
Fishery Management Plan Goals:

1. Charter Boat Fishery resources harvested within ecologically sustainable limits
2. Optimum utilisation and equitable distribution of the Charter Boat Fishery resources for the benefit of the community
3. Fishery impacts on the ecosystem are minimised
4. Cost-effective, efficient and participative management of the fishery

Compliance Risk Summary:

1. Take Over limit- PIRSA Risk Rating: MODERATE (Likelihood 5: Consequence 2: Score 10)

Charter licences provide a platform from which recreational fishing can occur, consequently specific bag, boat and size limits are prescribed for the Charter Fishery based on the number of passengers on board the vessel. Exceeding bag limits can occur in a number of ways, including high grading of fish, catch and release of fish after bag limits are achieved and the transhipment of fish, above the limits at sea to other vessels. Fisheries Officers are often faced with difficulties in detecting offending of this nature, as the calculation of fish limits requires distinguishing passengers from crew members. Often, when limits are quickly achieved, the temptation to allow passengers to take additional fish, is high particularly when the passenger is paying for a period of time fishing for a species and that species is ‘bagged out’ in a short period of time.

Exceeding bag limits, catch and releasing fish once bag limits are caught and offloading of over limit fish are of particular concern with respect to the Snapper fishery which is currently under a high level of fishing pressure.

The legislation in other fisheries identifies the responsible person as the Master or Licence holder, whereas in this fishery it is the fisher who is required to be identified when it comes to the offence of exceeding the boat limit. Intelligence indicates that “catch and release” fishing, sometimes for the purpose of “high grading”, is a continuing issue. Intelligence indicates some operators permitting fishers to exceed bag limits, with the excess fish being sold by the Charter operator (see risk “Illegal Sales”).

Elements of take over limit:

- Identifying the people committing the offence of taking the excess fish
- Legislation not supporting a ‘responsible’ person for this commercial activity
- Continuing to fish when vessel limit has been reached – exchanging smaller fish for a larger one
- Operators permitting fishers to exceed bag limits
2. Fish in Closed Seasons / Areas - PIRSA Risk Rating: MODERATE (Likelihood 5: Consequence 2: Score 10)

A number of species including Rock Lobster and Snapper are managed through the inclusion of closed seasons and areas, both of which are designed to protect fish stocks during the critical aggregation and spawning seasons. The closures are aimed at ensuring females carrying eggs are not disturbed or taken from the fishery.

From the commencement of the annual state-wide snapper fishing closure on November 1, 2013, new management arrangements were put in place with the view of further protecting the snapper biomass. These arrangements included the introduction of 5 designated no-take areas, each of which had been identified as a key aggregation and spawning area, for which the closure would be extended to 31st January.

For each designated no-take area (4km radial closure), no targeting of snapper is to occur nor can fishers be found to be in possession of snapper. Given the aggregation of snapper that has occurred in the past, the no-take zones are each popular with both recreational and commercial fishers, including Charter operators.

From Spencer Gulf, these include:

- “Illusion”
- “Santa Anna”
- “Estelle Star”
- “Jurassic Park”

The 5th no-take zone encompasses a closure area out from Ardrossan at the northern end of the St. Vincent Gulf.

At the time this risk assessment was completed, the likelihood of fishers breaching the rules relating to these no-take zones was unknown. However it is anticipated that through both negligence of the rules relating to the zones rules plus also through deliberate intent to take snapper from the zones, likelihood of fishers (including Charter operators) will remain “occasional”.

There is a temptation from Recreational Fishers and Charter Operators to jointly target and catch and release snapper during the closure. The releasing of the snapper as a consequence reduces the likelihood of detection.

Each year, Fisheries Officers receive numerous reports of Recreational Fishers, through Charter fishing, targeting snapper during the closed season. Given the stock status of the snapper fishery, particularly in Spencer Gulf, the practice of disturbing spawning congregations can have a significant impact.

Elements of fishing in closed season include:

- Taking snapper during November to December 15 closure (extends to 31st January in the five designated no-take zones)
- Taking Rock Lobster by diving or pots during the Rock Lobster Closed season
3. Take Protected / Non-Permitted Species - PIRSA Risk Rating: MODERATE (Likelihood 4: Consequence 2: Score 8)

Taking of protected and/or non-permitted species occurs when Fishers target or take species that they are not entitled to take. This can include recreational fishers on Charter vessels taking and retaining Blue Groper, taking berried female rock lobster and crabs and the taking of Great White Sharks. Information has been received in the past of Charter vessels taking Groper from within closed area with some reports of Registered Masters giving false information to passengers on the location of the closure.

Elements of taking protected / non-permitted species include:

- Taking Groper from Gulfs, Backstairs Package & Investigator Strait
- Taking female Rock Lobster, Sand Crabs or Blue Crabs with eggs
- Taking other protected species

4. Illegal Sales - PIRSA Risk Rating: MODERATE (Likelihood 4: Consequence 2: Score 8)

Charter Fishing is providing a platform from which Recreational Fishing can occur. To further support this, Fisheries Legislation prevents the charter operator from participating in fishing during Charter Activities so as to decrease the risk that the Charter operator will take some fish and then sell them after the conclusion of the Charter trip.

Over the past few years Fisheries Officers have received information about Charter Operators fishing during Charter trips. In addition to this, as the fish were taken recreationally, the fish taken during Charter Operations cannot be sold.

There are number of Charter Operators who hold both a Charter fishing Licence and a Marine Scale fishing licence, thereby increasing the risk and likelihood of fish taken during the charter being sold on the Marine Scale Licence. This type of offending has been the subject of a number of intelligence reports and investigations conducted in recent years in the Charter Fishery.

Elements of illegal sales include:

- Sale of fish through other fishery licences
- Sale of fish to paying passengers
- Sale of fish to other businesses
- Non-paying passengers taken to increase bag limits applicable with those fish taken by non-paying passengers being sold by the Charter Operator
5. **Take Undersize - PIRSA Risk Rating: MODERATE (Likelihood 5: Consequence 2: Score 10)**

Charter licences provide a platform from which recreational fishing can occur, consequently specific bag, boat and size limits are prescribed for the Charter Fishery based on the number of passengers on board the vessel. Offending against minimum and maximum size limits can occur through the relative inexperience of Charter passengers, often fishing for the first time or only fishing on a few occasions each year.

The legislation in other fisheries identifies the responsible person as the Master or Licence holder, whereas in this fishery it is the fisher who is required to be identified when it comes to the offence of taking undersize fish.

**Elements of taking undersize fish include:**

- Identifying the people committing the offence of taking the undersized fish
- Legislation not supporting a ‘responsible’ person for this commercial activity


**Note – Actions & Initiatives are addressed and delivered against the Recreational Fishery Compliance Plan**

Fisheries Officers continue to identify and take action against Recreational Fishers who are taking paying passengers out fishing, thereby conducting a Charter Business without holding a Charter Fishery License.

When the passengers abide by bag limits prescribed for Recreational Fishing, it is difficult to prove this type of illegal activity unless the passengers are willing to provide statements confirming that they paid to go fishing.

This illegal activity can range in severity and frequency from the Recreational Fisher who once a year takes his mates out fishing for $50 each through to some operators who are fishing 2-3 days per week taking passengers on board in return for financial gain.

This type of offending has a direct and adverse impact on Charter Fishery Licence holders as part of their market is being captured by unlicensed operators. In addition to this, it can result in increased fishing effort within local areas and results in Charter Fishing that is unreported and unaccounted for in Stock Assessment reporting.
Other Compliance risks identified within the fishery that may occur will be addressed as they are detected. They include the following:

- Fishing with too many agents
- Biosecurity response
- Fishing with a vessel not endorsed on a licence
- Illegal gear, illegal usage of gear, interference of gear
- Failure to lodge SARDI catch and effort returns
- Inaccurate or misleading reporting of catch location and volume on SARDI Returns
- Assist/provide services to other agencies (ie SAPOL, threats at sea amongst Industry)
## Risk Likelihood & Consequence Analysis:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIKELIHOOD</th>
<th>CONSEQUENCES</th>
<th>NEGLIGIBLE</th>
<th>MINOR</th>
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<th>SEVERE</th>
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### Likelihood Definitions

- **Likely**: It is expected to occur
- **Occasional**: May occur
- **Possible**: Some evidence to suggest this is possible here
- **Unlikely**: Uncommon, but has been known to occur elsewhere
- **Rare**: May occur in exceptional circumstances
- **Remote**: Never heard of but not impossible

### Consequence Definitions

- **Neigligible** - Local extinctions are imminent / immediate
- **Low** - Likely to cause local extinctions, if continued in longer term
- **Moderate** - Affecting recruitment levels of stocks / or their capacity to increase
- **High** - Full exploitation rate, but long term recruitment / dynamics not adversely impacted
- **Extreme** - Possibly detectable, but minimal impact on population size and none on dynamics

- **Negligible** - Insignificant impacts to population. Unlikely to be measurable against background variability for this population
Strategies

The following strategies have been developed to address each of the risks:

1. Education & Awareness
   - All interested parties understand their respective obligations
   - Develop Industry communication & relationship program

2. Deterrence
   - Enforcement Plan Communication Strategy
   - Enforcement outcomes communication strategy
   - All aspects of fishing actively monitored
   - Use of Volunteers

3. Enforcement
   - Maximise successful prosecutions Outcomes

Target Outcomes

The following target outcomes have been identified:

- Minimise take over limit
- Minimise incidents fishing in closed seasons and areas
- Minimise take of protected / non-permitted species
- Minimise incidents of illegal sales
- Minimise take undersize

**Risks**
- 1 = Take over Limit
- 2 = Fish Closed Seasons / Areas
- 3 = Take Protected / Non-Permitted Species
- 4 = Illegal Sales
- 5 = Take Undersize

**Strategies**
- 1 = Education & Awareness
- 2 = Deterrence
- 3 = Enforcement

**Coordination Team:**
- Central – Aaron Hanson (State Coordinator)
- Central – Brooke Stanley
- West – Chris Morrison
- Limestone Coast – Peter Henwood
- Policy Manager – Keith Rowling

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risks Addressed</th>
<th>Strategies</th>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Initiatives</th>
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<td>1 2 3 4 5 1 2 3</td>
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<td>x x x x</td>
<td>1 on 1 interactions</td>
<td>Have 1 on 1 interactions with LH’s, RM’s and Fish Processors throughout the season; ensure all remain clear on the rules and their obligations</td>
<td>SC, RC’s</td>
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<td>Established liaison &amp; contact with Industry</td>
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<td>Have regular contact with SARDI, Policy, Industry Representatives and Stakeholders</td>
<td>Ops Mgrs, SC, RC’s</td>
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<td>Induct new entrants</td>
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<td>Fishery Code of Conduct</td>
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<td>Ensure Charter Fishery Plan in line with Charter Code of Conduct</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Field based inspections</td>
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<td>Inspections at sea, landing, transit and at Fish Processor</td>
<td>Regions, SR</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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<td>Media</td>
<td>Utilise media to update on successful prosecution outcomes</td>
<td>Ops Mgrs, SC, PIRSA Comms</td>
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<td>Regulatory review and revision</td>
<td>Contribute to amendment of legislation and policy where appropriate</td>
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<td>Intelligence</td>
<td>Collate and analyse information received through FISHWATCH and Stakeholders</td>
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<td>Intelligence driven operations</td>
<td>Develop investigations and carry out targeted operations in line with the Serious Offence Plan</td>
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<td>Address non-compliance</td>
<td>Investigate instances of non-compliance</td>
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<td>Brief Quality Assurance</td>
<td>Briefs of evidence meet evidentiary requirements and are vetted to ensure quality assurance</td>
<td>Ops Mgrs, PSC</td>
<td>As required</td>
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