

Pipi Fishery Management Plan Steering Committee

Chair's Summary – April 2016

The Pipi Fishery Management Plan Steering Committee held its first meeting in Melbourne, Victoria on Monday 4 April 2016. Key outcomes from that meeting were as follows:

1. Terms of Reference – the Committee reviewed the draft Terms of Reference and agreed on amendments for consideration for endorsement at the next meeting
2. Beach Access – an update on vehicular access policy was provided by DEWLP, who advised that motorised vehicle access to beaches (with the exception of emergencies) was not permitted in Victoria. The legislation had been updated in October 2015 to support the policy and the use of motorised vehicles within the Coastal Parks is illegal. The SC agreed this was a high order issue and that further discussion would be required on this issue and to further meetings undertaken with DELWP as required.
3. Sector Views – the recreational and commercial representatives advised that there are a range of views amongst their constituents and further consultation will be undertaken throughout this process to ensure that these differing views are presented for consideration.
4. Fishery Management Plan Process – Fisheries Victoria has been updating the guidelines on how to draft management plans for wild catch fisheries which support the development of management plans that are practical and consistent with the Victorian legislative requirements and relevant national policies.
5. Development of the Pipi Fishery Management Plan – the Committee discussed the history of the fishery, available fishery dependent and independent information and other relevant considerations for the development of the Pipi management plan.

In addition, the Committee discussed draft management objectives and overarching approach for the fishery noting that as existing knowledge of the Pipi resource is limited Fisheries Victoria supports the development of conservative management arrangements.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held in Melbourne on Thursday 5 May 2016.

Peter Appleford
Chair
April 2016