

PROCESSOR SUB-COUNCIL MEETING
Friday August 30, 2019

Notes (draft)

Welcome:

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

Attendance:

S Crocker, D Hansen, M Sowerby (proxy for Evan Luo), D Lisson (Observer),

Apologies:

Adrian Cuthbertson, Matthew Free

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

Export Freight Clearance:

New requirements for International freight, for export must be provided by an “Approved Known Consignor”, or freight will need to be scanned prior to acceptance for International lodgement. Some companies have already applied for ‘Approved Known Consignor’ which is a process to meet the National security regulations. I.e. security fencing, secure premises, employee clearances, controlled access by employees and others.

Link Logistics’ has built 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, rather than queue in Melbourne and Shanghai.

Noted; the system may not be working as it should as the export declaration and license is not being checked.

The Processors are finding it preferable to export through Hong Kong.

Air Freight in January and February is an issue with an increase in air traffic.

Demand for abalone this year in China has been down – 160t. There are a couple of National days coming up which will increase demand.

General Business:

Measuring Boards and scales have been received by IMAS, and are ready to be distributed to processors.

Packing 24 or less fish into boxes for export is preferable, packing 26/27 count to a box is the least preferable. Noting that harvesting and packing smaller fish is depleting the stock.

Processors agree on closing areas when the water temperature is warmer to allow the fish to spawn and re-open when the water is cooler, and the fish are in much better

condition. Noted - fish hold their condition over Christmas when held in the tanks ready to export for Chinese New Year.

A proposal is being put forward for a 50% quota reduction of 600t

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.

If the processor is an agent of the diver, the processor will notify the Department and who will allocate the quota to the diver without the signature of the quota holder.

The Department will have a list yearly of authorised divers to allocate quota.

Current Costing of Abalone Export:

Discussion on the overall profitability and viability of processing abalone as the processor takes all the risk and does all the marketing.

Processors are asking for a beach price aligned with supply and demand.

As there was no further discussion

Meeting closed at 2.00pm