

Pipi Fishery Management Plan Steering Committee

Chair's summary – January 2017

The Pipi Fishery Management Plan (PFMP) Steering Committee held its fifth meeting in Venus Bay on Thursday 19 January 2017.

Key outcomes from that meeting were:

1. The Steering Committee (SC) discussed and resolved several administrative matters.
2. The SC noted the risk assessment process and finalised the initial draft of the risk table by agreeing risk ratings for the human well-being, governance and external fishery factors. It was agreed the risk table will be reviewed periodically as the PFMP develops.
3. The SC met with the local Senior Fisheries Officer to discuss the current local recreational and commercial pipi fishing activity. It noted high compliance in both sectors and that recreational fisher numbers had been lower this season.
4. The SC undertook a site visit to Venus Bay Beach No.5 accompanied by an OFAL holder operating locally and the local Senior Fisheries Officer. The SC discussed their observations and the relevant practical implications for the fishery and the management plan.
5. The SC noted that restricted access was an issue for both commercial and recreational fishers.
6. The SC discussed management options for the recreational and commercial fisheries. It was agreed to undertake some analysis of commercial fishery management options under a range of fishery development scenarios to inform further drafting of the PFMP. It was agreed that Fisheries Victoria would further develop options for management of the pipi fishery under different scenarios for discussion at the next meeting.
7. The SC discussed data/information required to implement the fishery management options and to advise ongoing management of the fishery. The SC agreed that accurate recording of commercial effort, catch and spatial data is essential. It also discussed options for obtaining reliable recreational catch and effort data.
8. The SC discussed the need for further stakeholder engagement prior to release of a draft plan and when and how this may occur.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee (#6) will be held in Portland in late February/early March, with the date to be confirmed.

Peter Appleford

Chair

January 2017