

Fisheries Co-Management Council 2006/2007 Business Plan



Introduction:

Council's vision of success is that the Government resolves key issues facing sustainable fisheries management, has direction for other solutions and there is minimal conflict across the industry.

Progress toward the attainment of this vision will be measured by independent and timely fisheries management advice and the robust nature of stakeholder partnerships and understanding, supported by the quality of Council's governance arrangements.

Council's activities are grouped into three broad Key Result Areas (KRAs)

- Fisheries Management Advice;
- Stakeholder partnerships and understanding; and
- Governance

Council's objectives are to:

Promote the management of Victorian fisheries in accordance with the principles of Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management;

Be recognized as the key independent advisory body to the Minister responsible for Fisheries on fisheries resource issues;

Develop and maintain effective working relationships with key stakeholders;

Facilitate and assist the prioritization of cost-effective co-invested research, development and extension; and

Conduct Council business in an effective, efficient and accountable manner consistent with legislative requirements and the FCC Business Plan.

The three KRAs and the objectives to which they relate, together with the tasks set out for action in the 2006/07 financial year are shown below. Each action has a corresponding outcome and performance measure.

Note: References to the Minister in the document refer correspondingly to their delegate or delegates.

KEY RESULT AREA 1 – Fisheries Management Advice

1.1 To promote the co-management of Victoria's fisheries in accordance with the principles of Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management

Action	Outcome	Performance measure
Fishery Committees (in consultation with Council) to review the broad status of each fishery where this has not already been addressed	Broad understanding of fishery status and management issues	Risk assessments are commenced and reported in the FCC annual report. The status of fisheries resource is reported in the FCC Annual Report.
Assist the development of the Recreational Fishing Strategy	Shared vision for recreational fishing in Victoria	Facilitation and/or consultation regarding the strategy has been provided as requested.
Support and promote the FCCs policy position on fisheries resource allocation as endorsed by government	Broad understanding of the policy position leading to reduced conflict	The policy position and its outcomes have been communicated through the FCC's Fishery Committees, and published materials and relevant correspondence. The policy has been suitably applied in response to Ministerial and Government requests.

1.2 Oversee the preparation of Fishery Management Plans

Advise on Management Plan priorities, preparation and review.	Preparation of management plans addresses resource priorities Process and content is consistent with requirements of Fisheries Act and includes monitoring and reporting on the status of fisheries resources within an ESD framework.	Priorities for the preparation of Management Plans are provided and reviewed as necessary. Active participation in the preparation and review of management plans and advice provided to Minister on process and content for each management plan. Management Plans are consistent with the Act and Ministerial Guidelines.
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Action	Outcome	Performance measure
Assist in and monitor the implementation of Management Plans	<p>Actions identified in management plans are implemented within identified timelines.</p> <p>Advice on resource status, future catches and management actions is accepted by appropriate stakeholders.</p>	<p>Advice is provided to assist in the implementation of Management Plan actions items as required.</p> <p>Reports on the implementation of Management Plans are provided at least annually.</p> <p>FCC actions in Management Plans are completed effectively eg advice on TACs for rock lobster and abalone.</p>
1.3 Be recognised as the key independent advisory body to the Minister responsible for Fisheries on fisheries management and aquatic resource issues.		
Provide independent expertise based advice to the Minister within requested timelines, taking into account the principles of EBFM and other policy considerations.	<p>Fisheries decisions have broad ownership and or understanding.</p> <p>Minister recognises the FCC as his key advisory body on fisheries resource issues.</p>	<p>Advice requested by the Minister is provided within the prescribed timelines.</p> <p>High quality independent advice is provided to the Minister to assist decision-making processes.</p> <p>Advice is consistent with EBFM principles and Governance Guidelines.</p>
Facilitate and promote ecosystem based fisheries management (EBFM) within Victoria.	The development of fisheries management approaches that consider fisheries within the broader ecosystems.	<p>Assessment of the ecological sustainability of Victoria's fisheries, including EBFM initiatives are reported.</p> <p>Develop and distribute a paper communicating the principles of EBFM to all stakeholders (including non-fishers).</p> <p>Fisheries management plans are consistent with EBFM principles.</p>
Provide advice on legislation and regulations as appropriate.	Legislative and regulatory amendments include considered and balanced stakeholder views and have broad ownership and or understanding.	Input to the review of <i>Fisheries Regulations 1998</i> and other legislative amendments/reviews is provided as appropriate.

KEY RESULT AREA 2 – Stakeholder partnerships and understanding

2.1 To develop effective working relationships with appropriate stakeholders

Action	Outcome	Performance measures
Identify processes of effectively and efficiently communicating with external stakeholders.	A common understanding of co-management processes and outcomes.	The FCC website is maintained, enhanced and promoted. A communication strategy is developed. Chair summaries from Council and fishery committee meetings are provided in a timely fashion. Codes of Practice are prepared, publicised and distributed as appropriate.
Develop effective partnerships with key stakeholders	Key stakeholder engagement in, and input into, co-management processes.	Chair summaries from Council and fishery committee meetings are provided to key stakeholder groups in a timely fashion. Opportunities for stakeholder discussion are provided. Stakeholder forums and joint Fishery Committee meetings are convened and coordinated. Meetings with the boards of recognised peak bodies have been held at least annually.
Assist the development of leadership within co-management entities.	Strong leadership and succession planning within co-management entities.	Training courses have been supported and facilitated as appropriate.
Develop and facilitate the implementation of a model for Indigenous input to fishery management planning and progressive involvement in fisheries management.	Indigenous views are reflected in fisheries management.	1. Models are developed and recommendations on preferred methods provided. 2. Working Group to advise on implementation appointed. - identify people for fishery planning and management advice; and - develop a registry of people linked to region and expertise /qualification.

2.2 Facilitate and assist the prioritization of cost-effective and co-invested research, development and extension		
Provision of a comprehensive RD&E framework	Focused research, industry development and effective practice change	Key RD&E priorities have been identified using the FCC research strategy. RD&E fora to address RD&E stakeholder needs are conducted. A review of the VicFRAB's structure and administrative processes has been completed.
Identification of priority RD&E needs	Cost-effective research that addresses key issues identified by government and key stakeholders	Fishery Committees have identified research needs that are linked to outcomes that improve sector performance. VicFRAB membership and administration is reviewed To advise on the appropriate funding sources available for fisheries research, development and extension.

<u>KEY RESULT AREA 3 – Governance</u>		
3.1 Conduct Council business in an effective, efficient and accountable manner		
Action	Outcome	Performance measures
Develop an effective and accountable Business Plan and implement	Effective, efficient and respected Council operations.	The Business Plan is completed and referred to Minister in a timely fashion. The Business Plan is reviewed annually, and Performance Measures are reported on.
Produce an Annual Report, which includes a statement of revenue relating to fisheries, statement of activities and annual fisheries status report.	Public accountability.	The Annual Report meets the required standards, and is tabled in Parliament according to the specified time lines.
Improve performance of fishery committees, including governance	More considered and effective advice.	Operational Guidelines for Fishery Committees are reviewed and updated. The Fishery Committees' performance is reviewed against the FCC's Operational Guidelines.