

ROCK LOBSTER MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW STEERING COMMITTEE

RECORD OF MEETING

Meeting No 3, 25 October 2021

Microsoft teams meeting

CHAIR: Jill Briggs

MEETING COMMENCED: 9:00AM

1. PRELIMINARIES

Present	
Jill Briggs	Chair (Affectus Pty Ltd)
Toby Jeavons	Victorian Fisheries Authority (Executive Officer)
David Reilly	Victorian Fisheries Authority
Jeanne Alard	Victorian Fisheries Authority
Klaas Hartmann	Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS)
Karlie McDonald	Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS)
Johanne Butterworth-Gray	Seafood Industry Victoria
Lawrence Moore	Recreational fishing representative/ VRFish
Peter Galvin	Scuba Divers Federation Victoria (SDVF)
Gary Ryan	Industry Member (Western Zone)
Wayne Dredge	Industry Member (Eastern Zone)
Ross Bromley	Industry Member (EastRock)
Matthew Harry	Industry Member (Eastern Zone)/ SIV rock lobster Director
Rohan Henry	Independent coastal Indigenous representative
Adrian Meder	Australian Marine Conservation Society
Ian Knuckey	Fishwell Consulting
Ben Scullin	VRFish
Zeb Johnston	Industry (Western Zone)
Megan Njoroge	Victorian Fisheries Authority
Anthony Cicone	Industry Member
Guests	
Ben Scullin	VRFish
Apologies	
Dallas D'Silva	Victorian Fisheries Authority
Alex Haberfield	Industry Member (Western Zone)
Rohan Henry	Independent coastal Indigenous representative
Steven Rust	Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS)

1.1 Welcome and apologies

Jill Briggs, as Chair, stated an Acknowledgement to the Waveroo Country traditional owners of the land on which she is located and paid her respect to elders past, present and emerging. Jill welcomed members and observers to the meeting of the Victorian Rock Lobster Management Plan Review Steering Committee (RLMPSC) and noted no apologies.

1.2 Overview of meeting Adoption of agenda

The Chair provided an overview of the meetings and the agenda was adopted without any changes, noting that we will be continuing with unfinished items from the previous meeting, namely, refining the vision statement and completing the risk assessment.

Toby concurred with the Chair in that we are aiming to have the first draft of the objectives, strategies and actions table completed by the end of the session for the new Management Plan. Toby would then like to have one final meeting this year with the aim to complete the review of the objectives, strategies and actions table.

1.3 Terms of Reference – Amended ‘Representation’ – for finalising

The Chair acknowledged and thanked Toby for updating the terms of reference with regard to the problematic word “representative advice” changing it to “representation, expertise and knowledge”.

The Chair asked for the committee to provide feedback around the new wording and if they were comfortable to have the Terms of Reference updated in line with this suggestion.

Toby confirmed that everyone’s affiliation is listed in the Terms of Reference, being either independent or on behalf of a group.

Committee members Matt, Ross, Joanne and Ian were comfortable with this change in wording and thanked Toby for making these changes. As there was no objection or other suggestions put forward the new wording was accepted and the Terms of Reference finalised.

1.4 Review timelines and project plan

Toby shared progress against the actions arising from the initial meetings and reviewed an updated project plan.

The Chair asked Toby to provide an overview of the project plan and where we are currently up to.

Toby reminded everyone that the project plan is high level, where the 6 plans will need to be broken down into 12 half day meetings. At the last meeting the committee started working on the ESD risk assessment. At this meeting the committee will continue to finalise the risk assessment and then review the objectives, strategies and actions table, and look at the current management plan to identify the gaps, and address the gaps and align with the vision. The committee will have one last meeting this year, with the aim to look at the Harvest Strategy approach and discuss key improvements identified through the RLRAG, and hold discussion around developing target reference points and a EZ rebuild strategy.

1.5 Project discussion platform – Trello

The Chair, asked Toby for his feedback around the committee's use of Trello. Jill acknowledged that Trello is a really good space to review what has been discussed between meetings and to ensure that we have not missed anything. To help with making the most out of the time during our meetings, Toby will then review the information provided from the committee members, collate, and present at the following meeting.

Following the second meeting Toby updated Trello with the "Risk Assessment" tab and added cards under each of the key headings that drilled down into the risks that had been identified. Toby had asked for further comment to ensure that we had not missed anything. Toby mentioned that contribution in this space was minimal and reminded everyone to review after meetings and provide comment. Some committee members had reviewed but felt that there wasn't much more value that they could have contributed.

Toby ran through the outstanding actions confirming that Rohan was yet to review and add to risks lists under each component tree on Trello and provide a list of legislation relevant to TO access. Dave has added Rafael Leons study on bycatch, byproduct and TEPS and with the majority of actions completed, thanked everyone who continued to review the vision statement.

Toby will continue to add actions and cards to Trello following each meeting for everyone to work through and compile thoughts in the one space.

2. Establishing a vision

2.1 Reviewing the vision

Toby shared a presentation of the Vision statement that was developed during the last committee meeting workshop noting that this is still a work in progress. Toby noted that we do not want too much of the "how" as this will be covered in the objectives, strategies and actions. A Vision that is really clear and simple covering the key components is what we are looking for.

Further refined via Trello:-

"A fishery that supports economic, ecological, social and cultural outcomes and provides fair and reasonable access to commercial, indigenous and recreational sectors now, and into the future".

Members preference was split between both visions statements however in regards to the first vision put forward, healthy discussion was held around the word "demonstrably" and that it is not an easy word to pronounce. The committee agreed to explore an alternative word that rolls off the tongue easier.

Ross suggested that "Best practice management" should be included however Toby put forward that this is more of the how.

Toby put together following working vision statement from discussion:

"A recognisably/proven/accountable sustainable fishery that achieves ecological, economic, social and cultural outcomes and provides fair and reasonable access to commercial, indigenous and recreational sectors now, and into the future."

3. Risk Assessment

3.1 Detailing risks and prioritisation – continue from ‘National Wellbeing’ component tree

The Chair handed over to Toby to clarify where we finished meeting 2 and what we will be working through today.

Toby provided a quick overview of the National ESD framework, reminding the committee of the 3 overarching principles which are further broken down into the 8 sub-categories. At the previous meeting the group worked through the first 5 of the sub-categories. This meeting will be working through the remaining 3 sub-categories, National Wellbeing, Governance and Impact of Environment focusing identifying the risks.

Discussion of the risks as follows:-

Risks identified for “National Wellbeing”:

- How management of the fishery contributes to National wellbeing
- Implications for the S.A. operators
- Attitudes to fishery an increasing risk
- Import replacement – both economic and social risk
- Seafood consumption is more reliant on domestic market, if China comes back then supply risk for domestic market
- Whale entanglement and the community view of commercial fishery
- Worry about the value of the product we have not what other have
- Vegan movements, attitudes to fisheries, promote fishery and best practise
- Cultural values
- Imports undermine the capacity for local seafood to fill domestic demand, noting the price point challenges
- National seafood guides

Risks identified for “Governance”:

- Accountability – Monitoring/eval/reporting cycle – Risk to performance
- Risk – Lack of knowledge of the fishery to understand the factors influencing the fisher– More research
- Consultation – Lack of MAC
- Management review – MSE process
- Resources – Monitoring and science – Capacity reliant on levies and fees from reducing fishery – Can be a vicious cycle
- Inter-agency coordination – Managed by the States and often varying views
- Change of staff/personnel – NGO/ Industry
- Third party accreditation and lack of – support accreditation
- Allocation – Multiple sectors – TO – Inshore fisheries have changed a lot in the space around Australia and need to understand these implications

Risks identified for “Impacts of the environment of the fishery”:

- Biosecurity
- Kelp reef health, in particular in the east zone

- Bait availability and cost increase caused by reduced fishing effort
- Productivity decreases throughout the region including documented decreases across the SRL stock
- Ocean acidification
- River flows, healthy rivers, amount of run-off water, wind and wave height
- Costs increasing in employment, licence fees and bait
- Climate change temperature increase
- RL are becoming larger when they become sexually mature so may need to consider increase legal minimum size

The Chair, thanked everyone for their contribution.

3.2 Refining a 'priority risk list'

Toby thanked everyone for their input in identifying risks and introduced the process or prioritising the risks.

Toby presented the identified risks and through discussion with the committee identified the appropriate score for each risk.

Toby noted that the byproduct, bycatch and TEPS risks will be covered by the recent FRDC report that was completed by Rafael Leon.

After completing the risk assessment process, Toby will add a consolidated table to Trello for review by the group. The prioritised risks will assist the group to develop the objectives, strategies and actions table at our next meeting.

Toby thanked everyone for their contribution and understanding with going through this comprehensive process.

4. Reviewing Objectives

4.1 Workshop session:- Reviewing Objectives – Do these adequately manage the risks and work towards achieving the vision?

Due to time restrictions, Agenda item 4.1 will be addressed at the next meeting.

4.2 Workshop session:- Reviewing strategies and actions under each objective – identifying the gaps

Due to time restrictions, Agenda item 4.2 will be addressed at the next meeting.

4.3 Workshop session:- Detailing new objectives, strategies and actions table to address the gaps

Due to time restrictions, Agenda item 4.3 will be addressed at the next meeting.

5. Other business

5.1 Committee homework

The committee was tasked with reviewing the prioritised risk table and actioning the doodlepoll for setting a convenient time for everyone to attend the next meeting.

5.2 Closing Comments and next steps:-

The Chair reminded everyone to log in to Trello and look for the updates being provided by Toby, provide any comments regarding the risks tables and complete the doodle poll for setting a convenient time for everyone to attend the next meeting

Toby thanked everyone for the contribution today and working through the process of compiling the risk scores, acknowledging it hasn't been an easy process doing via teams. Would like to keep the focus going and squeeze one more meeting in this year, preferably late November, understanding however that it is a busy time for everyone. The aim with the meeting will be reviewing what we have done so far and reviewing the objectives, strategies and actions tables.

Discussion was raised about moving the meetings to the afternoon's and preferably not Fridays.

The Chair thanked all members for their participation and attendance, the next meeting TBA following completion of doodlepoll.

Meeting concluded at 1pm.

ACTIONS

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Toby to assign Rohan's action in Trello
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rohan to provide a list of legislation and regulations relevant to traditional owners access
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Toby to share the consolidated risk assessment table on Trello

Meeting 2

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Toby to add the updated vision statement into Trello
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Toby to contact Rohan seeking assistance with completing the score for the Risk Table – Human wellbeing – Indigenous community wellbeing
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Toby will send doodlepoll for a convenient date that works for the majority.