



Chairperson's Summary

SIV Board Meeting #213 of 16 October 2023

Location: Zoom

Marine Development

- The Board agreed to broaden the scope of the previously approved Offshore Energy Policy to capture all types of 'Marine Development'.
- Engagement Agreements with developers will be used to:
 - o Standardise how information is provided by developers.
 - o Request licence holder/member feedback.
 - o Compensate SIV for use of its time/resources.

Finance & Audit Committee

- Board reviewed the Financial Report provided by the auditors for FY 23.
- Expenses noted to date for FY 24 in responding to unforeseen issues impacting industry.

AGM matters

- The Board agreed to hold the 2023 AGM in February to avoid the lead up to Christmas.
- The Board is required to conduct an annual review of Board composition. No concerns were raised with the current composition of the Board and cross section of representatives.
- Independents directors can be elected to build future capability of the Board.

Show Cause Notice for Ocean Fishery Access Licences (OFAL)

- The window provided by the VFA for OFAL holders to show cause finishes on 18th October.
- Under the *Fisheries Act 1995*, the VFA can refuse licence renewal if the holder has ceased to be actively, substantially and regularly engaged in the activities authorised by the licence.
- SIV contacted the VFA objecting to the policy and requesting a better strategy be considered that would support licence holders wanting to remain in the industry.
- Legal feedback was distributed by SIV to OFAL holders for their consideration. OFAL holders were also encouraged to seek their own independent professional advice.

VFA draft Fisheries (Portland Bay) Notice

- SIV advocated for the existing Code of Practice (COP) in Portland Bay to be signed by active representatives from the commercial and recreational sectors.
- Commercial licence holders with recent catch history in the area using relevant fishing methods were consulted by SIV.
- Pushback from members of the recreational sector not willing to sign the COP.
- Community concern around netting in Portland Bay escalated. The VFA responded by proposing closure of an area of Portland Bay to all forms of netting.
- SIV provided a submission objecting to the closure and insisting the VFA follow through on negotiating a COP that provided equitable resource access by all stakeholders concerned.
- SIV requested a roundtable meeting with stakeholders to arrive on an acceptable outcome.

Aquaculture Strategy

- SIV CEO has reviewed document and noted that the structure could be improved to offer a clearer direction and outcomes for industry stakeholders.
- The SIV Board commented that the strategy effectively captured thoughts and feedback from industry, however it can be treated as a live document going forward to be updated and improved in line with SIV's future strategic direction.

Research Advisory Committee

- SIV CEO provided an update to the Board as a member of the Victorian Research Advisory Committee that advises the FRDC on priorities for research funding.
- SIV put forward a research priority regarding potential impacts of electromagnetic fields associated with offshore renewable energy infrastructure on commercially relevant species.
- SIV supported research for determining the risk of rock lobster pots acting as a vector for transmission of AVG to better understand whether fishing closures are a necessary precaution.

Events

Tidal Seafood Festival (San Remo)

- SIV sponsored the event and had a stand providing information on Victorian seafood.
- If SIV is to sponsor future industry led events there must be beneficial outcomes for promotion of commercial fishing and the sector's contribution to the community.

Victorian Parliamentary Seafood Event 2023

- The VFA has been asked by the Minister to host an event which showcases the Victorian seafood industry during a parliamentary sitting week in mid-November.
- SIV will be involved in organising the event to ensure broad representation of the industry.
- SIV will have a stand at the event and give an address to the room.
- The event is a good opportunity to speak with Members of Parliament on the importance of commercial seafood and how they can support the industry.

Victorian Seafood Awards Night 2024

- SIV Awards Night to be held in May 2024.
- Rydges Melbourne identified as appropriate venue.

Other Business

Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis outbreak

- Three rounds of surveillance done to understand the extent of the disease.
- No evidence of disease spread at this stage.
- Fisheries Notice to expire next month which will allow lobster fishing to recommence.

Next meeting

November 2023 – Zoom

Roland Roccioletti
Independent Chair