

DIVE SUB-COUNCIL AGM MEETING

Friday August 31, 2018

Minutes

The Chair, Paul Richardson welcomed members present, thanked them for giving up their time to attend the meeting.

Attendance;

T Chadwick, M Debnam, B Denney, S Fraser, J Gasparinatos, D Hansen, N Harris, D Lisson, J McKibben, G Moroney, B Richardson, D Smark, P Richardson, B Wilson, G Woodham, M Florence

Apologies;

A Field, B Rex, B Ransom, B Cobbing, S Larby

Minutes of previous meeting:

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting Wednesday August 16, 2017 were accepted as a true record. Moved Greg Woodham seconded Dean Lisson

Business arising from previous meeting:

Dive Code of Practise and Certificate of Operations (AMSA)
Discussed as agenda item.

AMSA – Question & Answer session with Claire Cunningham, AMSA liaison officer for Tasmania and Peter Marine Inspector.

From July 1, 2018 all services were transitioned from MaST to AMSA, there were some compatibility issues with information in the MaST database not transferring over completely, necessitating the manual entry of some information.

There have been discrepancies noted by vessel owners and divers were given the opportunity to ask questions of Claire and Peter to clarify any issues;

- Certificate of Survey
- Certificate of Operation
- C3 Survey
- Vessel stability
- Life rafts and certification
- RCD or portable RCD, on electrical circuit board
- Renewal notices
- Documentation and penalties

Dive Code of Practise – Andrew Tabour

Opening remarks;

The abalone industry is seen as high risk and to keep the industry safe the way we know it, is to have the DCoP; advice from Dr David Smart and Work Health & Safety recommends to update the Code in line with WHS Regulations.

1. The deckhand / dive supervisor is legally responsible for the vessel and the diver, when the diver is in the water. The deckhand must be ticketed by undertaking a competency based unit; finding the gap in knowledge for training, and recognition of prior learning is taken into consideration.
2. Emergency gas supply – there has been some concern amongst divers about the use of a bail out bottle in certain dive conditions. The onus is on the diver to make a personal decision to use one or not; the use of a quick release harness is acceptable for use in shallow water with kelp/weed. Bottles need to be maintained and serviced by a competent supplier.
3. Completing a Risk assessment, Job Safety Assessment, Safe Work Assessment and vessel SMS (safety management system) – identifies a hazard and is given a score to mitigate any foreseeable risk.
4. The vessel SMS is to include a satellite phone emergency contact number.

Paperwork is essential for each dive event; if there is an incident all paperwork will be scrutinised by authorities.

The suggested changes to the Code will be presented to WHS for approval, when approved the TACL will implement training sessions for divers and deckhands.

General Business:

1. An email recently sent to TACL Members on behalf of processor RTS PauaCo – the sending of the email has been discussed at the August Board Meeting and also at the Quota-holder Sub-Council AGM. Dean as CE made a judgement decision on sending the email from RTS to all Members to clarify the companies' position within the industry.
2. Dive Issue: - Paul presented a paper and moved a motion at AbFAC #2 to go to Minister Courtney, requesting a working/action group to address the oversupply of divers.

The Terms of reference: there have been (2) Felmingham and (1) Knuckey Report suggesting there is an oversupply of divers.

A fulltime workforce is the prime consideration, and a working group could make a decision on ways of addressing the oversupply issue, and continuity of full time divers. Currently most divers have additional work to supplement their income.

Ongoing

3. 'BeachPrice.com' an auction website for the sale of abalone quota was recently advertised in the local newspaper, the business model could encourage divers to work for a low catch rate, which may result in unsafe work practises.

4. **A Motion** was submitted by Danny and Jenny Smark;

That the Tasmanian State Government – using money it receives from the 40 Furneaux Group Units – Buy back the necessary number of entitlements at the price the Owners originally purchased them for. These entitlements would then be stored in trust / custodial – not in use – to be held in the event of an upturn in the industry, in the future.

Discussion from the floor;

- 1) Many options have been put to the Government, the answer has been - 'what is in the public good' - spending public money for private good/financial gain'.
- 2) There is a possibility of establishing an Industry Fund to purchase / lease / remove Entitlements. The Government may co-invest to assist financially.
- 3) If FLAD owners were to put in \$1000 each there may be an option to co-invest with the Government.
- 4) Few Entitlements are available for sale each year, therefore it would be a long term plan.

The motion was withdrawn.

A stabilised industry with a capitalised business model, is the long term objective for Members to be proud of their industry.

Election of Dive Sub-Council Chair

Paul stood down and CE Dean asked for nominations for Dive Sub-Council Chair.

Paul Richardson was nominated by Greg Woodham and seconded by Byron Ransom,

Paul accepted the nomination.

As there were no other nominations Paul was elected unopposed

Meeting closed 11.30am