A little bit about us

• The Commercial Dive industry has been active in Tasmania for over three decades, holding access rights to a number of species including *Centrostephanus*.

• Recent years have seen rapid industry expansion, assisted by accelerated harvest programs from the TACL, followed by the formation of the AIRF collaboration.

• Dive sector comprises of 52 licenses, with 29 being active on Centro in 2018/2019 season.
Why are we here??

- Majority of *Centrostephanus* recruitment to date is believed to have come from mainland Australia, delivered through the EAC.

- This method of delivery and warming waters allow for higher settlement rates, deeming eradication to be impossible.

- TCDA maintain an understanding that a harvest industry does not trump a healthy marine environment. However in this case, Industry has and will continue to be the most effective, readily available and proven strategy for management.

- We strongly believe that we are the solution!
What can we do?

• The 2018/2019 catch data is a strong evidence base of the capacity within industry, harvesting over 660T in roe season, with at least 50% more dive capacity available to meet increased demand.

• This harvest will continue to support in excess of 100 jobs throughout the state, bringing people and work into regional areas.
Centrostephanus Catch Tonnes

Entry of RTS Paua Co

TACL accelerated harvest

Seafoods Tasmania

Small Scale Processing

660 Tons
Urchin biomass has increased by an average of 191 Tons per year since 2002 Survey.

500 T / Year Fishery.
Harvest Industry verse Centro Biomass 0-24 metres (75% population)
Challenges ahead

What happens outside a harvestable depth??

-A closer look into this reveals that up to 80% of biomass lies in 0-26m.
-Divers observe urchin move out of deeper water into the feed post harvest.
-Dive sector invested in nitrox equipment and training, allowing potential harvesting to 30m.

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Imas Resurvey results
Challenges ahead

Why shouldn’t we lime??

- **Adverse/unknown effect on other species in the wild.**
- **At least 80% of biomass within harvestable depth.**
- **Costly research towards an unproven concept of liming to 30m +.**
- **Negative publicity/branding for the harvest industry.**
Challenges ahead

Why shouldn’t we cull??

- Damaging to the harvest image/brand.
- Strong belief that collaborated harvest programs will be more cost efficient and compliment markets.
- Heightened safety risk in comparison to harvesting.
- Supports minimal jobs.
- Harvest effort will spread as the industry grows.
Moving forward

- Collaborate with industry, TACL, IMAS, and the processing sector to develop strategic harvest plans for areas, including historically valuable abalone ground.

- Strong desire to work closely with AIRF in consulting and development.

- Continuation towards a self-sufficient industry.

- Research to prove that harvest sector meets all AIRF objectives
Key Points

• A harvest industry is the only chance of a self sustained solution moving forward. The only opportunity available to prevent a lifelong funding program.

• Over 80% of the biomass is accessible by diving.

• No costly research into the concept needs to be undertaken, simply collaboratively fine tuning programs to get desired results for all.

• Consult and support our invested members and capable industry, support jobs and state growth.

WE ARE THE SOLUTION