

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.

Mixed Fisheries - Warrnambool

Forum Attendance	
<i>Licence class/organisation</i>	<i>No. present</i>
Ocean Access	5
Wrasse	2
Rock Lobster WZ	1
SIV	1

Table 6. Ocean Fisheries (Ocean Access, Wrasse)

	ISSUE RAISED	ACTION / RESPONSE
1	Need for documents on rock lobster vessels.	FV agreed to review the licence process and consider improvements that could be made to logbooks and reporting requirements.
Actions completed		
1	Cost of inspections at weekends and public holidays.	FV advised officers are rostered so inspections occur on all days of the week. This assists in detection of offences. Intelligence and records suggest offences during these periods.
2	Comparison of relative proportions recovered from the recreational sector compared with the commercial fishing sector.	FCRSC and FV agreed to set the apportionment of inspections to commercial fishers at 5% at FCRSC#35.
3	Paying for Catch and Effort services where a licence is not active.	FCRSC considered non-active licences at meetings #36 and #37. It was agreed that services where inactivity may result in a difference to costs, this was already

		accounted for and there is still a requirement to process the nil return.
4	Quarterly reporting by FV against milestones and deliverables.	Reports on quarters 1-3 of the 2014/15 licensing year have been published on the FV website at http://www.FV.vic.gov.au/fishing-and-hunting/commercial-fishing/fisheries-cost-recovery/cost-recovery-quarterly-reporting Further reports will be added to this website as they are made available.
Continuing actions		
1	Lack of transferability of wrasse licences.	FV advised desirably all entitlements should be transferable but in some fisheries latent effort is problematic to providing transferability. FV has agreed to discuss with SIV about improving the management of the wrasse fishery (particularly to address latent effort).
No further updates planned		
1	Excessive book work required.	FV advised of importance of Catch and Effort (C&E) information and initial education approach by compliance.
2	Cost of inspections for commercial sector compared with the recreational fishing sector.	FV advised that recreational sector paid significantly through recreational licence fees including funding of 13 Fisheries Officers. Commercial fund approximately 3 Fisheries Officers.
3	Scientists, Fisheries Managers and Fisheries Officers invited to spend time on boats when in operation.	FV thanked and will consider, especially in relation to training programs.
4	Action minutes from forums to be put on web	Action minutes will be circulated to attendees who left their email or postal address and published on the FV website.
5	Pipi stocks not in danger as often advised by FV. Enough data to set take limits.	FV advised that consultation on pipis management will occur in the near future. Improved management is dependent on resolving vehicle access.