



Chairperson's Summary

SIV Board Meeting #218 of 1 October 2024

Location: Zoom

Introductions – new Board members

- The SIV Board undertook a recruitment process in 2024 to appoint Independent Directors with relevant knowledge, experience, and networks in the food wholesale, food retail and/or hospitality industries.
- The three Independent Directors appointed to the SIV Board as of September 1st, 2024 (Anthony Mutton, Graeme Longmuir and Sam Allan) were each provided an opportunity to address the SIV Board.
- An announcement of the appointments to be included in SIV's fortnightly newsletter.

Fishery Management - Anti-Netting movement in Western Victoria

- Certain community groups are taking to social and mainstream media in efforts to gain support for netting bans in areas along the coast of Western Victoria.
- An online workshop was held for all members and licence holders to attend and discuss how to protect Victorian fisheries that rely on use of nets.
- The SIV CEO provided a summary of the points raised by attendees at the Sep 30th workshop.
- The Board confirmed that the issue primarily relates back to 'social licence' regarding net fishers maintaining approval from the broader community to operate, and that approval being effectively communicated to Government.

Cost Recovery Reform Working Group

- The VFA has convened a 'Working Group' to consider a proposal to reform how costs associated with fisheries management are recovered from commercial licence holders.
- The following parties associated with SIV are involved with the Working Group - Matt Wassnig (SIV CEO), Gary Ryan (Rock Lobster licence holder / Victorian Rock Lobster Committee member) and Luke Anedda (Corner Inlet licence holder / SIV Director).
- The Board agreed that the VFA should provide transparency with fee paying licence holders regarding what is discussed amongst the Working Group.
- The Board agreed that transparency by Gov on expenditure of levies should be part of the process.

Sustainable Oceans Plan Submission

- The Australian Government is leading the development of a national Sustainable Ocean Plan
- The plan aims to help Australia sustainably manage our ocean, to ensure healthy marine and coastal ecosystems and to support a thriving, equitable ocean economy.
- The SIV Board endorsed the submission provided by the SIV CEO.

Communications and Promotions Plan

- SIV's recently appointed Communications and Promotion's Coordinator was tasked with drafting a strategic approach to enhancing communications and promotions in support of the goals reflected in SIV's 2024 – 2027 Strategic Plan.
- The document was well constructed and provided a good framework for guiding communication and promotional activities. The focus on building an engaged community (seafood supply chain and consumers) around the Victorian Seafood brand was endorsed by the Board.

Board composition

- Three member elected Directors will reach the conclusion of their first term at the 2024 AGM.
- The Chair requested those directors confirm their interest in remaining on the SIV Board for a second term.
- Nomination process to be undertaken with members for vacant positions.

Other Business

Wadawarrung Native Title Claim

- SIV CEO provided a briefing on SIV's support of those members who identified as interested parties regarding the Wadawarrung Native Title Claim.
- A discussion ensued regarding perceived risks to wild catch fisheries and aquaculture if sector interests were not represented as part of the process of 'consent determination'.

Research and Development Priorities

- The SIV Board were provided with an opportunity to raise priority areas for R&D investment.
- The timing for another study assessing the economic and social value of the Victorian seafood industry was considered.
- It was discussed whether a reliable and verifiable tool for seafood businesses to quantify their carbon footprint would be valuable.

Next meeting

November 2024

Roland Roccioletti
Independent Chairperson