



MEMBER NEWSLETTER

June 2019

Its been a big couple of months for AVCZ, with new Executive Officer Josh Cahill starting in May, the size limit review workshop in Queenscliff and the commencement of the TACC setting process.

The Board of directors would like to put forward a big thanks to Kaz Bartaska and David Tonkin for all the work they both put in whilst the EO position was vacant.

Size Limit Review Workshop

A big thank you to all the divers who came along for the AVCZ divers meeting held prior to the VFA size limit review workshop in Queenscliff. A special mention to Clark Espie who flew down from Queensland and gave some excellent historical information as well as Dr. Paul McShane who travelled from Tasmania to provide some valuable input on his extensive abalone knowledge and research. This pre meeting was well attended and very constructive culminating in a majority consensus on the size limit review.

AVCZ is currently putting together a draft submission (3-5 year plan) based partly on the pre meeting consensus as presented at the size limit review meeting. It will include a wide range of options worthy of consideration. The board will seek to strengthen the proposal with input from Dr. Duncan Worthington and Dr Paul McShane.

After Dr. Worthington has provided comment, the draft submission will be discussed with VFA and circulated to all divers and quota holders.

TACC and Stock Assessments

With the FRAG fast approaching, AVCZ are working with Dr. Duncan Worthington to get an independent stock assessment undertaken. Having a robust stock assessment and report to present at the FRAG will compliment the existing TACC setting process.

AVCZ have expressed to VFA the desire to consider a 3-year TACC providing some stability while further research is undertaken to determine the status of the resource and to test the consequences of management changes.



It's crucial that the best available science is used to support fishery managers in their decision making to ensure the long-term sustainability and profitability of our resource for both divers and quota holders.

Diver Data Release Forms

With the proposed stock assessment being conducted by Dr. Duncan Worthington it is important that the VFA 'Release of Personal Fishing Information' forms be completed and returned to VFA. The data will not be provided by VFA unless the form is completed so Josh Cahill, Peter Johnston or Allan Buck will be in touch with those of you who have not submitted the form to VFA. If you need another copy of the form, please get in touch with Josh via the email josh@abalonevictoria.com.au.

Diver/Quota Owner Input Access

The Board has determined that through the appointment of the new EO greater communication be established. Any quota owner or diver with a particular case they wish to present to further the objectives of the Industry is encouraged to contact the Board through the EO. A summary of their thoughts/experiences would be appreciated in writing which would be followed by an invitation to present to the Board. This is your organization and we need to hear from you.

Seafood Directions Conference 2019

The Seafood Directions Conference is being held in Melbourne for 2019 on October 9-11. A little bit about the conference: *Every two years Seafood Directions brings together hundreds of seafood enthusiasts from across the country to champion Australian seafood. Learn from global trailblazers who are embracing change and moving our industry forward. Hear from experts covering everything from sustainability research, financial support, storage innovations, tech developments and more.* For more information on Seafood Directions 2019 visit www.sd2019.com.au.



Telling our Story

The Victorian abalone fishery as a whole has a fantastic story to tell the general public. From how our target species is hand selected with no bycatch or benthic impacts and that deckhands collect length data as abalone come on board in what is one of the last remaining wild harvest abalone fisheries in the world.

To help spread the word about our fishery, AVCZ is planning to launch a social media account where we will aim to increase public knowledge and awareness of the Victorian CZ abalone fishery. Obviously we need as many pictures as we can get, so if you have any interesting photos or just photos of you at work please send them through to Josh.

We will also be revamping the existing website and updating content more regularly so keep an eye out for these developments.

Your New EO

A little bit about myself, I have been diving recreationally for the best part of 20 years, working as an instructor on the Mornington Peninsula and in North Queensland.

I completed my degree focusing on fisheries management and fisheries science at the Australian Maritime College followed by a 7-year stint with the Government at AFMA. Whilst with AFMA I worked in fisheries management, as well as undertaking extensive at sea research trips.

I have also worked briefly in the charter-fishing sector, the dive charter sector, in laboratories and in construction.

I hope that the broad range of skills and experience that I bring to the table will serve the association and its members well over the coming years.

Please feel free to drop me a line and say hi, I hope to arrange a time to meet you all in the very near future. I am available on email address josh@abalonevictoria.com.au and 0424 096 355.