

Communique

The Aquaculture and Wild Catch Industry Reference Committee (IRC) held their last meeting for 2021 on Friday, 10 December 2021 via Zoom conferencing.

This meeting focused on the transitioning VET Reform (new Industry Clusters), industry updates and industry skills reporting.

Industry Updates

IRC members and guests at the meeting presented their latest industry intelligence and engagement. Common themes emerging included:

- Lack of access to skills labour and intensity of competition for labour from other industries
- Wide variations in markets with some seafood products thriving and others barely able to meet costs
- Uncertainty of movement across intranational and international borders continue to destabilise industry

VET Reform

The IRC considered the Industry Cluster report outlining the 9 clusters up for tender with discussion involving the Agribusiness and Food Production Cluster which is aligned to the existing coverage of Skills Impact.

The IRC discussed the broader scope of work as part of the changing VET system and the role of industry within the new system.

Industry Skills Report and Industry Summary

The IRC approved a proposal to produce an Industry Skills Report, after considering departmental requirements, proposed structure, content overview and descriptions and timelines for IRC consideration.

All IRCs are required to provide an Industry Summary by September 2022.

General Business

The Committee noted the recent uptake of Diver training occurring in SA utilising the newly developed Diver Skill Sets in the SFI Training Package to address diver skill shortages.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Aquaculture and Wild Catch IRC is yet to be confirmed, but will not happen before April 2022.