



Chairperson's Summary

SIV Board Meeting #216 of 2 May 2024

Location: Zoom

Reform for urchin fishery proposed by the VFA

- The VFA are concerned that existing urchin licence/quota holders do not have the capacity to harvest enough black urchin to address impacts by the species on the marine ecosystem in Eastern Victoria.
- SIV Board noted that only a fraction of the urchin population has valuable roe and can be harvested commercially.
- Licence/quota holders insist that barriers to historical harvest volumes have been primarily market driven and that they are well placed to respond to increasing demand.
- The VFA put forward their intention to dissolve ITQ units for the urchin fishery at a meeting in Lakes Entrance attended by licence/quota holders and SIV.
- Urchin licence/quota holders are very concerned not only about their financial risk, but also what level of risk this precedent raises for other quota managed fisheries.
- Although there is agreement amongst the SIV Board that something needs to be done to address the urchin issue in Victoria, the approach taken by the VFA in dissolving ITQ's with no additional information is of concern.
- Unsure how the VFA will proceed as no detail has been provided regarding the legislative mechanism they intend to use when dissolving ITQ's.
- SIV to provide a submission to the VFA expressing concerns and requesting further information.

Marine Development

- The SIV Marine Development Policy and Engagement Agreement continue to be provided to Offshore Energy proponents seeking to engage with SIV.
- Feasibility licences have been announced for six proponents for offshore renewable wind in the Gippsland area. A further six feasibility licences are likely to be awarded once the Federal Government finish their assessments.

Victorian Rock Lobster Committee

Committee Membership

- A member from the committee has recently resigned.
- Rules of the committee allow for additional members to the current structure.
- There has been interest from:
 - o Callum McCarthy (WZ).
 - o Ross Bromley-EastRock (EZ)

The SIV Board is comfortable with the VRLC's support to appoint both candidates.

Fishing displacement compensation position

- Proponents proposing oil/gas exploration in the Otway Basin have drafted a compensation framework.

- They are willing to provide compensation for reductions in catch and additional operating costs to fishers temporarily displaced from traditional fishing grounds.
- The framework was not accepted, noting that many fishers in Victoria cannot simply relocate elsewhere without placing increased fishing pressure on stocks in other areas.
- Proposed that gas/oil proponents wishing to displace fishers should compensate impacted parties through a temporary 'retirement of quota', whereby licence holders abstain from fishing in the area and are compensated for loss of revenue based on historical catch rates and current market price.

Research and Development

- SIV raised a priority through the Victorian Research Advisory Committee for the allocation of FRDC R&D funding toward a risk assessment of potential impacts of seismic surveys to stocks of commercially and recreationally important species in Victoria.
- Proposal put to the FRDC to fund development of a Code of Practice model/template for Australian small-scale fisheries.

SIV Staff Resources

- Recruitment of a Project Coordinator delayed to allow alignment with SIV's new 3-year strategy.
- Ongoing talks with the VFA regarding funding for a SIV Aquaculture Extension Officer to oversee promotion of Victoria's aquaculture industry and products.
- SIV has commenced recruitment for up to two Independent Directors with a background in tourism and/or the hospitality sector.

Membership Applications

- The SIV Board endorsed the membership application from Atlantis Group.

Events

Victorian Seafood Industry Awards 2024

- Large number of award nominations received.
- Judging committee has been selected from a range of relevant organisations.

Trans-Tasman Rock Lobster Conference

- Strategic planning session scheduled for June.
- Conference to be launched at Seafood Directions 2024.

SIV Board Strategy Day

- Both the SIV CEO and SIV Chair to meet with the Independent Facilitator prior to the session.
- Report from the facilitator will inform development of a new 3-year strategic plan.

Other Business

ACBC Membership

- SIV to become a member of the Australian Chinese Business Council to collaborate on strengthening trade relationships.

DECCA - Primesafe Regulation

- Board support to rollover the current regulation that provides exemptions for businesses selling live product from needing a Primesafe licence.

Next meeting

June 2024

Matt Wassnig

CEO (filling in for Independent Chairperson, Roland Roccioletti)