



Chairperson's Summary

SIV Board Meeting #215 of 8 February 2024

Location: Melbourne Seafood Centre/Zoom

OFAL Show Cause

- The VFA stated that a minimum catch of 1000kg per licence holder over the next two fishing seasons is what is required for OFAL holders to avoid another show cause request. This was based on the average catch by OFAL's over the past 10 years, taking into account COVID related disruptions.
- SIV CEO sought direction from the Board on whether to challenge the proposed 1000kg over 2-year period.
- The Board felt that a decision should lie with the stakeholders involved and asked the SIV CEO to call a meeting with OFAL holders.

Marine Development

Decommissioning

- An offshore energy company has proposed that some infrastructure should remain in the marine environment. This includes sections of upright steel jackets currently used to support platforms.
- Concerns raised by licence holders regarding potential safety issues for trawlers unable to see submerged infrastructure, and exclusion zones preventing access to prospective fishing grounds indefinitely.
- SIV wrote to the offshore energy company outlining these concerns.

Policy amendment

- The Board approved amendments to terms 3.4 and 4.2 of the Marine Development Policy regarding decommissioning.
- Updated policy to be loaded on the SIV website.

Literature review on risks of seismic activity

- Quotes received for a literature review came in above the previous Board approved spend.
- SIV to explore avenues for external funding support.

Victorian Rock Lobster Committee (VRLC) – Draft Management Plan Update

- VRLC provided an update to the Board following the last meeting of the Management Plan Steering Committee.
- Endorsement of the draft Management Plan by the VRLC is contingent on sufficient fee relief from the VFA to EZ licence holders to assist with business viability.
- Concerns raised by the VRLC about the introduction of a review process for total allowable take for the recreational sector.

Half 1 Budget Review

- A half-yearly review was conducted for predicted variance in revenue and expenditure for the full financial year.
- Postponement in hiring additional staff has limited the capacity to drive more membership.
- Additional consultancy fees incurred in responding to unforeseen issues is justifiable.
- Board comfortable with predicted variance to SIV's annual operating budget (-\$40K).

Internal Resources

- Board discussed the benefit of recruiting two resources, a Project Coordinator and an Aquaculture Extension Officer.
- Board agreed that recruitment of a Project Coordinator should commence in the current financial year.
- A recommendation was delivered at the 2023 Annual General Meeting that the Board appoint up to two Directors who must each be independent at the time of appointment.

Membership

- The SIV Board endorsed membership applications for:
 1. Longreach Maris
 2. Oscar Tasmanian Seafood

SIV 5-year Strategic Plan

- Strategic planning meeting to be held on May 10 following the seafood awards night.

Other Business

Wadawurrung Native Title Claim

- The Wadawurrung people have applied for a native title determination.
- SIV has engaged Clarke Legal to represent licence holders/members who wish to register as interested parties in the matter.

Next meeting

April 2024 – Zoom

Roland Roccioletti
Independent Chair