

DIVE SUB-COUNCIL AGM MEETING

Wednesday August 24, 2016

The Old Woolstore

Minutes

Welcome:

The Chair, Paul Richardson welcomed the divers, and congratulated those in attendance for giving up their time to come to the meeting.

Attendance

P Richardson, S Anning, T Chadwick, B Cobbing, R Daft, S Dale, J Dale, S Fraser, M Gleeson, B Greene, L Heather, J Huddleston, *S Anthony*, G Hurd, A Klye, B Lesser, D Lisson, J McKibben, C Pepper, P Pyke, B Richardson, S Sharp, M Steane, J Valentine, B Ransom, Matt Bradshaw, Steve Withers, Alice (work experience at DPIPWE)

Apologies:

B Wilson, M Florence, N Harris, G Woodham, K Hoskin, B Rex, B Denny, J Denny, B Gray, M Debnam.

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 Byron Ransom and seconded Ben Cobbing.

Business arising from the previous meeting:

Harvest Sector Revue – the motion was formalised in Parliament with a Ministerial Revue. The Terms of Reference has been decided with a project scope that will be signed by Dr Ian Knuckey and Savali Senn, (a fisheries economist), to start next week. DPIPWE has given a list of industry names to Dr Knuckey to interview, if any further divers wish to participate in the interview process send an email to the Department. The Minister has expressed his willingness to fully understand the industry.

Overcatch Rule:

Steve Withers explained the intention of the overcatch rules that have been in force for many years, many changes have been made in conjunction with industry.

It is noted that this fishery is the most managed in the world; some divers are harvesting to their quota plus 20% and may expect the processor to find additional units to cover the overcatch.

Paul illustrated several scenarios, which were discussed and explained.

Between 10% and 20% = paying double the beach price.

Less than 20% overcatch can be covered by adding extra quota.

Anything over 20% is penalised over the whole amount of the quota balance,

If there is a 30% overcatch the whole overcatch was penalised, now only the overcatch is deemed a penalty and the licence isn't compromised. Over 30% Legislation = prosecution.

On a team dive – there is an additional field on the docket to combine the totals. If there is an overcatch the whole amount is the responsibility of 1 diver.

2 divers will be responsible to get units to cover, or a verbal agreement which diver will cover the total overcatch.

The rules are complicated, DPIPWE are suggesting a complete re-write of the rules in conjunction with industry.

Steve can report back to AbFAC on the divers who regularly have overcatch vs divers who rarely have overcatch.

Email Quota Allocation;

Five divers are participating in the electronic trial for instant quota allocation, which is working well. Divers must nominate an email address to DPIPWE and signoff to accept quota allocation via email.

If divers have any doubts on quota, they can ring DPIPWE, or 'Fishwatch' is available 24/7

Vessel SMA;

TSIC can run further courses if divers require help to prepare a SMS. There is a proforma on the TACL and TSIC websites for use by divers and vessel owners.

AMSA – fee for service;

Vessel surveys are required every 5 years and will be outsourced. Divers and vessel owners are advised to keep good records in the vessel logbook of all vessel maintenance for future reference.

Harvest Sector Revue:

Covered under Action Items.

General Business

FRAG #3 – preliminary discussions for quota adjustments for 2017.

Western zone – 0 to a small change

Eastern Zone – 50/75t

Northern zone – 18/25t

The following greenlip sub-blocks in the North East and North West will close on August 31 until December 31. Sub-blocks 31A, 31B, 39A, 39B, 40A, 40B, 40C, 49, 5, & 48 (except sub-block 48A). These closures are necessary for the sustainability of the industry.

Boundary change North West – the process is complex between the Department, TACL, the Minister and Parliament. DPIPWE will open for consultation from industry members in the next week; the TACL will put in a submission.

North East boundary changes are not being considered at this time. Increasing the size limit for greenlip is a 2 step process over 2 years. from 129 to 132mm

There are areas which have greenlip @ 150mm and 145mm – a diver can be in an area with undersized fish if fishing both sizes.

*In 2017 Northern blacklip in the north east will be closed from January 1 to May 1.

Selective fishing over the LML of greenlip at Blackreef affects stock management and assessment, and distorts the CPUE, if divers are willing to sign off or tick a box to say they are fishing to a certain size the Department will change the docket book

SAM + 2 – IMAS has documented the methodologies from around the world as well as the fecundity of local abalone. The document will be peer reviewed by scientists and a technical paper will then support the decisions made on managing the industry. The Minister is known to accept the science.

Election of TACL Diver Sub-Council Chairman for 2016-2017

Paul Richardson nominated by Ben Cobbing and seconded by Jeremy Huddleston

Paul accepted the nomination and was duly elected.

Meeting close at 11.30am