Chairperson's Summary
SIV Board Meeting #225 of 11 December 2025
Location: SIV Office / Zoom

New Board Members

- New Directors Chris Gillies and Anthony Woodland briefed the Board on their professional backgrounds and the experience they bring to SIV.
- Chris highlighted experience in food web ecology, conservation finance, habitat restoration and aquaculture, and declared his company's work with offshore energy companies on potential habitat benefits from infrastructure.
- Anthony outlined his role as General Manager of Lakes Entrance Fishermen's Ltd and previous experience in emergency management and business ownership. He has also been involved with the Bass Strait Seafood Protection Alliance.

CEO Contract

- The Board considered arrangements for the CEO role beyond the expiry of the current contract in February 2026.
- Following an out-of-session decision, the Chair advised the CEO on 13 December that his existing contract and associated terms would be extended to 30 June 2026, allowing time to consider the longer-term resourcing strategy.

SIV Financials

- The Finance Audit Committee reported no issues with the financial statements and confirmed SIV remains in a strong financial position, supported by the term deposit.
- The Chair also confirmed that he had reviewed the financial statements and was comfortable with SIV's position.
- The Board discussed leave entitlements to be paid to the estate of Joeanne Tripylas.

Industry Matters

- Lobster Industry and MSC
  - SIV facilitated a meeting between the lobster industry, Marine Stewardship Council, VFA, Atlantis Group and SRL Limited, and has provided industry with a summary and options for considering next steps.
  - Industry consensus might be that a Victorian MSC assessment be pursued if Tasmania and South Australia support a whole-of-stock approach, helping simplify supply chain considerations and share costs.
- Draft Portland Bay Fisheries Notice
  - Following industry feedback, SIV has advocated for the proposed commercial netting exclusion area in Portland Bay to be reduced. An outcome from the VFA is still awaited.

- Aquaculture Strategy
  - SIV will review its 2022 Aquaculture Strategy to make it more concise and action-oriented before considering a relaunch. Chris Gillies has offered to assist.
- Outdoor Recreation Victoria
  - The Board discussed the Government's announcement that the VFA will be incorporated into the new Outdoor Recreation Victoria statutory authority from 1 July 2026.
  - Industry members have raised concerns that commercial fishing and aquaculture may not receive adequate focus within an authority also responsible for recreational fishing, hunting, four-wheel driving and camping.
  - The Board agreed SIV should raise concerns while becoming better informed.
  - Members and licence holders will be advised that SIV is taking their concerns seriously and planning its response.

Consumer App Project

- The CEO presented three concepts for consumer testing: a Real-Time Tracker to help consumers find fresh, seasonal local seafood; Confidence in Cooking; and a game designed to build seafood knowledge and consumption among a younger generation.
- The Board discussed monetisation, market size and reputational risks, and requested that prospective advertisers be included in concept testing alongside consumers.
- The first step will be to develop a beta-style concept for testing with consumers.

2026 State Election Platform

- The Board reviewed previous SIV election platforms, the proposed objectives and strategy for 2026, and draft 'key asks'.
- The Chair complimented the CEO on the work completed to date and asked Directors to provide specific feedback and contribute to refining the platform.
- Following Board feedback, the next step is to develop the SIV 2026 Election Platform policy paper.

SIV Roles

- SIV bookkeeper Julie Pike is assisting the CEO with administrative tasks following the passing of Joeanne Tripylas.
- The Victorian Rock Lobster Committee endorsed Oscar Zheng of Victoria Seafood Pty Ltd to join the committee as its post-harvest representative.
- Maria Manias volunteered to join the Finance Audit Committee following Travis Baulch's departure, with her expression of interest endorsed by FAC Chair Sam Allan and the Board.

2026 Victorian Seafood Industry Awards

- The Awards will be held at Port Campbell Surf Club on 21 March 2026, following Crayfest earlier that day.
- Award nomination forms and ticket booking details are now available through SIV.

Next meeting - February 2026

Roland Roccioletti
Independent Chairperson