

Cost Recovery Fishery-specific Forums 2014

- Snobs Creek 22 July - Aquaculture
- Queenscliff 25 – Eels, Mixed Fisheries
- Queenscliff 30 July – EZ Rock Lobster, Aquaculture
- Warrnambool 31 July – Mixed Fisheries, WZ Abalone/WZ Rock Lobster
- Traralgon 6 August – Bays and Inlets
- Lakes Entrance 7 August – Bait/Mixed Fisheries, EZ Abalone
- Queenscliff 15 September – CZ Abalone

Overview

In July, August and September, staff from Fisheries Victoria, and the Executive Director of Seafood Industry Victoria (SIV), travelled to 6 sites over 7 days, and met with 87 fishers and their representatives from 22 licence classes during the fishery-specific cost recovery forums. The discussions mainly focussed on services being provided under the new prospective fisheries cost recovery system. In particular, industry was seeking to clarify services for which there was cost recovery, and possible opportunities to reduce costs. The Department of Environment and Primary Industries (FV) explained potential areas for gaining efficiency and cost savings, including where savings could be achieved through a cooperative approach between industry and government. During the forums FV agreed to undertake a number of actions, and to present the issues identified at the forums to the Fisheries Cost Recovery Standing Committee (FCRSC) at its next meeting. The key issues and actions are listed below, and a summary of issues raised by each forum follows.

Aquaculture - Queenscliff

Forum Attendance	
Licence class/organisation	No. present
Aquaculture (Onshore Abalone)	3
Aquaculture (CL-Abalone)	1
Aquaculture (Bivalve Shellfish)	2
Aquaculture (multiple classes)	1
SIV	1
By email	1

Table 5. Aquaculture (On-shore Abalone, CL Abalone, CL Bivalve, CL Offshore, PL Marine)

	ISSUE RAISED	ACTION / RESPONSE
Completed actions		
1	Difficulty of finding ICE on the FV website.	
2	Proposal for reports on a 6 monthly basis, rather than quarterly. Preferable to have FV staff delivering services than preparing reports.	FCRSC to consider. At FCRSC#37 it was agreed that review of service schedules was a priority at this time and reporting would evolve accordingly.
3	Cost for management of the contract for the Queenscliff shellfish hatchery.	The cost for management of the Queenscliff shellfish hatchery has been removed from the cost recoverable services levies. An offset will be provided in 2015/16 for levies already paid.
4	Payment of FRDC levies by Victorian abalone	FV is committed to providing the 2.5% of GVP contribution

	farmers into national fund, when other states do not have the same requirements.	to FRDC on behalf of industry. The Australian Abalone Growers Association (AAGA) has been making an additional contribution to the FRDC on behalf of WA, Tasmanian, South Australian and Victorian abalone farmers. Arrangements between AAGA and FRDC outside the realm of FV.
Continuing actions		
1	Need for better engagement between FV and aquaculture sector.	FV outlined the establishment of aquaculture engagement forum.
2	Exposure of aquaculture sites to trespass. Safety issues associated with speed of vessels and jet skis traversing boundaries. Difficulties with marking of marine aquaculture boundaries.	FV, Parks Victoria and PTV are working with aquaculture industry on the management of marine aquaculture farms.
3	Services provided by aquaculture managers in relation to cost recovery.	FV to review and enhance where necessary descriptions in aquaculture service schedules. The revised descriptions will be in place for 2015-16 and form part of a larger review of aquaculture.
4	A large number of aquaculture classes (often with only a few operators in each). Often pay for more than one licence because of different classes.	FV is considering combining some or all aquaculture licence classes to reduce complexity and cost. The review will take place to inform the 2016/17 licensing year.
5	Fairness of small operators having to pay the same amount of FRDC levy as large operators within an aquaculture class.	FV has investigated the Fisheries Research and Development (FRDC) framework and payment in other states. Consideration of calculating FRDC on an individual basis is under review.
No further updates planned		
1	Value of and need for aquaculture production returns.	Compliance issue where potential for laundering of wild harvest. Production returns support advice to government on the sector.
2	Concern about black market operations and illegal movement of crustacea from interstate.	FV reminded forum of benefits of using 13FISH number for reporting unusual and/or illegal activity.
3	Meetings accessible by skype.	This would be difficult in a large venue.