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A new year and a new Board. The TACL has a lot on its agenda as we move into 2023. The TACL will be involved in the reviews by NRE of the Living Marine Resources Management Act and the harvest strategy, as well as the review of the Diver Code of Practice and the Biotoxin Management Plan. A decision also needs to be made regarding the future of the Minister's Advisory Committee (AbFAC) as well as a resolution of the effect of government decisions that affect both commercial and recreational fishers. At this stage, its future is unknown.

The current review of the harvest strategy needs to take into account the 19 recommendations made in the Little review, which acknowledged that a strategy needs to be adaptable to changing circumstances, and also the findings contained in the Knuckey Report, which also suggested a more flexible approach when determining the catch.

Industry is conscious of the need to ensure the continuance and maintenance of healthy stock levels, because without it there will be no industry. A lot of weight has been given to CPUE (catch per unit effort) as a measure of the health of the fishery, but it is at best a proxy for the real thing in that it can in fact hide the true situation, and a lot of consideration needs to be given to improving our knowledge on the status of the stock. What are the controls necessary to ensure ongoing viability, and how does the length of the animal reflect its maturity? The TACL is supporting research to provide answers to these and other related questions.

TACL is concerned to ensure diver safety and wellbeing, and has embarked on a number of projects in support of divers. A revision of the Diver Code of Practice is now in its second draft, and it hoped will be finalised in the first quarter of this year, while a first draft of a revised Biotoxin Management Plan is also presently being prepared.

One of the biggest issues facing the industry at this time is the presence of the spiny urchin *Centrostephanus* (Centro), and its future management. The AIRF has been a fund that has supported research into the species as well as funding a range of management tools to control the spread of the urchin down the east coast. The AIRF is now in its final year of operation, and the TACL has sought an assurance from government that the fund will continue into the future. That assurance has as yet not been forthcoming, and is a matter of deep concern to us.

A Centro workshop will be held in Launceston in the first days of February, where matters relating to the management of Centro will hopefully be addressed, and no doubt it will also be raised at the International Abalone Conference, which will be held in New Zealand at the end of February.

It is to be hoped that TACL will play a leading role in providing leadership in these matters over the coming year, and has established two separate Management Sub-Committees to assist it focus on the matters mentioned above.

It also hopes to address necessary changes to its Constitution to ensure the document is relevant to modern day practice, and is revamping its website to ensure information is made available as and when it happens.