



AVCZ MEMBER NEWSLETTER

September 2019

FREE BEER!!

Now I've got your attention, 2019/20 AVCZ memberships are (over) due. Thanks to those of you who have already renewed. For those that haven't, all we ask is you complete the form attached to this newsletter and pay the \$1 membership fee. I appreciate there are a lot of different views across the industry, but the best way to have your views heard and considered is to get involved. Also you must be a current AVCZ member to apply for a director position or to vote for your chosen director applicant later on this year.

Fisheries Regulation Review

I have received a number of calls regarding the regulation review over the last couple of days. All 3 zones in Victoria are working together to ensure that whatever changes are made are feasible, and don't place unnecessary restrictions on divers impacting your ability to work. The Abalone Industry Council, which contains a number of Central Zone directors, is taking this review very seriously, particularly regarding VMS, contingencies in the event of VMS malfunction and the ability to still use your boat recreationally. AIC will also be pressuring for recreational size limits to come in line with commercial limits and a recreational abalone tagging program to quantify recreational harvest.

New FRAG Chair

AVCZ with the support of VFA have engaged Dr. Ian Knuckey as the new independent Central Zone FRAG Chair. Dr. Knuckey is the Director of Fishwell Consulting in Queenscliff, Victoria (www.fishwell.com.au) and has worked extensively in the fisheries sector Australia wide. Dr. Knuckey will be on board for the November FRAG and the TACC setting workshop early next year. AVCZ would like to thank Dr Ian Cartwright, the outgoing FRAG chair for his years of service.

August Divers Workshop

A big thank you to all the divers who came along for the divers meeting held in Frankston on 29th August prior to the FRAG. The meeting provided a great opportunity for a robust discussion on the merits of different LMLs based on the extensive shell measuring data collected by deckhands.

Diver Observation Survey

John Minehan from the Eastern Zone presented details of the Diver Observation Survey he has developed at the August Divers Workshop. John has put a tremendous amount of work into this survey to help ensure that what divers report seeing on the bottom can be quantified and analyzed in a structured way to support TACC setting.



AVCZ strongly encourage all divers to complete the survey after each days diving. There is a link to the survey on the front page of the AVCZ website www.abalonevictoria.com.au alternatively, you can access the survey directly at www.diverobservations.com

September FRAG 2019

The first FRAG for the 2020/2021 quota setting process was held on 3rd September at the Melbourne Seafood Centre. Thank you to those quota holders and divers who attended. The agenda included items on the size limit review, spatial management measures,

stock enhancement measures recreational and IUU take as well as details of the stock assessment now being undertaken by MRAG, a private company contracted by VFA. Minutes from the FRAG have been distributed by VFA and are also available on the AVCZ website.

It was the intention of AVCZ to have an independent stock assessment undertaken by Dr. Duncan Worthington this year. As this will be the first assessment undertaken by MRAG it was decided to wait and see the outcomes of this years assessment prior to funding another independent assessment. It is hoped that we will be able to incorporate Dr. Worthington's excellent fine scale data logger work into next years stock assessment.

November FRAG 2019

The next FRAG meeting will be held during the second full week of November 2019. The exact date will be finalized later this week. At this meeting MRAG will be presenting the results of their stock assessment which will inform the 2020/2021 TACC.

Size Limit Review

The size limit review was discussed at length during the FRAG, with discussion continuing to take between AVCZ and VFA. Details of discussions can be seen in the FRAG minutes. AVCZ has built on the initial proposal already submitted by providing greater scientific justification for the industry position.

Native Title Claim

Not a whole lot has changed on the Native Title claim since the last email I sent out. Seafood Industry Victoria will still be coordinating all correspondence and are representing the abalone sector as part of the Victorian fishing industry as a whole.

The funding for legal representation will be sought through the Attorney Generals Office which will be coordinated by SIV.

There is still no need for individual divers or quota owners to respond to the written correspondence received from the National Native Title Tribunal, anything that requires your reading or signature will be sent to you from SIV.



I would like to remind you all that whilst all native title claims are unique, a native title claim can't take away an existing common law right like a fishery access license. It has taken over 7 years for the claim to get to this point, so nothing is going to happen in a hurry. AVCZ and SIV will continue to keep you all informed on the proceedings. SIV will be sending out correspondence in the next fortnight.

AGM - Board Member Nominations

There are two AVCZ director positions up for nomination this year, with the current two positions ending upon the conclusion of the 2019 AGM. Official notification of the AGM and nomination details will be sent out via post soon. Industry director positions are able to be applied for by both active divers and quota holders. As per the AVCZ constitution, if more than one nomination for each position is received, a secret ballot will be conducted by an independent contractor via post prior to the AGM. Becoming involved with the association is your chance to really have an impact by representing the best interests of your fellow divers/quota holders. Please note that you must be a current AVCZ member to vote for your elected director. For more information please contact Josh.

Shell Measuring Data Sticks

Dr. Duncan Worthington who manages the shell measuring data has asked that all AVCZ data sticks are returned twice annually. Once at the end of **September**, and the end of **March**. Ensuring that data sticks are returned at the right times will greatly assist Dr. Worthington in

processing any data to support the TACC setting process. Please return all data sticks to Abalone Victoria Central Zone, PO Box 497, Rye, Victoria 3941.

Flinders Abalone Farm Proposal

As part of the consultation process, AVCZ has received details regarding a proposal to undertake grow out of Greenlip Abalone in the Flinders Aquaculture area. The proposal will be using Greenlip sourced from the local area as broodstock, then culturing juveniles which will be put out on artificial reef habitat to grow. The process is very similar to what is being undertaken by Ocean Grown Abalone in WA. If you wish to make a comment regarding this proposed operation please send Josh an email outlining your position prior to 8 October.

Sample Collection for AVG Testing

AVCZ are involved in facilitating the collection of samples for a scientific project testing for AVG and *Perkinsus* parasite. The outcome of this work is a scientific report by Agriculture Victoria/CSIRO which will give us more information about both AVG and Perkinsus, and hopefully a clean bill of health for the Zone. We still need samples from Surfcoast, Prom West, Prom East and Cliffys. As the samples are collected under an AVCZ scientific permit, the 8 abalone from each SMU don't need to come off quota. It would be really appreciated if any divers working the SMUs mentioned above could please give Josh a call before you go to see if you can assist. A massive thank you to all divers that have already assisted in sample collection, the cooperation received from you all has been absolutely fantastic!

RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP 2019/20 FINANCIAL YEAR

ABALONE VICTORIA (CENTRAL ZONE) LTD. ACN: 607 659 709

MEMBER

Name:	
ACN or ABN:	
Address	
Telephone:	
Email:	

RENEWAL

The Member named above hereby renews membership of the Company in the following category:

- Diver Member
- Owner member holding _____ quota units
- Associate member

APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATE (if applicable)

The Member, being a company or trust (and not being a natural person), hereby nominates the following individual as its Delegate:

Delegate name:	
Address:	
Telephone:	
Email:	

MEMBER'S DECLARATION

The Member hereby:

- declares that the Member is eligible for the relevant class of Membership noted above, and that the information provided in this renewal form is true and correct,
- agrees to pay the Annual Subscription and the Guarantee Amount set out in the Constitution as and when required by the Constitution or at law, and
- agrees to be bound by the Company's Constitution.

This renewal is unconditional and, if this renewal is approved in accordance with the Constitution, the Company Secretary is authorised to retain the above details in the Register of Members.

Executed by the Member or a person authorised to sign on behalf of the Member:

(Signature)

(Date)

Payment: Membership subscription of \$1.00 should be made by EFT to:
BSB: 633-000; Account number: 1638 74399; Account name: Abalone Victoria. Please quote your surname as a reference.

Postage/email: Please return by email to josh@abalonevictoria.com.au or Abalone Victoria Central Zone, PO Box 497, Rye, Victoria, 3941.