



## **Chairperson's Summary**

**SIV Board Meeting #217 of 19 July 2024**

**Location: Zoom**

### **Fishery Management - VFA reform for urchin fishery**

- The VFA revoked the initial quota order for the Urchin Fishery and replaced it with a new quota order that included White Urchin only, essentially removing quota for Black Urchin.
- As a representative peak body, SIV's role is to support and advocate for our members interests.
- The Board expressed concern around the VFA not engaging in the development of an agreed framework that provides current urchin licence holders ongoing security of access to the Black Urchin resource, or appropriate compensation for their Black Urchin fishing rights no longer having a financial value.
- SIV will continue to communicate with both the VFA and Minister's office regarding concerns about the action of revoking ITQ's and to support a fair and reasonable outcome for current licence holders.
- Urchin populations will re-establish if fishing/culling pressure eases at a point in the future. Under the VFA proposed model of an open fishery there is concern about fishers/processors going out of business if all Black Urchin is fished out, resulting in a boom/bust model rather than a sustainable commercial model for managing urchin populations.
- The Board discussed the model adopted by the Tasmanian industry regarding fishers' access rights to encourage ongoing investment in the urchin industry.

### **Victorian Rock Lobster Committee Update – Recreational Catch Reporting**

- The digital tagging program to account for recreational catch has been replaced by an app. The VFA has acknowledged that recreational catch is likely underreported via the app.
- Recreational fishers are given seven days to report their catch. If they are not checked by a Fisheries Officer at the point of landing, there is a strong chance reporting is not done.
- The Government is managing a natural resource based primarily on data provided from both the commercial sector and the recreational sector. However, without the full catch being recorded by the recreational sector, the resource cannot be managed properly.
- There is a need for more stringent reporting requirements for the recreational sector to maximise data reliability.

### **3-year Strategic Plan**

- SIV Board met in person for a Strategy Day on May 10th to develop a draft strategic plan that would provide a framework for the organisation over the next few years.
- The resulting strategic plan document was approved by the Board and will be distributed to members for feedback.

### **FY 2024-2025 Draft Budget**

- The Board approved the draft budget for 2024-2025 noting that income from Trans-Tasman Rock Lobster Conference will be delayed until Aug 2025

### **Personnel**

#### **Independent Director Application**

- SIV advertised for up to two voluntary Independent Non-Executive Directors, preferably with a background in wholesale, retail, hospitality or tourism.
- 22 applications were received. 4 applicants located in Victoria with experience in relevant sectors were shortlisted in consultation with the SIV Chair.
- The SIV Board were provided with summaries of shortlisted candidates.
- Interviews to be scheduled for early August.

#### **Marketing & Communication Applications**

- SIV advertised for the role of Part-Time Communications and Promotions Coordinator and received over 70 applications.
- Candidates were shortlisted to eight with interviews currently underway.

### **Next meeting**

September 2024

Roland Roccioletti  
Independent Chairperson