

Communique

The Aquaculture and Wild Catch Industry Reference Committee (IRC) held their third meeting on 7 October 2020 via Zoom conferencing.

This meeting focused on the content and potential work on the next industry Annual Update for 2021.

SFI Changed Components (BSB/HLT units)

The Chair acknowledged the earlier circular resolution vote of the IRC to approve changes to the SFI Training Package Cases for Endorsement approved by the AISC at the August 2020 meeting to incorporate changes to the BSB and HLT Training Packages. Thanks was extended to Skills Impact for the work performed to ensure the IRC was part of this opportunity and process.

AISC Emergency Response Sub-Committee (AISC ERSC)

The IRC expressed its disappointment with the process. The IRC responded to the request within very short timeframes advised by the department. The committee ensured significant effort and contributions were made to identify emergency training needs, which were ultimately not supported under the emergency response criteria, although noted that the AISC ERSC that the development of the Seafood Introduction skill set could take place under the normal training package process.

Industry Annual Update

As a result of the major review of SFI in 2018/19 and subsequent Fishtech and Crocodiles projects 2019/2020, no other skills gaps had been identified and the IRC can concentrate on what's new and different from the last Annual Update with scope to raise the issues they believe are important to industry.

The IRC discussed the potential long-term impacts to the industry as a result of COVID in particular, the post-harvest sector, and what challenges and training opportunities may arise. They agreed to delve more broadly into industry challenges and potential resolutions.

AISC IRC Chairs Day

The Chair reported on his observations and general format of the day. The IRC agreed that communication between the AISC and IRC is important especially around emerging policy changes and critical for the Chair to be the key in that process.

Next Meeting

The date for the next meeting of the Aquaculture and Wild Catch IRC is yet to be confirmed.