

Communique

Salmon Industry Working Group meeting on 18 December 2023

The Salmon Industry Working Group (SIWG) met on 18 December 2023 in Hobart for its fourth meeting facilitated by interim Chair, Jason Jacobi, Secretary, Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas).

The Chair informed members that the interviews for the SWIG's independent Chair position occurred on Thursday 23 November. The appointment process is expected to be finalised in January 2024.

Members were introduced to the newly appointed Director (Aquaculture and Emerging Marine Industries), Dr Chavelli Sulikowski. Chavelli has extensive expertise in marine and oceans law/policy and is a welcome addition to the Aquaculture Branch.

The Director of Finfish Compliance, Environment Protection Authority Tasmania (EPA) spoke to the consultation process for the Technical Standards to accompany the Environmental Standards for Marine Finfish Farming. There are 11 Technical Standards which the EPA plans to consult on throughout 2024.

An Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) Associate Professor presented on the Macquarie Harbour Oxygenation Project, which is being delivered by Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, IMAS and Salmon Tasmania. The Associate Professor outlined the objectives of the project which include monitoring and evaluating the ecosystem response to oxygenating the waterway and providing advice to stakeholders in relation to conservation planning for the Maugean skate.

There was discussion regarding the Tasmanian Government submission to the Australian Government's reconsideration of the NCA-PM for marine farming in Macquarie Harbour, which is due for submission by 2 February 2024.