

Member Update

Abalone Victoria (Central Zone) Ltd – March 2017

Key Activities

- **Central Zone Quota Order and Size Limit Review 2017/18 Outcomes**
- **AVCZ 2017/18 Strategic Planning Workshop *Friday the 5th of May***
- **AVCZ Summary of Directorship Changes**
- **Other Industry Priorities for 2017**
 - **Data Logger Program**
 - **Harvest Strategy**

Fisheries Victoria Quota Order and Size Limit Review 2017/18

On the 16th of March 2017 industry was advised by Fisheries Victoria (FV) of the *2017/18 Further Quota Order and Size Limit Fisheries Notice* which as we now know was consistent with the outcomes of the TACC workshop on the 11 January 2017 which determined a net reduction across the Central Zone of 6.2 tonnes resulting in a 2017/18 TACC target of 274 tonnes. Prior to the TACC workshop FV tabled a size limit review paper for the Central Zone Abalone Fishery. The review proposed an increase in the legal minimum size limit across 3 of the 4 SMUs under review. AVCZ identified a number of potentially negative impacts if the proposed size limit changes were implemented. In response AVCZ drafted a submission as part of FV consultation process to highlight industry concerns and followed up with a number of high level meetings involving AVCZ Directors, CEO and FV Executive Director and Director of Policy and Licencing. AVCZ was advised by FV that after due consideration it was determined that there would be no change to the current size limits for the

2017/18 fishing season. This was a pleasing result for AVCZ on-behalf of industry and importantly enables industry more time to fully implement the AVCZ logger program and generate the necessary data to support a more informed decision-making process in delivering a commercially sustainable industry into the future.

AVCZ 2017/18 Strategic Planning Workshop

AVCZ is seeking industry (members and non-members) attendance to the Central Zone strategic planning workshop on **Friday the 5th of May** from 10:30 - 4:30 PM at the Fitzroy Bowls Club 578 Brunswick St, Fitzroy North. The objective of the workshop is to seek industry input in setting the strategic direction and priority actions for the AVCZ Board over the next 12 months including:

- Industry expansion and marketing e.g. development of a domestic market;
- Building industry unity in delivering effective representation e.g. regional engagement;
- Strengthen government industry relations e.g.

establishment of the Victoria Fisheries Authority;

- Review and consolidate industry research priorities e.g. AVCZ data logger program;
 - Securing a social licence to operate e.g. accreditation;
 - Key steps towards a co-managed sustainable fishery.
- Please **RSVP** by **Friday 28 April 2017** to the AVCZ CEO Malcolm Petrie 0497977677 or malcolm.petrie@outlook.com

AVCZ summary of recent Directorship changes

Over the past few months there has been a number of changes in the make-up of the AVCZ Board of Directors. At the AVCZ AGM on the 11 November 2016 a number of constitutional amendments were voted upon in particular the reduction in AVCZ Directors from 8 to 6 as part of a cost saving measure. This was endorsed by members whilst noting a reduction would not compromise the Board's ability to effectively represent the interests of industry going forward. Immediately following the AGM and in support of the constitutional amendments AVCZ received the resignations

of Industry Director Ms Alice Marriott and Independent Director Mr David Green. Following the AVCZ Board meeting on the 10 January 2017 Industry Director Mr Allan Buck tendered his resignation effective immediately and was replaced by Mr Kaz Bartaska (Quota holder and processor) in accordance with *9.7 Casual Vacancies* of the AVCZ constitution. Furthermore, following the unexpected resignation of Industry Director Mr Sean Buck on the 19 January 2017, recently retired Industry Director Mr Allan Buck was prompted to seek reappointment which was endorsed and ratified by the Board on the 16 February 2017 in accordance with *9.7 Casual Vacancies* of the AVCZ constitution. The now current composition of the AVCZ Board includes:

1. Chair Mr Tony DeDomenico
2. Deputy Chair Ms Michelle Hansen
3. Independent Director Mr Markus Nolle
4. Industry Director Mr Peter Johnston
5. Industry Director Mr Allan Buck and
6. Industry Director Mr Kaz Bartaska

AVCZ welcomes the appointment of Industry Directors Mr Kaz Bartaska and reappointment of Mr Allan Buck. For further information on the current Board of Directors visit the AVCZ website <http://abalonevictoria.com.au/governance/directors/>

AVCZ Data Logger Program

The implementation of the AVCZ data logger program is now in

full swing with the aim to have all boat loggers and shell measuring devices installed and ready for the commencement of the 2017/18 fishing season on 1 April. Once implemented the logger program will deliver in the words of well-respected fishery scientist Duncan Worthington *the most comprehensive in any abalone fishery I am aware of*. The program will consist of Boat Loggers: In addition to the 16 boat loggers already installed as part of the AVCZ trial program a further 5 divers have committed their support to have loggers installed on their boats which will take the total number of boats with loggers operating in the central zone to 21. Diver Depth Loggers: AVCZ has acquired a total of 18 diver depth loggers and has currently deployed a total of 10 with the remainder to be allocated in the coming weeks.

Shell Measuring Devices: AVCZ has also acquired 10 shell measuring devices (SMD) used to measure fish size prior to landing and processing. As part of the AVCZ trial period only 1 boat was installed with a SMD. It is anticipated that up to a further 6 boats will have SMD installed over the next few weeks. As a further incentive AVCZ will be offering a trial deckhand incentive payment which will include:

1. a trial period for 6 months only inclusive of a 3 month review;
2. payment of a flat fee of \$150.00 per day to the deckhand to measure all fish caught as stated on the catch documentation; and
3. a simple agreement between AVCZ and the deckhand to sign outlining requirements

under the trial deckhand incentive payment program. Industry support for the AVCZ data logger program is critically important in enabling industry to have ready access to all available data in securing a commercially sustainable industry into the future. Another key reason to support the program is FV expressed intent to make boat loggers a mandatory requirement for all zones over the next 12 months. Your support is appreciated.

Draft Harvest Strategy

- the Abalone Working Group (AWG) made up of representatives from industry (all 3 zones) and FV have been tasked with the drafting of harvest strategies (HS) for all 3 zones by 30 August 2017. The AWG is currently considering a Western Australia HS template using Catch Per Unit Effort as a key indicator;
- AVCZ is continuing to work with FV to develop a Fishery Resource Advisory Group designed to facilitate quarterly assessments of the resource in setting the annual TACC. Proposed membership would include an independent Chair and representatives from industry and FV.

AVCZ Website

AVCZ website contains the latest industry news, publications, guidelines and provides details on the organisations' objectives and much more. The website can be accessed via this link <http://abalonevictoria.com.au/>

For Further Information contact AVCZ CEO Malcolm Petrie 0497977677 or malcolm.petrie@outlook.com