Chairperson's Summary
SIV Board Meeting #227 of 23 April 2026
Location: SIV Office / Zoom

SIV Financials

- The Finance and Audit Committee reported that financial documents were in good order and SIV remained in a stable financial position.

Industry Update

- New Minister
  - Minister Enver Erdogan has taken on the Outdoor Recreation portfolio, replacing Minister Dimopoulos. SIV has contacted the Minister regarding the Outdoor Recreation Bill and SIV's 2026 election priorities.
- Fuel Crisis
  - High fuel prices have made some commercial fishing operations unviable, with several vessels ceasing operations after Easter. Increased air freight costs have also affected export returns.
  - SIV has been discussing a proposal with the Victorian Farmers Federation and Seafood Industry Australia for a one-off Government financial assistance package for primary producers.
- Pipi Research
  - SIV hosted a Portland workshop following the late-2023 mass die-off that reduced the 52-tonne pipi quota fishery to 1 tonne. Stakeholders identified priorities around monitoring, research and potential trans-location/re-seeding, with SIV now meeting monthly with the VFA, FRDC and an industry representative to progress the work.
- Lobster TAC and MSC
  - The Victorian Rock Lobster Committee has maintained their position that the current harvest strategy should remain in place and that biomass targets or TAC should not change until stakeholder advice, data and modelling are considered through the scheduled 5-year review process.
- VFA Wild-Caught Seafood Strategy
  - SIV continues to press the VFA for a clear vision and strategy for wild-caught fisheries before the transition to Outdoor Recreation Victoria. The VFA has indicated a strategy will be released soon.

Marine Development

- Marine Seismic Surveys
  - SIV continues to consider an ALARP assessment insufficiently precautionary for marine seismic survey impacts on fisheries. CGG's proposed survey will no longer proceed

following rejection of its Environment Plan, although a large Southern Ocean area remains open to future proposals.

- Decommissioning
  - SIV has conveyed Inshore Trawl Fishery concerns to Esso Australia regarding safety risks and continued exclusion from fishing grounds if sections of lower steel pil jackets are left in place. Esso has committed to an in-person workshop with Gippsland fishers before submitting its Environmental Plan.
- Offshore Wind
  - The Board confirmed SIV's position that, while Victoria's future energy mix will change, SIV opposes negative impacts on commercial fishing productivity.
  - SIV has requested developers co-fund research examining real-world impacts to fisheries associated offshore wind in the Northern Hemisphere.

Outdoor Recreation Victoria Bill

- SIV's position statement on the Outdoor Recreation Victoria Bill has been provided to several MPs, with further engagement planned with the Greens and Independents. Directors will assist with introductions to MPs where they have existing relationships.

2026 Election Priorities

- The Board reviewed the final 2026 election priorities document. Feedback from members and stakeholders has been positive, with some additional issues identified for discussion with MPs.
- SIV and the Victorian Farmers Federation have been actively sharing information, with an MoU proposed to formalise the working relationship.

Victorian Seafood App - Phase 1

- Market research found the app should focus on seasonality, improve consumer trust in freshness by connecting local catches with purchasing locations, and build confidence in cooking seafood through videos and recipes.
- The Board was shown a prototype. The CEO advised that further work is required to better align the design with the Victorian seafood brand and strengthen the business case, particularly budgets and prospective revenue streams.
- A business case will be developed to support grant funding applications for full development and rollout.

Docklands Seafood Precinct

- The City of Melbourne and Docklands Chamber of Commerce are proposing a monthly seafood-focused farmers market in Docklands.
- The Board noted opposition from Queen Victoria Market retailers concerned about potential impacts on their trade.

Other Business

- The Board raised the need to refresh the SIV website and remove outdated information.
- Wayne Dredge updated the Board on challenges for small-to-medium commercial fishing businesses relating to Marine Order 504 crewing requirements.
- The fixed-term contracts for the CEO and Independent Chair expire in June. Both incumbents have expressed interest in remaining in their positions, with the Board to separately review each role.

Next meeting - June 2026
Roland Roccioletti
Independent Chairperson