

PROCESSOR SUB-COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday 16th August 2017

Minutes

Welcome:

The Chair Steve Crocker welcomed Members to the Processor Sub-Council meeting.

Attendance:

S Crocker, A Cuthbertson, D Hansen, E Luo, J Ramsden. D Lisson, J Gallagher (AWA speaker)

Minutes of previous meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held August 24, 2016 were accepted as a true record.

Business arising from previous meeting:

IMAS has requested funding from FRDC for 'non-destructive testing of abalone'; the testing involves looking at Glycogen levels in abalone collected locally and from Strahan, motherboats in warmer and cooler months. In addition, fish that have been tanked for several weeks. The research will make recommendations for better decisions on timely harvesting and any risks.

Biosecurity - Processors are required to hold copies of Primary Produce Safety (Seafood) certificate from divers, or at minimum the certificate number – there are 25 divers that are not registered due to non-receipt of the notice from the Department.

'Receipt at Premises Book' is a duplication of the 'Weigh Sheets'.

FRAG #3 update:

There was a good attendance of divers at FRAG #3.

Openings in 2018 – suggested opening blocks simultaneously to alleviate pulse fishing, or a reverse cap.

Western Zone – trending up with no change in TAC for 2018.

Eastern Zone – Actaeons performing well, the remainder of the Eastern Zone catch rates falling, likely cut in TAC 2018.

Northern Zone – some blocks producing well, likely cut in TAC 2018

Bass Strait – stable, no change.

Greenlip – mixed fishing, like cut in TAC 2018

Central West – boundary changes for 2018

DPIPWE Compliance:

Malcolm Budd is the new DPIPWE Manager of Management and Compliance; He has a background in policing, compliance, science research and EPA.

Malcolm's approach will be fair and reasonable but will be looking at divers who act in an aggravated manner, with dishonest and deceptive behaviour.

An electronic system is being discussed by the Department for the future of all fisheries.

1. Receipt at Premises book – the Weigh sheet book duplicates the paperwork.
2. Roadside inspections will increase with the recent arrival of the new police boat, along with four additional experienced Marine Police based in Glenorchy.
Roadside inspections on hot days can be an issue to the quality of the fish, processors suggest that marine police follow the truck and re-weigh the fish off the back of the truck at the processing facility.
“If the quality of the fish is impacted and there are any adverse outcomes, the processor can take notes and refer them to the Department.”
3. There has been issues with quota not being allocated to a unit in a timely fashion by Departmental staff; there are divers that have been penalised for the discrepancy.
“A level of discretion will be applied”.
4. AbFAC #3 observers – Debbie Edwards should attend if there is a licensing issue. Angela Isles should attend if there is a compliance issue.

China Update Import Metal Levels

China is updating and implementing new metal levels in seafood, SafeFish and SARDI are looking at the new requirements. Lead and arsenic are the two that stand out; testing of lead levels for the last (5) years show that Tasmanian abalone will meet the new requirements.

China Customs hold a % of imports to inspect and check invoicing, and due to a recently implemented ban on inspecting shipments out of hours, live product is being affected when left sitting for many hours.

1. AWA Abalone Levy

The marketing levy for a five-year marketing trial is under discussion of whether it is levied at cents per kilo or a percentage of beach price. The next discussion is how to collect the levy in a low cost manner. Processors are not in favour of being the collection point, as it will be a further impost on their business.

The levy will be held by FRDC with a committee to manage the monies.

The draft prospectus will be finalised for distribution to quota holders by October 2017.

General Business:

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2:10pm