

ROCK LOBSTER MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW STEERING COMMITTEE

RECORD OF MEETING

Meeting No 2, 7 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)
Dallas D'Silva	Victorian Fisheries Authority
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)
Joanne Butterworth-Gray	Seafood Industry Victoria (SIV)
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
Alex Haberfield	Industry Member (Western Zone)
Adrian Meder	Australian Marine Conservation Society
Ian Knuckey	Fishwell Consulting
Ben Scullin	VRFish
Zeb Johnston	Industry (Western Zone)
Rohan Henry	Independent coastal Indigenous representative
Leslie Feast	Industry member (Western Zone)
Guests	
Apologies	

1.1 Welcome and apologies

Jill Briggs, as Chair, welcomed members and observers to the meeting of the Victorian Rock Lobster Management Plan Review Steering Committee.

1.1 Overview of meeting Adoption of agenda

Jill Briggs provided an overview of the meetings and the agenda was adopted without any changes.

1.2 Terms of Reference

Toby had added the DRAFT Terms of Reference to the Trello board and no further amendments were made by members of the committee. The Terms of Reference were accepted and finalised by the steering committee.

Industry representation, expertise and knowledge.

Rohan Henry not representing al coastal groups.

1.3 Review timelines and project plan

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

1.4 Project discussion platform – Trello

Toby reviewed the Trello board noting that discussion held against establishing a vision and identifying risks would be covered in agenda items 2 and 4.

2. Workshop session – Establishing a vision

Jill Briggs facilitated a workshopping session to establish a vision for the fishery in 2027 (life of the next management plan).

Commercial fishing at maximum economical yield
Higher catch rates better for everyone (Recreational/commercial)
Ecological sustainability of the fishery
Economic viability
Fair and equitable allocation
Social licencing
Access and engagement , strategy development

Ecologically, economically

3. Victorian Rock Lobster Fishery Economic Analysis

Steven Rust presented an economic analysis of the Victorian rock lobster fishery.

The assessment presents an economic profile for fishing operations in the EZ and WZ for the VRF.

Steve presented a profile for the Western Zone fishery. Represents the skippers profits after all costs are taken into account.

Information benchmarked against Tas and has been informed by Western Zone fishers and previous economic analysis undertaken in Vic.

As catch increases, profit increases under a stable market price. Nominal CPUE has included 0.82 kg/potlift.

Steve included a comparison of price reflecting current price drop to \$40 showing \$10 as quota leasing price. The impact on economic profit is profound and fishers are not making required rates of returned.

For 6 tones of fish to be as profitable pre-covid would need nominal CPUE of 1.27kg/potlift and directly relates to marginal values associated with cost.

Joanne – Correlation between beach price and quota, do they reduce at the same gradient?
– Lease price has reduced from \$52 down to \$10 giving the same return back to the fisher of \$30. However, may not see the same proportional decline always.

Peter – Skipper cost of living benchmark? Survey results from Tassie fishers came out at about \$57,000. Related to the amount of money spent in their household each year.

Adrian – Nominal CPUE for return to pre-covid. Is this realistic? Gary – 1.27 kg/potlift is achievable given current technology available.

EZ

Two major operators – take about 70% of TACC.

Average is taken between the two types of operators.

Under the current low beach price there is struggle to meet the costs of fishing.
Break even analysis.

- 1) Maintaining harvest at 32t TACC – 1.5kg/potlift
- 2) Assumptions made about Harvest Control rule as Harvest control rule/CPUE would increase the TACC would increase – 0.51kg/potlift

Steven showed an analysis showing that medium operators do not return to \$0 economic profit, but operate at lesser marginal profit.

Larger operators do not currently operate in the fishery but are able to break even at 0.8/0... This happens because larger operators have higher variable costs therefore small increases in CPUE have larger savings since they are starting from a higher cost base.

Target for nominal CPUE is shown as this is currently not too different from standardised value.

Check steves slides for summary

Targets of 1.5 EZ and 1.27 for WZ to return to pre-covid beach price.

Stock rebuilding analysis has many various applications and not focusing on this today but can inform future discussion.

Gary Ryan – Profitability grow as catch rate goes up? Why does it flatten? Flattens about because gains coming from cost efficiency and quota has remained constant for this analysis.

Ross – Quota lease price in EZ shown as zero? Why? Set at zero because advice from fishers was that minimum amount that fishers guaranteed for sale price. As the lease price increases and beach price reduces, then the revenue will be impacted accordingly.

The beach price after quota has minimum value of \$40 if this guarantee is in place.

Matt Harry – In the EZ at the moment the larger quota owners are working with fishers to retain them in the industry. Don't think this will be every year.

When CPUE rises as a medium operator, if PRI also increases and TACC increases the profit margin will also significantly increase. The modelling shown assumes a constant CPUE.

Using modelling, taking into account the current price drop we will look to inform some potential rebuilding targets.

4. Workshop session – Recognising risks

4.1 Detailing risks

Toby provided an overview of

4.2 ESD Risk Assessment

Toby provided an overview of

5 Reviewing objectives, strategies and actions

5.1 Reviewing objectives, strategies and actions in managing risks

Toby provided an overview of

5.2 Recognising key areas for change

Toby provided an overview of

6 Other business

6.1 Committee homework

The committee was tasked with

6.2 Closing comments and next steps

Jill informed the group that

<ACTIONS>

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Toby – to go for a daily surf
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jill – to bring cupcakes to the next meeting.....

DRAFT