

Member Update

Abalone Victoria (Central Zone) - March 2016

Important dates:

Monday 7 March Midnight – Application closure for CEO Abalone Victoria (CZ)

13 April – Victorian Harvest Strategy Workshop (nominees and scientists only)

March/April – Abalone Victoria Strategy, Risk & Stakeholder Analysis Workshops tbc

May/June – Member Consultation and Finalisation of Business Plan and Budget

December to February the focus has been intensely on the TACC

During **Stage One** - Abalone Victoria (Central Zone) actively prosecuted industry's views regarding Fishery Victoria's recommendation for a quota cut, underlining the economic repercussions and the lack of valid information with which to make such a cut. The government recommended quota cut went from 100 tonnes to 36.4 tonnes at the TACC forum. It was shifted further to a 27.7 tonne cut in the draft notice. **27.7 tonnes represents a 9% decrease on the current quota level.** The regional economic ramification of a similar amount (10%) was modelled by Deloitte Access Economics demonstrating a significant and measurable impact on the region's economy in the first year and growing in subsequent years. AV(CZ) have taken a number of steps to ensure a reduced quota cut and consequent ramifications including:

- Employment of credible independent scientists to review the available data and provide independent

analysis on the state of the resource.

- Underlining to Government the multiple issues with the Department's scientific model. The Department have now conceded that it is flawed (but history shows that this is not the first time);
- Multiple discussions with Fisheries Victoria including the: Executive Director of Fisheries, Director Fisheries Management and Science; Director, Policy & Licensing, and the Fishery Manager;
- Discussions with Senior Members of other Departments including the Victorian Treasury;
- Provision of economic material to Luke Wilson Lead Deputy Secretary Agriculture, Energy and Resources in his role as Acting Secretary Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources;
- Provision of material to the Minister's office and to Fisheries Victoria

Stage Two - Consultation finished on the 18 February.

During this period AV(CZ) put in a submission to the consultation process including the modelling work undertaken

with Deloitte Access Economics on the economic impacts of this size of cut and continued its advocacy across a range of forums including within FV and the Department more broadly. This has included a meeting between AV(CZ) Chair Tony De Domenico and the Minister, several meetings with the ED and a meeting between the Interim CEO, the Lead Deputy Secretary Agriculture, Energy and Resources and FV ED.

The government has provided a strong commitment to work closely with the Central Zone in order to have more effective science and processes in place in the near future. AV(CZ) continue to work through SIV and the AIC to obtain better outcomes for the whole industry. We will also work closely with the other zones and government to ensure effective science is used and a robust harvest strategy is in place as soon as possible.

30% vs 10% - Continuing Good Resource Stewardship

The Minister's Fisheries Management Plan outlines 30% as a maximum limit above the Optimum Target. The FMP

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was negotiated and formulated over a period of nine years. Government has been overseeing the Central Zone resource at a 10% Upper Limit over the last few years (this only occurred in the Central Zone). After numerous discussions FV has agreed with our interpretation and the following has been agreed:

~ FV will act to immediately close by Fisheries Notice SMUs that have already exceeded an optimal target (OT) by 30% (i.e. the agreed upper limit).

~ The Fisheries Notice consultation period will be kept to a minimum so that the FN can be put in place quickly.

~ For 2016/17 and subject to any changes that may be brought about by the harvest strategy:

- FV will close SMUs that exceed the OT by 30%;
- FV may suggest more conservative upper limits (i.e. <30%) if it believes this is required for particular SMUs these will be implemented if supported by the AV(CZ) Board;
- SMUs will be reviewed if/when the catch reaches the upper threshold (i.e. half the upper limit, usually 15%) and this may be a trigger for FV or the Board to suggest a more conservative approach to that SMU.

In line with this agreement AV(CZ) are providing alerts which encompass the agreed 30% rules. These alerts are now colour coded for ease of quick digestion. **Green** means room for more fishing. **Orange** means that you are more than half

way to a closure and the area is under review. **Red** means the area is closed. Any divers or owners encouraging divers into areas that are Red and under industry voluntary closure are not supported by this body and its board. Fishing in areas above the 30% of OT undermines our reputation for self-stewardship and ongoing relationship with Government.

Staff Changes

We have recently hired Diana Attana on a trial basis as our new Company Secretary. Diana has extensive experience as a company secretary including in the agricultural sector. Her last role was as the alternate company secretary for South East Water.

In addition to our Auditor we have also hired a highly competent book keeper.

Getting you a great CEO

Sadly due to prior work commitments I will need to move from my current role of Interim CEO. **We are currently advertising for a new CEO via [SEEK](#)**. Please feel free to click on the link and have a look. If you have applied in the previous CEO hiring process then you do not need to reapply but can let our new Company Secretary Diana know of your interest on diana.attana@gmail.com

Please note that consistent with the Business Plan and 2015/16 agreed budget an **increased package** of \$170,000 pro rata to three days at \$102,000 is now being offered.

2016/17 Business Plan, Budget and Strategy

The 2016/17 Business Plan and Budget will be brought to the Board for approval in late June early July. In order to ensure we have a business plan bedded into the organisation's vision a strategy process will be held before hand through an in-house process or through an external facilitator. This process will enable effective member feedback to be obtained and applied in forming the final strategy document which will then frame the next business plan and budget.

Your Current Board

Independent Directors: Tony De Domenico (Chairperson); David Green; & Markus Nolle (Treasurer). **Industry Directors:** Sean Buck (Deputy Chair), Allan Buck, Michelle Hansen, Peter Johnston and Alice Marriot.

Message from the Interim CEO

I have greatly enjoyed working with the industry and in particular the Central Zone as your Deputy Chair, Chair and Interim CEO over the last three years. My most important role now is to assist the Board in finding an excellent replacement. If feasible I look forward to continuing to work with and assist the industry in other roles in the future.

Freya Marsden, Interim CEO Abalone Victoria (Central Zone)
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