

PROCESSOR SUB-COUNCIL MEETING
Friday August 31, 2018

Notes of the meeting

Welcome:

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

Attendance:

S Crocker, A Hansen, D Hansen, D Lisson
Mark Webster, Craig Mundy, Jaimie McAllister - Speakers

As there was not a quorum the meeting continued as an informal discussion.

Export Freight Clearance and Information - Chris Fox:

New requirements for International freight, as of March 2019 freight for export must be provided by an "Approved Known Consignor", or freight will need to be scanned prior to acceptance for International lodgement. Currently shipments to the United States have to be scanned prior to shipment.

Some companies have already applied for 'Approved Known Consignor' which is a comprehensive process to meet the National security regulations, and there will be ongoing audits. I.e. security fencing, secure premises, employee clearances, controlled access by employees and others.

Exporters will have two choices 1) Be an Approved Shipper or 2) Have consignments cleared in Hobart prior to departure from Tasmania.

'Link Logistics' is building a new facility at Hobart Airport, including a cold store and freight forwarding facility. The company has purchased a security screening machine and a back-up machine, to clear consignments quickly out of Hobart International Airport. Scheduled flights from Hobart to Guangzhou will be 12 hours via Darwin.

AAA & SEC Report – Mark Webster

Currently the printing of health certification can only be printed by the Department of Agriculture (AQUS) due to having the only printer able to print Chinese characters. In future documentation will also have QR Codes to scan which will streamline the process. The original documents are required to be transported with the product. Dairy will be trialed first and Seafood will follow. The office hours for DoA will be extended if pre-booked for collection of documents.

AAA represents 85% of Australian and New Zealand processors. Under a National project for 'Food Waste' the AAA is currently looking at thermal processing, which will mean a big difference to profitability for the processing industry.

Future industry managers should to be more pro-active in sustainability, larval seeding or farmed product, as overfishing and environmental changes are an issue in the Tasmanian Fishery.

The AIRF Deed will be finalised this year and will be used for sustainable projects, there will be a human resource component to manage the project.

Abalone Post Harvest - Craig Mundy & Jamie McAllister –

The physiology of Abalone post-harvest in relation to stress and mortality, which can be detected in the blood as to the effects it has on the fish.

- 1) Measuring/identifying post-harvest stress
 - a. Exhaustion
 - b. Heat
 - c. Live-well transport
 - i. Dissolved oxygen loggers available for testing live wells.
 - ii. Interest in a standardised collection of data in live-wells/holding tanks.
 - d. Identifying energy storage/levels
 - i. Capacity to cope with Transport (Tasmania)
 - ii. Capacity to cope with export
 - iii. Mitigation &/or condition boosting
 - e. Immune system effects
 - i. Abalone farms Australia/Global have a summer mortality rate (~March) and normally identified as a vibrio infection
 - ii. What compromised the immune system to allow the vibrio to take over?
- 2) Climate Change effects on population dynamics short and long term (on reef)
 - a. Heat tolerance above which growth & reproduction increases (simple metabolic response)?
 - b. Heat tolerance thresholds above which sub-lethal effects occur?
 - i. Reduced growth
 - ii. Reduced reproductive output
 - c. Heat tolerance thresholds above which leads to mortality?
 - d. Interactions between Temperature and water movement?
 - i. Effect of calm days when temperatures re high
 - ii. Changes in thresholds (a to c)
 - e. Physiological Optimum Temperatures?
 - i. *Haliotis rubra* vs local adaptation?
- 3) Market Measuring
 - a. Major audit of data handling and database integrity (started with Hugh Jones, JM continuing – almost complete)
 - b. Malcolm Haddon, Jaime and Craig to re-analyse the data, and develop a strategic plan for sampling.
 - c. *Processor needs/preferences/opposition around market measuring*
 - d. Potential for divers to undertake processor sampling
 - e. Greenlip measuring a major issue

DPIPWE Digital Platform:

The Department has received funding to move to a digital platform which is likely to take 2 to 3 years. They are also looking at areas that could be improved and streamlined, Receipt at Premises book and Department Weigh Sheet book are a duplication, the Receipt at Premises book can be removed when the work proceeds.

Closed Blocks:

It is stressed that Processors be fully aware of block closures and not take or export abalone from closed blocks.

FRAG #3 Report

IMAS to conduct a Harvest workshop to further the understanding of size limits and the overall protection that is given to the fishery and localised depletion of stock. On the West Coast the current size limit of 1400mm protects 8% of the spawning biomass, an increase to 145mm would protect 12% of the spawning biomass.

The Board and FRAG have agreed to a proposal to change the North East boundary from block 40/41 to block 31A. There is resistance from Fisheries and Marine Police on enforcement of the new boundary.

- Eastern Zone is fishing well with current open blocks fished at 52%. Blocks that are closed due to PST will be re-opened when testing results are clear.
- Western Zone has increased catch rates with Blocks 10 and 11 likely to close when the cap is reached. Currently 64% caught.
- Northern Zone – some blocks are fishing well and 44% caught.
- Greenlip – there was a trial this year of reverse capping to encourage effort into the Central North. Currently 67% caught

As there was no further discussion
Meeting closed at 3.00pm