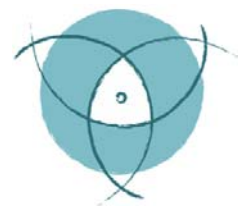


Fisheries Co-Management Council

Business Plan *July 2003 – June 2006*

Revised July 2003



habitat sustainability viability

The Fisheries Co-Management Council is a Statutory Body established under the *Fisheries Act 1995* to promote the co-management process of fisheries in Victoria.

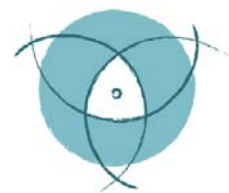
Fisheries Co-Management Council

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Council defines co-management as '*aquatic biological resources managed cooperatively by government and user groups*'.



habitat | sustainability | viability

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INTRODUCTION

The Fisheries Co-Management Council (FCC) takes instructions from, and provides advice to, the Minister for Agriculture, The Hon. Bob Cameron MLA who recently stated:

“The FCC will continue to play a significant role in the future management of fisheries in Victoria”

The Environment and Natural Resources Committee (ENRC) Inquiry into Fisheries Management - First Report December 2001, reinforced the FCC’s role as the primary statewide co-management body. Through its recommendations the ENRC Inquiry into Fisheries Management - Second Report June 2002, enhanced the role of the FCC.

Both Reports recommended a number of actions for Council, which were subsequently supported by Government and which included the preparation of a Victorian Fisheries Strategy. All of the actions have been incorporated into this Business Plan.

The implementation of this Plan will contribute to Government policy commitments set out in ‘Growing Victoria Together’ and ‘Sustainable State’, particularly as they relate to coastal and marine environments, fisheries, recreational fishing and boating.

This Plan reflects Council’s desire to enhance participation in fisheries management by facilitating communication between and with stakeholders and the community. In so doing Council promotes the achievement of balanced economic, environmental and social goals. These principles are fundamental to our vision and mission statement.

Council’s vision:

The sustainable use of aquatic biological resources, managed in partnership for the benefit of the community.

Council’s mission:

To develop partnerships and provide well rounded advice promoting the ecologically sustainable development of aquatic biological resources.



Council's objectives are to:

Promote the management of Victorian fisheries in accordance with the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development.

Be recognised as a key advisory body for aquatic issues.

Develop effective working relationships with all stakeholders.

To achieve these objectives Council will:

Develop and implement a Victorian Fisheries Strategy, which enhances and protects our natural environment and strengthens related industries.

Provide independent timely advice to the Minister.

Rigorously implement its functions under the *Fisheries Act 1995*.

Develop and implement a Communication Strategy to enhance the coordination and input of agencies and stakeholders in the management of aquatic resources.

In the delivery of this Business Plan Council aims to effectively and efficiently exercise its functions and progress the achievement of the objectives of the Fisheries Act 1995.

STATUTORY FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The following functions of the Fisheries Co-Management Council are prescribed under section 91 of the *Fisheries Act 1995*:

- To promote co-management of fisheries
- To oversee the preparation of Management Plans and to advise the Minister in respect of proposed management plans
- To advise the Minister of state-wide priorities for fisheries management and research, and on matters relating to inter-governmental agreements and arrangements
- To advise the Minister on operation, resourcing and administration of the Act and on any matter relating to the achievement of the objectives of the Act or which has been referred to the Fisheries Co-Management Council by the Minister
- To promote investigation into and research, education and training on any matter relating to fisheries
- To advise the Minister on priorities for disbursement of funds from recreational fishing licences
- To prepare, publicise and distribute codes of practice that provide guidance to the holders of fishery licences or permits under this Act, on best practice concerning any matter relevant to the holders of fishery licences or permits
- To publicise and distribute codes of practice that have been prepared by a recognized peak body or fishery committee
- To carry out any other function conferred on the Fisheries Co-Management Council by or under this Act or any other Act



The objectives of the *Fisheries Act 1995* as set out in section 3 are:

- To provide for the management, development and use of Victoria's fisheries, aquaculture industries and associated aquatic biological resources in an efficient, effective and ecologically sustainable manner
- To protect and conserve fisheries resources, habitats and ecosystems including the maintenance of aquatic ecological processes and genetic diversity
- To promote sustainable commercial fishing and viable aquaculture industries and quality recreational fishing opportunities for the benefit of present and future generations
- To facilitate access to fisheries resources for commercial, recreational, traditional and non-consumptive uses
- To promote the welfare of persons engaged in the commercial fishing industry and to facilitate the rationalisation and restructuring of the industry
- To encourage the participation of resource users and the community in fisheries management

The following functions of the Fishery Committees are prescribed under section 94 of the *Fisheries Act 1995*:

- To advise the Fisheries Co-Management Council on the management of the fishery in respect of which it is appointed
- To advise the Fisheries Co-Management Council in respect of the preparation of the management plan for the fishery
- To advise the Minister upon the request of the Minister in relation to any matter relevant to the fishery that relates to a proposed fisheries notice
- To carry out any other function conferred on the Fishery Committee by or under this Act or any other Act
- A Fishery Committee may request the assistance of the Fisheries Co-Management Council in respect of any matter relevant to the fishery or relating to another fishery
- If a Fishery Committee provides any advice to the Minister under dot-point 3 above, the Fishery Committee must at the same time give a copy of the request and the advice to the Fisheries Co-management Council



THE COUNCIL AND FISHERY COMMITTEES

The Council is appointed by the Governor in Council and Fishery Committees are appointed by the Minister for Agriculture, pursuant to the provisions of the Fisheries Act 1995.

Membership of the Council and Committees is expertise based and members have high level skills, experience and knowledge in recreational fishing, aquaculture, commercial wild fish harvesting, processing, marketing, consumer issues, environmental science, indigenous culture and fisheries management.

Council:

Chairperson

- John Sherwood - Associate Professor, School of Ecology and Environment, Deakin University

Members

- Dr Bronwyn Burton
- Mr Tom Davies
- Mr David Hewat
- Mr Lance Lloyd
- Mr Richard McLoughlin
- Mr Roy Palmer
- Mr Peter Rankin
- Ms Lyn Warn
- Mr Graeme Creed

Principle area of expertise

- Environmental science
- Processing/marketing
- Indigenous culture/aquaculture
- Environmental science
- Fisheries management
- Consumer issues/marketing
- Aquaculture
- Commercial wild fish harvesting
- Recreational fishing



Fishery Committees:

FCC principles, processes and structures are supported by eight Fishery Committees and FCC is reliant on them for their expert advice in areas including: Abalone, Aquaculture, Bays & Inlets commercial fisheries, Inland Fisheries, Recreational Marine, Research, Rock Lobster & Giant Crab and Scallops.

ABALONE FISHERY COMMITTEE

Mr Neil Ward – **Chairperson**
Mr Robert Coffey
Dr Robert Day
Mr Dallas D'Silva

Ms Alice Marriot
Mr David Tonkin
Mr Alexander Ziolkowski

AQUACULTURE COMMITTEE

Mr Ernie Hicks – **Chairperson**
Ms Margaret Brett
Mr Anthony Forster
Mr David Harris

Mr Hugh Meggitt
Mr John Mosig
Awaiting new member

COMMERCIAL BAYS & INLETS FISHERY COMMITTEE

Mr Barry McKenzie – **Chairperson**
Mr Arthur Allen
Mr Robert Baldini
Mr Stephen McCormack

Mr Clifford Rossack
Mr Jonathan Sumbly
Awaiting new member

INLAND FISHERY COMMITTEE

Awaiting new member – **Chairperson**
Mr Bill Allan
Mr Stephan Gabas
Mr Geoffrey Hall

Mr Greg Hayes
Mr Robert Loats
Mr Darren O'Shannassy

RECREATIONAL MARINE FISHERY COMMITTEE

Mr Corrie Banks – **Chairperson**
Ms Vicki Barmby
Dr John Hawkins
Mr David Kramer

Dr Murray MacDonald
Mr Martin Owen
Mr Gerrie Reid

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Dr Garth Newman – **Chairperson**
Mr Corrie Banks
Ms Catherine Bell
Dr Catherine Oke

Mr Stephen Rodis
Dr David Smith
Awaiting new member

COMMERCIAL ROCK LOBSTER & GIANT CRAB FISHERY COMMITTEE

Ms Tia Navanteri – **Chairperson**
Ms Yvonne Edmondson
Dr Matt Edmunds
Mr David Johnston

Mr Brampton Le Page
Mr David Lucas
Mr David Molloy

COMMERCIAL SCALLOP FISHERY COMMITTEE

Mr Michael Hince – **Chairperson**
Mr Arno Blank
Dr Brett Light
Mr Steve Mantzaris

Ms Tia Navanteri
Mr Christopher Newman
Mr John Stivala

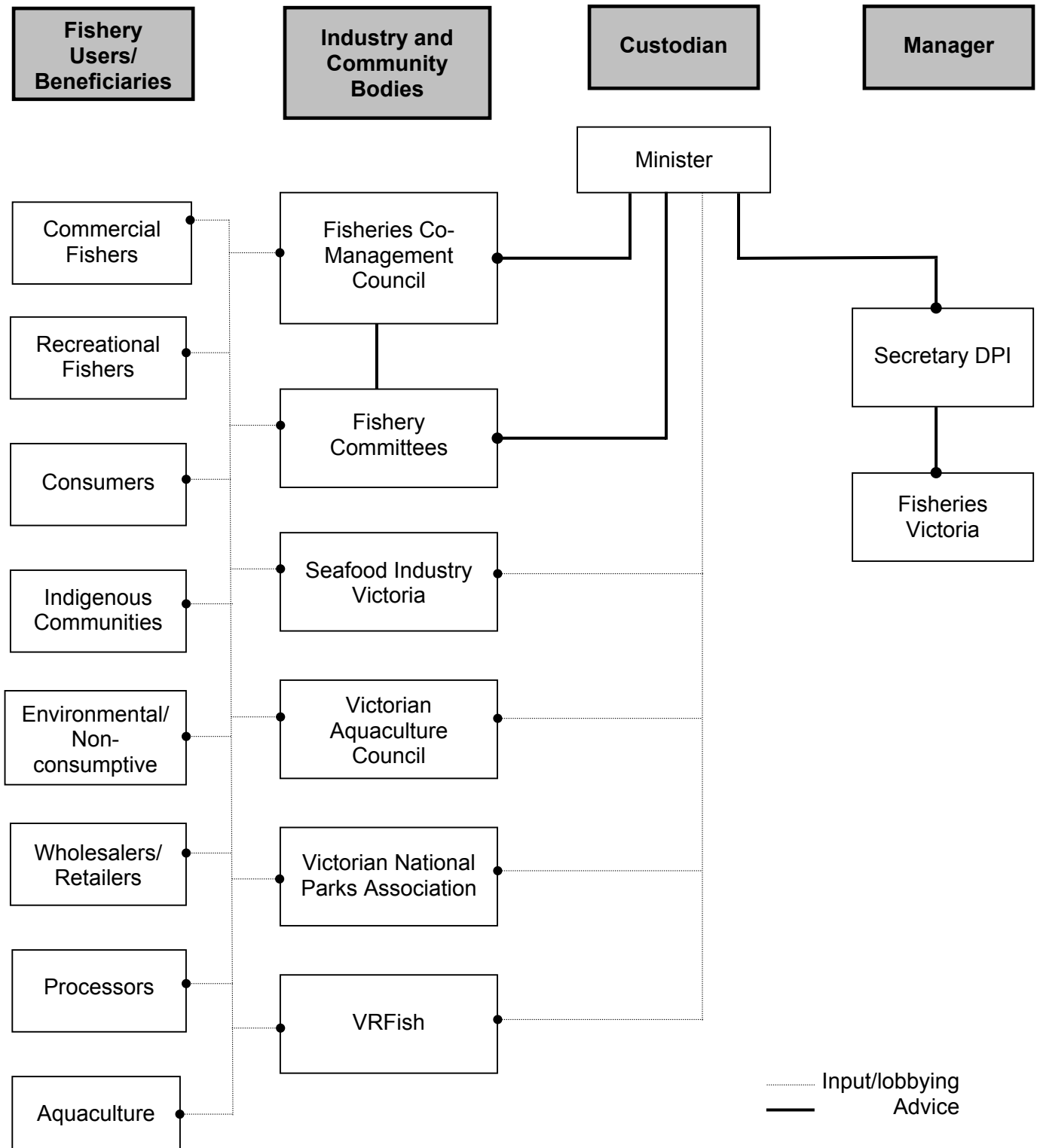


KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Minister for Agriculture
- VRFish
- Seafood Industry Victoria
- Victorian Aquaculture Council
- Victorian National Parks Association
- Department of Primary Industries
- Fisheries Victoria
- Victorian Coastal Council
- Victorian Catchment Management Council
- Marine and Coastal Community Network
- Environment Protection Authority
- Fisheries Research & Development Corporation
- Parks Victoria
- Department of Sustainability and Environment
- Parks, Flora & Fauna Division
- Catchment Management Authorities and Rural Water Authorities
- Victorian Environment Assessment Council
- Department of Infrastructure
- Indigenous Communities
- The broader Victorian Community – users and user groups, business, consumers, environmental groups
- Federal Government agencies



FISHERIES STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIPS





STRATEGIC PLANNING - KEY RESULT AREAS, ACTIONS & OUTCOMES

The Fisheries Co-Management Council is committed to achieving its objectives by undertaking the actions set out in the following tables.

<u>KEY RESULT AREA 1</u>		
<i>Promote the management of Victorian fisheries in accordance with the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development</i>		
Action	Outcome	Priority
1.1 Prepare a Victorian Fisheries Strategy and coordinate and monitor its implementation (<i>ENRC1 rec6.1</i>)		
Link with complimentary existing and developing strategies, such as the Victorian Aquaculture Strategy, the Victorian Coastal Strategy and the integrated catchment management strategy	Coordinated approach to management of Victoria's aquatic resources	Yr 2, ongoing
Consider complimentary legislation such as the <i>Fisheries Act 1995, National Parks Act 1975, Flora & fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i>	Consistent legislative arrangements	Yr 2
Define and undertake a SWOT analysis of each fishery and identify potential new fisheries	Broad understanding of fisheries management issues	Yr 2, ongoing
Consult with designated Peak Bodies, municipalities, public authorities and the wider community	Strategy ownership	Yr 2, ongoing
Identify the contribution of fishing activities to the welfare of rural communities	Enhanced local opportunities and empathy with regional tourism strategies	Yr 2, ongoing
Review and audit fisheries Policy in partnership with Government (<i>ENRC2 rec4.1</i>)	Maximised environmental, economic and social benefits	Yr 2
Liaise with the Coastal Waters Reserve Manager (<i>ENRC2 rec3.18</i>)	Consistent response to fisheries management issues	Yr 2, ongoing
Identify and rectify any government agency statutory responsibilities that create impediments to maintenance of fish habitats (<i>ENRC2 rec3.10, 3.21</i>)	Consistent response to fisheries management issues	Yr 2, ongoing
Emphasise fisheries management which acknowledges effects on entire ecosystems (<i>ENRC2 rec 3.15, 3.16, 3.17</i>)	Improved ecological sustainability	Ongoing
Facilitate a resource allocation outcome and ensure this is incorporated into Regulatory Impact Statements (<i>ENRC2 rec 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6</i>)	Substantial conflict resolution	Yrs 1 & 2
Recommend long term Research and Education priorities	Focused research and education	Yr 2, ongoing
Include mechanisms to monitor and report on the sustainability of fisheries including stock assessment (<i>ENRC2 rec 3.1, 3.5, 3.6, 6.15</i>)	Ecologically sustainable fisheries and improved aquatic environments	Yr 1, ongoing
Liaise with DPI to provide sustainably managed trout and native fisheries for recreational anglers (<i>ENRC2 rec5.14, 5.15</i>)	Enhanced recreational fishing opportunities	Yr 2, ongoing
Support research to increase the level of biological and ecological knowledge of fished species (<i>ENRC2 rec3.8</i>)	Rigorous identification of priority needs	Ongoing



Identify cost recovery component of fisheries management, while allowing for intergenerational equity responsibilities of Government (ENRC2 rec 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4)	Socioeconomic benefits	Yr 2, ongoing
Support measures to minimize/ and or use by-catch and discard	Reduced by-catch and discard	Yr 3
Prepare, publicise and distribute codes of practice as appropriate	Operational Best Practice	Ongoing
Prepare budget for putting the Strategy in to action	Effective implementation	Yr 3
Provide for procedures to monitor the implementation of the Strategy	Ensured long term future of Victoria's fish resources and fisheries	Yr 3, ongoing
Develop a strategic approach for evaluating application of quota management systems in individual fisheries (ENRC2 rec 6.1, 6.2)	Sustainable fisheries management	Yr 2, ongoing
Development of recovery plans for fisheries showing signs of decline or for threatened species (ENRC2 rec3.7, 3.9)	Improvement of stock status and de-listing of threatened species	Yr 2, ongoing
1.2 Prepare a Seafood Industry Strategy		
Engage industry and develop a vision for the Victorian seafood industry	Strengthened partnerships, and industry ownership of strategy	Yr 1
Consult with designated Peak Bodies, municipalities, public authorities, interest groups and wider community	Industry and community embraced strategy	Yr 1, ongoing
Identify clear roles for Government, Industry and the FCC in seafood industry development	Coordinated Strategy development	Yr 1
Conduct analysis of industry internal and external operating environments, in consultation with industry	Basis for strategic development – 'water to waiter' approach	Yr 1
Link the Seafood Industry Strategy with complimentary existing and developing strategies such as the Victorian Aquaculture Strategy and the National Seafood Industry Strategy	Integrated strategic development	Yr 1
Identify measures to support and promote Aquaculture	Increased productivity, value and environmental benefits	Yr 1, ongoing
Encourage value adding within the seafood industry	Increased value of Victoria's seafood industry	Yr 1, ongoing
Promote improved training and safety of industry personnel	Improved safety and performance of seafood industry	Ongoing
Prepare, publicise and distribute codes of practice as appropriate	Operational Best Practice	Ongoing
Prepare budget for putting the Strategy in to action	Effective implementation	Yr 2
Provide for procedures to monitor the implementation of the Strategy	Ensure long term future of the seafood industry	Yr 2, ongoing
1.3 Assist the Development of the Recreational Fishing Strategy		
Facilitate discussion of the optimum form of representation of recreational fishing interests	Best representative Peak Body for recreational fishing interests	Yr 1
Participate as a Steering Committee member and workshop contributor	All embracing Recreational Fishing Strategy	Yr 1



KEY RESULT AREA 2

To be recognised as a key advisory body for aquatic issues

Action	Outcome	Priority
2.1 Address the Functions of the <i>Fisheries Act 1995</i>		
Provide independent timely advice to the Minister, taking into account the principles of ESD, NRM Strategies and any Management Plans, (<i>ENRC 1 rec6.1, 7.4, ENRC 2 rec4.2</i>)	Compliance with Objectives of the Act	Ongoing
Advise on Management Plan priorities and content. (<i>ENRC1 rec6.1, ENRC 2 rec3.19, 6.4</i>)	Compliance with Functions of the Act	Ongoing
Coordinate and monitor the implementation of Management Plans (<i>ENRC1 rec 7.2</i>)	Compliance with Functions of the Act	Ongoing
Provide input to simplify fisheries legislation (<i>ENRC2 rec 7.12</i>)	Simplified regulatory framework	Ongoing
Provide input to development of Compliance Policy. (<i>ENRC2 rec7.9, 7.10, 7.13</i>)	Effective fisheries compliance	Yr 1, ongoing
Advise on preparation of Stream Flow Management Plans. (<i>ENRC2 rec3.12</i>)	Sustainable river health	Ongoing
Provide advice on fisheries independent data to FV and MAFRI. (<i>ENRC2 rec3.4</i>)	Enhanced fishery assessment	Yr 1
Provide advice to Government on principles on which the application of resource rents would be based. (<i>ENRC2 rec 9.3, 9.4</i>)	Establishment of principles of resource rent application	Yr 2
Investigate and advise the Government in relation to subsistence fishing by non-indigenous communities (<i>ENRC2 rec 5.10</i>)	Appropriate management of subsistence fishing by non-indigenous communities	Yr 2
Facilitate Australian Salmon Access dispute resolution	Harmonious access to fish stock	Yr 1
Undertake those other functions not included above	Compliance with Functions of the Act	Ongoing
2.2 Improve and Maintain internal operational arrangements		
Establish a Habitat & Environment sub-committee of Council	Improvement of water quality, habitat restoration and increased biodiversity	Yr 2, ongoing
Develop a set of principles for use in determining TAC's. (<i>ENRC2 rec6.3</i>)	Compliance with Objectives of the Act	Yr 1, ongoing
Provide rationale for any FCC/Fishery Committee advice variances. (<i>ENRC1 rec7.3</i>)	Strengthened interaction within the Co-Management structure	Ongoing
Support principles associated with the development of new and restructured fisheries. (<i>ENRC2 rec6.5 -6.8, 6.10, 6.12, 9.1</i>)	Appropriate quota based fisheries	Ongoing
Maintain the breadth of expertise of members of FCC. (<i>ENRC1 rec6.4</i>)	Delivery of broad based advice	Ongoing
Co-opt non-voting members to a Fishery Committee for provision of specific advice. (<i>ENRC1 rec7.7</i>)	Delivery of broad based advice	Ongoing
Regularly review and update Fishery Committee Operational Guidelines	Operational efficiency	Annually
Establish structured processes and procedures, including those for Sub-committees	Strengthened interaction. QA accreditation	Yr 2, ongoing



KEY RESULT AREA 3

To develop effective working relationships with all stakeholders

Action	Outcome	Priority
3.1 Develop and implement a Communications Strategy		
Convene and coordinate stakeholder forums and joint Fishery Committee meetings	Broader understanding of common issues, increased knowledge and promotion of co-management and facilitation of united actions	Yr 2, Annually
Expand on and identify means of communicating and developing partnerships with stakeholders.	Strengthened relationships with stakeholders	Yr 1 Annually
Conduct regular meetings of Council and Fishery Committee Chairs. <i>(ENRC1 rec7.3)</i>	Strengthened relationships between Fishery Committees and Council	Yr 1, Annually
Support attendance at external fisheries management meetings and conferences.	Established networks and improved links within the industry	Yr 2, Ongoing
Update and maintain FCC website with provision for Fishery Committee members to access internal information and for external users to contact FCC	Enable community input to fisheries management issues, and easy access to up to date information for members	Yr 1, ongoing
Produce Information Bulletins, brochures and info kits	Wider community knowledge of FCC	Yr 1, ongoing
Develop an induction presentation for new members and staff	Clear understanding of FCC principles and processes. Operational efficiency	Yr 1
Facilitate Joint Awards with Peak Bodies	Reward innovation and establish prestige within the industry	Yr 2, Annually
Produce an Annual Report, which includes a statement of revenue relating to fisheries and annual fishery stock assessment reports with overview and recommendations <i>(ENRC2 rec 3.3, 3.5, 8.1)</i>	Public accountability	Annually
Implement an Education and Training program for industry	Facilitated succession planning	Yr 2
3.2 Liaise with and facilitate the operation of Fishery Committees <i>(ENRC1 rec6.1)</i>		
Support the attendance of Committee members at external fisheries management meetings and conferences.	Established networks and improved links within the industry	Yr 2, Ongoing
Ensure consistency between this Business Plan and Committee Work Plans	Integrated operational arrangements	Yr 1, ongoing
Ensure efficient circulation of information	Information currency and timely delivery of advice	Ongoing



Monitoring

Council will monitor the Business Plan at several levels including quarterly reporting on:

- Progress on individual actions
- Budgeted and actual expenditure
- Progress on achieving the outcomes

In addition, the effectiveness of the Plan as a whole in achieving the objectives of the Act and Council's vision will be determined on an annual basis.

Consistent with the statutory requirements, the Council will submit an annual report to the Minister that will include progress on implementation of actions detailed in this Business Plan.

Budget - 2003/04

The Council's activities are funded from appropriations to the Department of Primary Industries (this funding is separate from that of Fisheries Victoria, as supported by ENRC1 rec 6.5).

A funding allocation of \$450,000 has been made available in the State Budget to support the operations of the Council for the 2003-04 financial year and to progress the initiatives identified within this Plan. This amount is the same as the previous year's appropriation and does not provide for an increased and appropriate level of activity.

In round terms the budget will be expended as follows: salaries - \$150,000, on-costs - \$70,000, rent - \$50,000, operating costs - \$40,000, Council meeting costs - \$50,000, and Committee meeting costs - \$90,000.

An indicative apportionment of the budget against the Key Result Areas is:

KRA 1 'Promote the management of Victorian Fisheries in accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development' - \$280,000

KRA 2 'To be recognised as a key advisory body for aquatic issues' - \$100,000

KRA 3 'To develop effective working relationships with all stakeholders' - \$70,000

Specific funding will be sought to initiate the Seafood Industry Strategy and to support Councils assistance in the development of the Recreational Fishing Strategy.

Budget applications for the remaining two years of this business plan will be based on progress against the three Key Result Areas and on any other matters specifically requested by the Minister. It is anticipated however, that these successive applications will promote a base allocation of \$600,000.

Flow of Benefits

By implementing the actions listed within this Plan, a flow of benefits will accrue to all Victorians by protecting the environment and promoting sustainable development.