

QUOTA HOLDER SUB-COUNCIL
Wednesday 24th August 2016
The Old Woolstore

Minutes

Welcome:

The Chair Alan Gray welcomed members in attendance.

Attendance:

A Gray, B Amos, A Brown, A Bush, R Caccavo, J Clark, B Cobbing, H Cutts, M Daft, M Debnam, C Gunson, A Hansen, D Hansen, L Heather, S Humphries, J Jones, T Lesser, D Lisson, E Lovell, S McKibben, J McKibben, L Norris, M Porteus, R Rex, R Scanlon, P Seabourne, S Seabourne, S Sharp, P Sharp, G Shaw, D Tory, M Walch, A Wan,

Apologies:

G Woodham, G and A Seabourne, J Hoult, L Hoult, J Pinfold, J Varny, K Hoskin, T Brady, G Earles, M Earles, B Rex, E Luo, F Ledwell, E Rex, S Langley, G Langley, G Seabourne, A Seabourne, F Ledwell

Minutes of previous meeting:

Resolve that the minutes of the Sub Council meeting held on August 25, 2015 having been circulated be taken as read and confirmed.

Moved Rob Scanlon and seconded Avril Brown

Business arising from previous meeting:

Legal opinion was sought on 'Voting in a TACL meeting' - eligibility to vote is by the Nominated Natural Person, (as listed on the DPIPWE database) not the Power of Attorney.
Completed

Dive Go-Pro footage beneath the salmon pens.
Ongoing

Members can request a paper copy of any documents or minutes by contacting the office.

2016 catch up-date: *Alan Gray*

Catch update – 59% of the catch has been taken over all blocks to date 2016.

CSIRO declared an extended 'warm water event' this year that lasted much longer than previous years with a water temperature of 19.5c, and along with the storm event in June affected a significant amount of blocks in the Eastern Zone resulting in a reduction in CPUE.

Majority of the fishery is managed by caps DPIPWE preferred management tool, FRAG/TACL have been working together on a compromise of a 80/120 rule this means looking at the block when the cap of 80% is reached reviewing and discussing CPUE for that block and also the blocks that will have to be fished if the capped block closers, if the CPUE is acceptable and the blocks that will be affected aren't fishing so well the block may remain open up to 20% over its cap, aiding divers and industry to harvest the quota.

Caps in some blocks have been reached and will be closed on August 30 2016

Market update:

Darvin gave a short update of the market with assistance from Steve Crocker; summer had good volume and a healthy beach price for West at up to \$55. Demand is still low but we have been able to maintain a consistent price. Improvement is expected in the coming months. For processing fish, a temporary reduction in Chinese farmed abalone output is helping to increase volume.

The China Free Trade Agreement is a staged process of tariff reduction, there is much more to the China FTA such as deemed value and customs issues. Direct flights to China when the Hobart International Airport runway extension is complete will be an advantage for the industry, currently the project is due to start towards the end 2017.

FRAG #3 update: *Alan Gray & Dean Lisson*

IMAS have created a Harvest Strategy tool using the MCDA, and gave a rundown of each zone at the recent FRAG meeting. Reductions have been made in previous years to assist the current recruitment stage the industry going through, at FRAG #4 decisions will be made on recommendations from the FRAG on the TAC for 2017.

Preliminary discussions of quota adjustments for 2017:

Northern Zone	– 10 % + (reduction)
Eastern Zone	– 10 % + (reduction)
Western Zone	– no change
Central West	– changes to the zone boundary
Bass Strait Zone	– stable, no change
Greenlip	– stable, no change

SAM (Size of maturity) + 2 years is being scientifically tested, a review of international literature along with the testing of the fecundity of abalone is underway. The final document will be peer reviewed by international scientists, the supported methodology will be scientific and any recommendations on size limits will be backed by science.

IMAS is also researching how they can increase the condition and health of abalone.

The collection plates that have been placed on reefs to mirror cryptic habitat by IMAS, they are showing an improved number of juveniles on the plates in 2016.

“Alan Hansen does not believe the size limit should be increased on the East Coast as the fish may not grow to a larger size.”

The market often demands larger fish for live export.

January 28, 2017 - Chinese New Year.

The NSW CVO has a ban in place for live product and believes there is still a risk due to AVG being endemic in Tasmania.

Dive Rate Review: *Dean Lisson*

The Minister has commissioned a review after recent media coverage. Independent consultant Dr Ian Knuckey and Savali Senn (a fisheries economist) will interview a range of stakeholders in the industry to complete a wide-ranging review. Terms of reference have been set and the recommendations will be completed by December 31.

The flow on effect from the reduction in TAC over the last 6 years has made difficulties for all sectors of the industry.

TACL Levy: *Avril Brown/Dean Lisson*

The annual audit has been completed and will be incorporated in the Annual Report, the deficit for this financial year is in the order of \$12,000.

At the 2014 AGM a vote was taken to increase the levy and agreed by a majority, however the Minister decided to invoke the 'Levy Act'. The due process involves an approved letter be mailed to quota holders by DPIPWE next week, a response is required within 14 days.

The industry requires a strong advocate in all forums and a strong financial position is essential for a professional organisation.

AWA update: *Dean Lisson*

A new website is underway; Members are asked to read key documents that will be available on the website for a National Levy to continue the marketing plan. A full briefing will be given at an Extraordinary meeting in October. The Federal Government needs to be satisfied that a majority of stakeholders agree to the levy.

General Business:

- The Knuckey Report – In general report is positive and the TACL is supportive of the 30 recommendations which are being addressed by the Department, IMAS and the TACL. IMAS has categorised the recommendations and a work plan along with completion dates.
- Election of Chairman – The following section of the Constitution was applied – therefore an election will proceed bi-annually.

“Sub-Council Procedures

44.1 Each Sub-Council shall hold a General Meeting once in every two years (being as close as is practicable to the Annual General Meeting for that year of The Council) for the purpose of electing a Chairman and such other office bearers of the Sub-Council as the meeting determines.”

Meeting closed at 4:37pm