock lobster fishery.
- Date to be confirmed, likely to be around July 2025.

### **Draft 5 Year Management Plan consultation**

- Final draft 5-year management plan is due to be released by the VFA for 60-day public consultation in late 2023.
- Feedback or concerns raised by industry should be provided to the Management Plan Steering Committee for consideration.

### **Industry Advances Project**

- Small scale pot redesign project (Vicpot) was previously put on hold.
- Opportunity to further investigate alternative pot designs that are environmentally friendly if project funding was available.
- A project could be extended to capture all emerging technologies or gear types that could potentially benefit the sector.

**Next meeting:** October 2023

Wayne Dredge  
VRLC Chair