



Victorian Rock Lobster Committee (VRLC) Meeting #8 – 4 October 2023

Location: Zoom Meeting

Chairperson's Summary

This was the eighth meeting of the Victorian Rock Lobster Committee.

Key items discussed included:

- Update on FRDC Project 2020-29 (ITQ)
- Cost Recovery Reform
- Draft Management Plan Release and Consultation
- Seismic Survey Compensation – Industry Engagement
- Strategic Priorities
- Industry advances project

Update on FRDC Project 2020-29 (ITQ)

- Project to be wound up as criteria to proceed beyond the stop/go point were not reached.
- Discussion by the VRLC around a potential lost opportunity to educate policy makers on the pros of an ITQ system.
- Concern that the project may be picked up by another entity with less opportunity for industry input.
- Appropriate project for SRL if they adopt peak body status for the industry.

Cost Recovery Reform

- The VFA is establishing a working group to investigate a GVP model for applying levies to the wild catch sector.
- Suggestion by the VRLC that the working group should include representative from both the EZ & WZ.
- Terms of Reference still to be finalised prior to members being appointed.
- Discussion on how fees (user pays scenario) will be implemented as the beach price fluctuates and there is no reliable access to pricing data.
- VFA to look at pursuing a GVP model as used by other states that should not result in fee increases.

Draft Management Plan & Release

- VRLC & industry awaiting release of Management Plan for public consultation.
- Comments provided to the VFA will inform a second draft.
- Management Plan Committee to review all comments to ensure appropriate amendments have been incorporated.

Seismic Survey Compensation – Industry Engagement

- SIV to meet with proponents proposing seismic survey work to understand compensation protocols.
- SIV to request easy to interpret documentation that enables licence holders to identify if they are likely to be impacted and then provide comment on the proposed compensation framework. advocacy and engagement

- Committee acknowledged that while SIV can provide advocacy and engagement it is not able to negotiate individual terms on behalf of licence holders.

Strategic Priorities

- Focus on social licencing and encouraging the public to support and protect the fishing industry.
- Media exposure telling our story and enhancing the industry's image.
- Support R&D into impacts of the energy sector on the marine environment and on fisheries in the Australian context.
- Look at opportunities that may exist in association with emerging threats.
- Horizon scan for new technologies and industry advances.
- Support the establishment of a Management Advisory Committee (MAC).
- Continue to assess the potential benefits/cost of MSC accreditation.

Next meeting: November 2023

Wayne Dredge
VRLC Chair