

WESTERN ROCK LOBSTER COUNCIL Inc.

GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

WAFIC Offices, Osborne Park

10:30pm Friday 3rd July 2009

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

ATTENDANCE: DEXTER DAVIES, ANDREW WINZER, JOHN FITZHARDINGE, BOB STONE, JAMES PARATORE, GARY PARKER, TERRY PARISH, IVAN SPALDING, TERRY MOUCHEMORE, ANTHONY PIRROTTINA, STEVE MCLEARY, MAL MILLARD, DARREN McTAGGART, VICKY KERR.

GUESTS: SIMON DE LESTANG

APOLOGIES: PETER HAMMOND

1. Welcome

The meeting was declared open at 10:40am by the Chairman, and explained that Simon De Lestang will be coming in to discuss all the research information that has been released by RLIAC.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Last meeting 1 short of quorum – notes to be confirmed

The minutes/notes from the previous meeting on the 13th May 2009 were accepted

Moved: Steve McLeary; Seconded: John Fitzhardinge Carried: unanimously

3. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

All matters arising from the previous Minutes are to be addressed as Agenda Items

4. Simon De Lestang talks about Management options for board to develop preliminary options to put to congress

Department of Fisheries Research provides information and WRLC and RLIAC provide advice based on this information.

See Simon Presentation (attached)

The Board asked Simon a lot of Questions. Two Questions were asked

1. If the Minister didn't do anything last season, would it have been catastrophic for the Fishery? As a Council, do you believe/accept that the package was good idea?

The General acceptance was that the package was a good idea; they should have acted on the whites sooner and it was inconvenient to have brought it in after the season started, but it helped.

2. As a Council do you believe further decisions and/or actions need to be made

Yes, Actions need to be taken along same lines as last year. Pot usage needs to be set and left to stay as is through the season, with a variety in days off. The gauges need to be uniform up and down the coast – 55mm escape gap. Have to stabilise breeding stock and set a management criteria. Have to try and get as much equity over the zones as possible. Suggestions were: same pot usage up and down the coast. There need to be less handling of the stock. Bring in TACC per zone. The management packaged needs to be reviewed at least once, maybe January, and vary on number of days if needed.

Leave additional overall biomass.

The Boards views and comments on last years package and suggestions for 09/10

	08/09	09/10
Darren McTaggart	Worked well in reds, Yes	Same package as reds all year
Mal Millard	Whites didn't work, but should with extra like reds?	Same as last year. Consider closing whites 15 Dec – 7 Jan
Terry Mouchemore	Yes it worked	Same as last year, monitor regularly and review in Jan.
Anthony Pirrotina	Yes it worked	Same going forward, more if we have to
Bob Stone	Yes it worked	Same as last year, but all the same (Zones)
Ivan Spalding	Uncommitted, but it worked	77-78 gauge, 55mm escape gaps Same no of days
Steve McLeary	Yes, need to do more in the whites	Yes 40%-50% pots depending on days. Close deep water for a time. B Zone 95 Max females. C Zone 105 Max Females. 55mm escape gaps. 77 mm gauge. Common start date 25 Nov (B Zone do this and get summer closure back
John Fitzhardinge	Happy with last year. Needed more in whites	Same going forward. Uniform pot reduction. Vary days if have to 55mm gauge. 15 Dec – 7 Jan Closure if have to
Terry Parish	Yes last year worked especially in the reds, whites needed more	Going forward similar – needs to be more flexible ie bad wether. Does not support 55mm escape gap
James Paratore	Had left the meeting at this stage	

Looking to 08/09 and onwards

77mm gauge and 55mm escape gap

Don't fish Whites (worst case scenarios)

Essential that Whites Peak is levelled (mistake last year)

Maintain Levelling Reds Peak (especially Islands)

Set national TACs for Whites and Reds and for each Zone

Common starting date Zones and Amateurs

Amateurs don't fish after Easter

Reduce amateur bag limits in line % wise as commercial effort Reduced
Fish July and August (especially if there needs to be closures in Whites)
Kg/pot per day averaged over week for Whites (would require processors co-operation and reviewed compliance)

Other notes

Move towards MEY management strategy

Need to encourage and extend Simons post puerulus research (meshed pots) to provide a check and enhance data. Also establish level of deepwater settlement

5. Financial Report – For Action/Approval

The Chairman is to attend a Course at AICD – Directors for not-for-profit. John Fitzhardinge said it is ok for the WRLC to incur the cost of the course. Agreed

The Financial Report was accepted

Moved: Darren McTaggart; Second: Steve McLeary; Carried: All in favour

a. MOU Budget, Current DBIF & Project Accounts

The WRLC will receive the normal payment for DBIF funds from the Minister until January 2010, then all the funds will go to WAFIC who in turn will distribute to the different sectors bodies, there will be a transition of a lot of RLIAC's function to WRLC.

b. Accounts Paid Printout

See attached printout of all payments for 2008/09. signed off by John Fitzhardinge and Mal Millard

6. Project Updates

See attachment (WRLC research update.doc)

- WRLC projects
- Research & Development

7. Congress Discussions – Update

Daryl Sykes had to unfortunately withdraw from the Congress despite earlier commitment to participate. He apologised for the late notice but had to give priority to a very important family event. He will be doing a short 'opinion piece' for the Congress programme which will be useful to the discussion and debate.

Vicky has booked advertising for the Congress into the Wanneroo Times, Fremantle Gazette, North Coast Times, Mandurah Coastal and Geraldton Guardian for 2 weeks, commencing the week starting Monday the 6th of July and ending the Friday 17th of July.

Registrations are coming in and seems like we will have a good turnout.

Dexter and Vicky will be meeting with the Facilitator on Tuesday

8. AGM & Election plans – timeline

It's time for notices to go out again for nominations and voting.

As per the WRLC's rules of association, half of the board members are up for election each year. This year the members up for re-election, if they decide they would like to sit on the board again are:

John Fitzhardinge, Darren McTaggart, Gary Parker, Bob Stone, Mal Millard & Ivan Spalding

Dates that need to be decided on in order to give ample notice and time for voting is:

What date in October will we have the AGM

By deciding AGM date the Voting for Board members will close:

When will nominations for information be sent out?
(Normally end of July)

When will nominations for WRLC Board members close?
(Normally beginning September)

Vicky to decide on a few dates and get back to board at next meeting

9. Update on Input vs Quota debate

The papers have been released by RLIAC. Dexter's judgement is; any shred of credible evidence to go in favour of Quota, the Minister will go there.

On grounds of the papers, RLIAC did not commit to it either way as they looked at a scenario – "if all was going well, how would you do it?"

It wasn't how you would do it at this moment in time in WA.

10. Update on Marine Parks – Anna Cronin WAFIC

See attachment

11. Letters to be tabled

Lat31

Date: 25 June 2009: CONGRESS WORK SHOP 25TH JULY 2009.

Tabled. Comments were that PFA's requested independent facilitator and they will do it the best that they feel will achieve results

Date 25 June 2009: Western Rock Lobster Council Constitution

A Congress is not a forum to discuss Constitution changes and will be done at the AGM.

Date 13 June 2009: MARINE PARKS TRUST FUND TO APPOINT A LOBBYIST

It is a WAFIC issue and they are onto it.

Fishing Industry Women's Association

Tabled (same as Lat31) Will deal with it at the AGM

United Mid West RE: funds for fighting.

There are no funds available for those purposes

12. General Business

Jason Barrott sponsorship SRLC Congress

It was decided by the Board that they will make available funds to assist the participants of the Young Leaders Forum at the National Rock Lobster Congress in South Australia. As Jason Barrott requested assistance with accommodation.

13. Next Meeting Date & Close

The next meeting will be held on Mon 3 August to discuss the outcomes of the Congress and the plan of action for proposals to RLIAC

Dexter Davies declared the meeting closed at 5:15pm