Overview of the management plan process

A fishery management plan is a tool for bringing together all stakeholders with an interest in the fishery to develop shared ecological, social and economic objective for the fishery, in a structured framework to guide how it is to be managed to achieve those objectives.

An overview of the steps for developing a fishery management plan is outlined below.

BACKGROUND ON THE FISHERY:

- Define fishery: area, species & stocks
- Fish: stock structure, biology & status
- Fishery: sectors; social & economic nature; how managed
- Regulatory framework: legislation, policy, codes of practice



RISK ASSESSMENT – identifies & prioritises key risks for fishery. Scope may include:

- Target species / stocks
- Ecosystem influences on the fishery
- Impacts of the fishery on habitats; protected species
- Bycatch
- Indigenous cultural interests
- Community wellbeing



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR MANAGEMENT PLAN:

Scope must be consistent with objectives of the Fisheries Act

HARVEST STRATEGY: TAKE OF FISH

- Operational objectives
- Indicators & thresholds for tracking stock performance against objective
- Decision rules what will be done when cross thresholds?

HARVEST REGULATION: TAKE OF FISH

- Controls to meet thresholds in the harvest strategy
- total allowable (sustainable) harvest (TAC), input controls etc.
- Includes compliance strategy

MANAGEMENT OF OTHER PRIORITY RISKS

- Where Fisheries Victoria can directly address under Fisheries Act = actions
- Where other agency responsibilities = commitment to work with

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

- Who is responsible for actions/monitoring; co-management?; cost recovery?
- How will the management plan be reviewed?