

Abalone Council Australia UPDATE

TACL AGM Saturday 19 October

ACA Establishment and membership

- The ACA was incorporated in February 2004 via an MOU between Tasmania, WA, NSW and SA and Victoria.
- The ACA was originally established to:
 - Coordinate the planning, implementation, and reporting of abalone related R&D projects conducted by the FRDC to achieve the outcomes of the ACA Strategic Plan 2007 to 2017
 - Facilitate the abalone industry participation in FRDC projects and the extension and utilization of the project results
 - Deliver resources and processes that consolidate and coordinate Abalone related RD&E planning to ensure RD&E outcomes are delivered in an efficient and cost effective manner
 - A recent review conducted by FRDC recommended the addition of an Independent Chair

Establishment of the Industry Partnership Agreement (IPA)

- In 2012, the ACA Industry Partnership Agreement (IPA) was established with the FRDC.
- Prior to this, each state applied directly to FRDC for research funding, via the state Fisheries Research Advisory Boards.
- There was some concern that industry was not fully in control of 'its' contribution and that there was inadequate coordination and too much duplication of abalone research.
- Under the IPA, all states' FRDC levies are pooled and the ACA Board, in conjunction with FRDC, directly receive applications.
- These applications are considered by the ACA Board, and advice provided to FRDC on their suitability for subsequent funding under the IPA.

Budget

- The ACA IPA receives around \$670,000 pa in research funding , of which 50% is industry/jurisdictional contributions and 50% is FRDC co-funding. Of that, approx. \$120,000 pa is used for administration (Board meetings etc. Approximate contributions in 2017/18 were as follows:

State	\$	%
Victoria	55,864	13.89
New South Wales	12,056	3.00
South Australia	57,972	14.42
Western Australia	18,634	4.63
Tasmania	257,554	64.06
TOTAL	402,080	100

Research Application Process

- A process for receiving, considering and approving IPA research applications has been agreed.
- These applications should generally address the priorities identified in the ACA Strategic Research Plan (on the ACA website), although innovative projects outside of these priorities may be considered.
- A national abalone research workshop involving researchers, managers and industry from all States was held in Melbourne in March 2019, and a number of high-priority projects were identified.

Transparency and Communication

- The Strategic Research Plan, IPA meeting agendas, current projects and other information are on the ACA website.
- www.abalonecouncil.com.au
- A list of previous abalone projects is on the website and is updated regularly
- The ACA Board has established a finance committee and is audited in accordance with established accounting principles.

Current Abalone IPA projects

Drawing strength from each other: simulation testing of Australia's abalone harvest strategies

- Undertake Management Strategy Evaluation testing of each jurisdiction's current abalone harvest strategies.
- Contrast harvest strategy performance under a common dynamic range of stock types, with and without conflicting indicators
- Provide guidance on what constitutes best approaches to using empirical abalone harvest strategies
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- Provide advice on how best to include additional indicators

Best practice and policy in abalone stock enhancement, restocking and translocation

Establish best practice and policy in the application of stock enhancement and related interventions, as a fisheries management tool. The project will:

- Do a review of previous and current stocking projects to identify pathways for future initiatives.
- Hold workshops in each jurisdiction that include commercial fishers, researchers and fishery managers.
- Provide management options to improve the potential uptake of stocking as a viable fisheries management tool.
- Promote an approach to stocking that is robust and accommodates the various jurisdictional constraints.

Abalone diver observation collection, analysis and reporting system for improved management decision making

Further development of a diver observation system for Victoria, NSW & W.A, accessible from most mobile devices.
Outputs & Outcomes include:

- Diver Observation reports in a format suitable for stock assessment workshops.
- A trial version of an electronic data capture system optimised for mobile devices.
- A Software Requirements Specification Document (SRS) that will capture all the user, analysis & reports and software requirements during the course of the project.
- A written Diver user guide and privacy statement.
- A recommended business model for an ongoing Diver Observations System and support.

The impact and implication of *Perkinsus olseni* on Australian abalone fisheries

The primary outputs from the project will be:

- Better information on the historical and current impacts of *Perkinsus* on abalone fisheries;
- Improved understanding of the potential factors contributing to the spread, prevalence and expression of the disease, including viscera;
- Knowledge on the survival of the disease in transit through digestive systems

QUESTIONS?