

I am writing this submission disgusted in the way the TAC meeting was conducted in Port Fairy. We have been tied to the Harvest Strategy since the introduction of quota so why now change it to MSC strategy harvest when we

don't even know about MSC. It is an individual thing you don't have to join and personally I won't when you say that crays will still be only \$40 per kg. Might as well keep doing what we are, I believe that the MSC is being pushed by companies and individuals who will squeeze owner/operators out by the high costs. It seems funny that a fisherman in our zone got a grant to make an environmentally friendly craypot and he is on the rock lobster committee meant to be representing us, it all seems to fit in with MSC now when you look back and join the pieces. Obviously the harvest strategy is going in the fisherman's favour after their great work over 20 years of suffering and now you will change the goal posts. How good do you want the fishery to be, it's the best it has ever been. Those scientists need to get off their arses and get out in the field and see what is going on and see what we see instead of working things out with mathematics which you can make say whatever you want it to say.

Checking out a bit about MSC you have to buy your bait from an accredited bait processor, so anyone that joins this crap will not be able to buy bait from no one that is not accredited.

This MSC has been thrown at us without any consultation, we don't know the costs. SA won't join (will lose too much quota), TAS don't know much about it either. CEO of the North Zone Kyri Tomuscus told me they have discussed it but would do nothing without assessment and costings. If they don't come on board it is dead in the water. Fisheries managers are using it as a tool to keep quota down which suits certain people in the industry.

We need no more costs in our business as it is tough at the moment with fuel, bait, freight, superannuation, work cover, mooring fees, insurance etc which have all increased. It is hard to keep crews as they don't earn enough. We were once a thriving business and now working in a factory is more profitable. We are asset rich and money poor.

So wake up to yourselves, you would be complaining if you had to take a pay cut, would probably leave. So give us a break and back off a bit, how bloody conservative do you want to be. You are creating very poor fishermen who can no longer keep up with costs of living as well as putting mental strain on them.

I am not going to give up. I will try as hard as possible to get this reverted back to the harvest strategy that gives us quota back maybe not 270 tons but

somewhere in between. As far as I'm concerned there is something very sinister happening here.

You would not buy a house without looking at it and see what is in it and what it will cost in the end. FRDC may fund their bit and the govt will do for 1 year as in other accredited fisheries, then it falls back on to us. Looking at the abalone quota we would be looking at in the excess of \$100,000. possibly for 5 years then around \$5000 to be audited annually for \$40 per kg beach price give us a break.

The fixed site surveys are hopeless we do them in good faith (basically costs us to do them) and get kicked in the arse again.

The fishery has turned for the better so admit it, give us back the quota recommended and we move on. Let us have a bit of faith in our managers instead of being disgusted in your work. Management and quota hasn't put the fishery in the good position it is in today, it is getting operators out and the good work of the ones that are left.

I am bloody upset with this whole situation.

Peter Price

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