

Chair summary

57th SRL Board Meeting

Teleconference 20 July 2020

IFAM and expected tonnages for 2021FY

A table of expected tonnages showed large volumes from 15 September 2020 through to CNY on 12 February 2021.

The Board discussed freight assistance noting:

- conversations should be advanced with the export sector and IFAM to ensure increased freight capacity during this period
- IFAM flights will only be effective and useful if the transit time is under 36 hours and all connections can link to achieve this. ie Melbourne - Shanghai direct
- SRL's role is to provide advice to STAG to enable a new IFAM route that suits the current export model
- there are currently approximately only 4 flights per week from Melbourne to Shanghai (down from 14 per week pre-Covid)
- consideration be given to engaging an independent person to coordinate the industry and phase freight throughout the peak of the season
- SRL to conceptualise how product would be aggregated (single desk proposition), who would be responsible and funding arrangements.

The Board discussed other fishing options to accommodate the expected reduced freight capacity including:

- holding volume back and trickle feed in volume by setting fewer pots or voluntarily capping catch loads per trip
- constraining the number of total fishing trips, rather than catch per trip to reduce the need for 'stop- start' fishing.

The Board noted that these options might be discussed at the SARLMAC and that an SRL exporter representative had been invited to attend the MAC as an observer.

SIA membership

The Board agreed to maintain SIA Membership.

Research Projects

Traceability project

SRL has been in discussion with Source Certain over the possible use of this technology to further address traceability and its application to biosecurity risks and marketing.

The Board noted examples in other industries that have implemented robust mechanisms to determine provenance.

The Board agreed to fund reference sampling of Victorian lobsters as an initial proof of concept.

CRC participation

The Board noted that several bids were being developed in the current Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) round. Two - Smarter Regions CRC and Thriving Coasts CRC – had research plans that overlapped with SRL’s strategy.

The Thriving Coasts CRC in particular provided a range of opportunities that aligned with the core business of SRL.

The Board provided support for a Stage One bid for each of these CRCs by way of a non-binding financial commitment to both.

Professor Colin Buxton - SRL Chair
August 2020