

# PIRSA

## **Cost Recovery Implementation Statement for the Land Based Sector**

1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021



# Cost Recovery Implementation Statement

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# Contents

Introduction .....	5
Purpose of the Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS) .....	5
Description of the Activity .....	5
Outcomes of Cost Recovery Review, 2018 .....	6
Summary Table.....	7
Resource Planning.....	8
Program Summary.....	8
Objectives .....	8
Activities .....	8
Outputs/Outcomes .....	9
Aquaculture Leasing and Licensing .....	10
Program Summary.....	10
Objectives .....	10
Activities .....	10
Outputs/Outcomes .....	14
Legislation.....	15
Program Summary.....	15
Objectives .....	15
Activities .....	15
Outputs/Outcomes .....	16
Compliance Operations.....	17
Program Summary.....	17
Objectives .....	17
Activities .....	17
Outputs/Outcomes .....	18
Aquaculture Systems .....	19
Program Summary.....	19

Objectives .....	19
Activities .....	19
Outputs/Outcomes .....	20
<b>Aquatic Animal Health.....</b>	<b>21</b>
Program Summary.....	21
Objectives .....	21
Activities .....	21
Outputs/Outcomes .....	25
<b>Environmental Monitoring and Management.....</b>	<b>27</b>
Program Summary.....	27
Objectives .....	27
Activities .....	27
Outputs/Outcomes .....	29
<b>Program Management and Administration.....</b>	<b>31</b>
Program Summary.....	31
Objectives .....	31
Activities .....	31
Outputs/Outcomes .....	33
<b>Other Aquaculture Activities.....</b>	<b>35</b>
Program Summary.....	35
Objectives .....	35
Activities .....	35
Outputs/Outcomes .....	35

# Introduction

## Purpose of the Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS)

This Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS) provides information on how PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture Division implements cost recovery activities associated with the ecologically sustainable development (ESD) of the South Australian aquaculture industry- Land-Based Sector.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA) has a number of Divisions that provide cost recovered services to primary industries. The Divisions include Fisheries and Aquaculture, Agriculture, Food and Wine, Rural Solutions SA and the South Australian Research and Development Institute.

PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture's Cost Recovery Policy considers the Commonwealth Department of Finance and Administration's '*Australian Government Cost Recovery Guidelines report*' (2014), in addition to the Productivity Commission's '*Cost recovery by government agencies: inquiry report*' (2001), to ensure consistency with National Guidelines.

## Description of the Activity

PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture's core business is the ecologically sustainable development (ESD) of the South Australian aquaculture industry, through the administration of the *Aquaculture Act 2001* (the Act). Key activities include the development, implementation and review of legislative and policy frameworks for the South Australian aquaculture industry. Although the management of aquaculture activities in South Australia is undertaken predominantly through implementation of the Act, there are a number of other related State, national and international legislative instruments and policy initiatives that also apply to the activities undertaken by PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture, which have been explained throughout this document.

The costs of managing aquaculture activities in South Australia are partially recovered from industry. The PIRSA Cost Recovery Policy determines that 'Cost Recovery' broadly encompasses fees and charges related to the provision of government goods and services, which includes regulatory and information services. As part of the four-yearly cost recovery process, PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture consults with various industry sectors prior to the commencement of the program to establish the costs associated with regulating the industry according to the Act. Additional consultation is held with sectors where any significant changes to the programs occur.

Activities of PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture are grouped into the following nine key programs.

1. Resource Planning.
2. Aquaculture Leasing and Licensing.
3. Legislation.
4. Compliance.
5. Aquaculture Systems.
6. Aquatic Animal Health.
7. Environmental Monitoring and Management.
8. Program Management and Administration.
9. Other Aquaculture Activities.

These key programs ensure consistent development and management of each sector of the aquaculture industry.

This document describes the programs, activities and associated costs required to develop and manage the land-based sector. The costs of PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture associated with administering land-based related activities are described in this document using an activity-based-costing approach.

## Outcomes of Cost Recovery Review, 2018

In 2018 the Government made an election commitment to initiate an independent review of the cost recovery policy of PIRSA as applied to the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. An independent consultant was engaged to undertake the review and consulted with all fisheries and aquaculture sector representatives and representatives from PIRSA. The final report, with 11 recommendations, was provided to PIRSA in November 2018; all recommendations were accepted by Government.

The report, in addition to the recommendations, noted that PIRSA's management of both the fisheries and aquaculture sectors had significantly improved since 2015; specifically in terms of increasing transparency and accountability as well as taking significant strides to reduce administrative burden, through the use of longer term cost recovery agreements between PIRSA and individual industry sectors. Implementation of the 11 recommendations from the independent review will further enhance efficiency and transparency of PIRSA cost recovery approach to the Fisheries and Aquaculture sectors. Information relating to the Government response to the recommendations can be found at [https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/aquaculture/leasing\\_and\\_licensing/pirsa\\_services\\_aquaculture](https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/aquaculture/leasing_and_licensing/pirsa_services_aquaculture).

For example, consistent with Principle 7 of the PIRSA Cost Recovery Policy, an annual schedule of meetings for stakeholder engagement and support for the cost recovery process in relation to aquaculture was determined. The following is an example of an annual engagement and communication schedule for aquaculture.

Annual schedule of meetings		
Date	Activity	Parties
Sept/Oct	Review long-term objectives for aquaculture and update if necessary. Identify priority outcomes for upcoming financial year.	PIRSA and industry representatives
October	Develop policy, research and compliance work programs in readiness for discussions in November.	PIRSA
November	Discuss proposed programs with relevant industry associations and reach agreement on programs for the upcoming period. Industry associations to consult with wider industry.	PIRSA and industry representatives
February	Formal meetings with industry representatives to finalise work programs and summarise costs.	PIRSA and industry representatives
March	Submit proposed licence fees to Minister. Prepare Cabinet Submission to vary regulations to prescribe lease and licence fees for the next financial year.	PIRSA and government agencies
June/July	Invoices sent for annual lease and licence fees.	PIRSA

\* Dates above are indicative only and may vary due to unforeseen circumstances that may arise throughout any year.

\*\* If a four-year agreement has been adopted, the Cost Recovery Implementation Agreement (CRIA) will determine that an annual meeting will occur to enable annual stakeholder engagement.

## Summary Table

2019-20 (\$)	Activity	2020-21 (\$)
0	Resource Management and Planning*	0
22,711	Program Management and Administration*	23,279
18,858	Aquaculture Leasing and Licensing*	19,329
2,995	Legislation*	3,070
23,954	Compliance*	24,552
28,134	Aquaculture Systems*	28,838
13,515	Aquatic Animal Health*	13,853
36,774	Environment and Resource Management*	37,693
3,115	Other Activities*	3,193
<b>150,057</b>	<b>Total **</b>	<b>153,808</b>

\* The indexation rate of 2.5% has been applied to the 2020/21 program costs, which is consistent with Department of Treasury and Finance's forward estimates for the annual fees and charges indexation rate.

\*\* Please note all dollar values have been rounded to the nearest dollar figure.

	2019-20	2020-21
Land-based Category A	569	729
Land-based Category B	1,189	1,874
Land-based Category C	2,852	2,923
Land-based Category D	5,692	7,779

# Resource Planning

## Program Summary

This program covers input to the development of State and national legislative and policy initiatives which have the potential to impact land-based aquaculture.

Ensure that the interests of land-based aquaculture operators are represented in broader policy and planning frameworks.

## Objectives

To provide certainty to aquaculture operators and other key stakeholders through ensuring land-based aquaculture operators are represented in broader policy and planning frameworks.

## Activities

The main activity of the Resource Planning Program in relation to land-based aquaculture is in the input and review of a range of State and Commonwealth Government planning initiatives, to ensure aquaculture development objectives and aspirations are adequately taken into account and factored in to broader policy development, as well as the development of internal policies/guidelines that facilitate the regulation of the land-based sector. This includes input into such initiatives as NRM Plans, development plan amendments, water allocation plans, regional land use frameworks, and review of legislation with the potential to impact land-based aquaculture.

### **1. Strategic Resource Planning and Management (Part 4; Sections 10 – 14 of the Act)**

Strategic planning and management to meet the requirements of South Australia's expanding aquaculture industry includes a number of policy related activities prescribed by the Act. These include:

- The development of internal policies/guidelines that flow from amendments to the Act and Regulations, e.g. Renewal guidelines.
- Finalisation and implementation of the Standard Lease and Licence Conditions Policy across all aquaculture sectors, following its development in 2019/20.

### **2. Provide Input to, and alignment with, Broader State and National Policy Development Activities and Planning Frameworks that Impact on South Australian Aquaculture (Sections 8 & 9 of the Act)**

PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture provides input to a range of State and Commonwealth Government initiatives, to ensure aquaculture development objectives and aspirations are adequately taken into account and factored in to broader conservation policy development. As part of this activity, PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture regularly engages with the South Australian Department of Environment and Water (DEW), the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) and South Australian Natural Resource Management Boards

PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture will participate in the reform of the Natural Resource Management in South Australia, including implementation of the Landscape South Australia Bill which was introduced into



Parliament on 20 March 2019. This will include input into subsequent regulations and regional plans that will be required to be reviewed for consistency to the new legislative requirements and as they relate to aquaculture development.

PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture will continue to participate in development plan amendments as they are reviewed under the *Development Act 1993* until such time that the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* is implemented. Planning tools, and policies are considered to ensure adequate representation of aquaculture development and that aquaculture zones are included in appropriate development plans under the *Development Act 1993*.

PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture will participate in the implementation of *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* as it relates to aquaculture developments. This new Act introduces a raft of new planning tools and an online ePlanning system that is in the process of being implemented in 2019/20, which is the biggest modernisation of planning legislation in 20 years. PIRSA will continue to ensure that the new planning framework does not add further non-legislated restrictions to aquaculture development in the State for both marine based and land-based aquaculture. PIRSA is also determining referrals for development activities that may conversely impact on the aquaculture industry (i.e. dredging activities and spoil placement, development of coastal environments for wastewater outlet pipes etc.).

PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture participates in consultation on major developments that could impact on the aquaculture industry (e.g. mining infrastructure, port developments).

PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture ensures aquaculture planning frameworks adhere to and are consistent with South Australian and national development framework agreements, including:

- a. National legislation and policy frameworks, principally: the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)*, *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*, *Fisheries Management Act 1991(Cth)*, *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976 (Cth)*, and the *National ESD Reporting Framework: The 'How to' Guide for Aquaculture (2004)*.
- b. State legislation and policy frameworks including: *Environment Protection Act 1993*, *Coast Protection Act 1972*, *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, *Fisheries Management Act 2007*, *Livestock Act 1997*, *Crown Land Management Act 2009*, *Heritage Places Act 1993*, *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1981*, *Wilderness Protection Act 1992*, *Harbors and Navigation Act 1993*, *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988*, *Marine Parks Act 2007*, *Native Vegetation Act 1991*, *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 2002 and Regulations 2004*, *Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2015*.

## Outputs/Outcomes

### Activity 1 Strategic Resource Planning and Management

- Internal policies and guidelines that flow from the amendments to the Act and Regulations are developed; such as a Standard Lease and Licence Conditions Policy and Renewal guidelines.

### Activity 2 Provide Input to, and alignment with, Broader State and National Policy Development Activities and Planning Frameworks that Impact on South Australian Aquaculture

- Ongoing input to broader State and national policy, legislative and planning frameworks that influence and impact land-based aquaculture development processes.

- Input into national management arrangements for ornamental fish and the translocation of live aquatic resources
- Ongoing liaison and consultation with relevant government departments, industry stakeholders and prescribed bodies in relation to other Agencies' policy development.

## Aquaculture Leasing and Licensing

### Program Summary

Aquaculture Leasing and Licensing provides a range of core services related to the processing and management of aquaculture licences. For example, the program assesses, grants, monitors and varies, new and existing licences in accordance with the Act, with evidence-based consideration of factors relating to social, environmental and economic sustainability. Functions of these services include case management, referrals to other agencies, ESD assessments on applications, new licence applications, and renewals or variations to existing licences.

### Objectives

To maintain and administer a licensing framework that enables management of aquaculture activities in accordance with the Act.

### Activities

#### 1. Management of licences (Pursuant to the Act and Regulations)

PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture manages a number of core administrative processes and procedures that provide the basis of leasing and licensing services for the aquaculture industry. The core processes are detailed below.

##### *Case management*

- The Case Management process is used by PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture to manage individual licence transactions to reduce complexity for the customer and provide a single point of entry for industry when developing or changing aquaculture operations. Individual transactions go through several steps for each type of application, relating to notifications, approvals, assessments and administrative steps. Case Managers ensure that each step is achieved and that the given transaction is finalised in an accurate and timely manner, including referrals and follow up with external government agencies. Case Management simplifies the government approvals process for aquaculture development and therefore supports red-tape reduction and customer service objectives.
- PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture has a working framework to ensure regulatory responsibilities for ESD under the Act are met during lease and licence assessment processes through the application of ESD Risk Assessment Guidelines, which align with national best practice frameworks.

### *Sector specific and general problem solving*

- PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture work together with industry and other government departments to solve specific issues related to new developments and changes to existing licence sites to ensure that community values are upheld, and to ensure all other relevant government legislation is adhered to, such as the *Environment Protection Act 1993*. Generally, the Case Manager will work closely with applicants to ensure their proposals align with these interests and requirements as the application progresses through each step.
- PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture receive requests from licence holders for variations of licence conditions. Case Manager processes requests using a pragmatic approach, based on the implications and timeliness of the question or issue to be considered.
- PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture receive requests from licence holders for consideration of financial alleviation due to experiencing cases of hardship. This may result in a waiver of application or on-going fees under the Act. Functions of this activity include internal and external correspondence, collation of financial data, pursuing independent third party advice or reports.
- PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture, in conjunction with Fisheries Officers conduct site visits to understand and address site specific matters or environmental and licensing issues.

### *Licence appeals and public submissions*

- PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture administers a legally compliant appeals procedure in accordance with Part 9 of the Act. This process provides unsuccessful applicants with the right to appeal against decisions. Case Managers actively work to establish an acceptable outcome among all parties rather than work towards not granting a licence or licence variation application.
- Pursuant to section 50 of the Act submissions made by external stakeholders or the public as a result of the public notification of the proposed grant of a licence also require adequate consideration and response from PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture. Upon receiving a submission, PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture must consider and respond to all submissions as part of the application process. This information becomes critical in the ESD assessment conducted for each application. PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture ensures that this process is handled in an efficient manner so as not to unduly hold up the issuing of a licence.

### *Manage audit programs*

- PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture has developed procedures to ensure accuracy of data on licences and therefore the quality management of registrations by Case Managers. Such procedures are continuously improved to ensure licence conditions remain applicable where there are changes to policy, legislation or technical information.
- PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture provides a process for the payment of licence fees through instalments and implements a debt recovery process for following up instalment fee payments on licences. This includes composing and sending notices for payment. Legal action is investigated and taken where appropriate (e.g. civil action), and the application of 10% penalty for failure to pay an annual fees.
- PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture periodically reviews application forms and processes as well as ESD templates with relevant external agencies to ensure the correct information is collected and to increase efficiency in application assessments. PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture maintain internal licence audit functions, including auditing procedures (flowcharts, checklists and manuals) and performance criteria relating to licences.

- PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture provides a process for the payment of licence fees through instalments and implements a debt recovery process for following up instalment fee payments on leases and licences, including the potential application of 10% penalty for failure to pay annual fees. This may include preparation and sending of notices for payment. Legal action is investigated and taken where appropriate (e.g. civil action).

#### *Manage relationships with internal and external stakeholders*

- PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture manages a formal referral process with other government agencies, as required under the Act.
- PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture is often required to produce reports on state government and national levels which include data relating to licences. Functions of reporting include use of information databases, collection and collation of data. Examples include reporting of licence data in the annual South Australian Aquaculture Report (produced by PIRSA), and provision of data to ABARES, the National Native Title Tribunal and BDO Advisory Pty Ltd. Note that any data are provided under the provision of section 89A of the Act (relating to Confidentiality) which only allows for information to be provided to other agencies with the permission of the licence holder, if the individual is not able to be identified or if the information is required by an agency for the purposes of the proper performance of its functions.

#### *Industry liaison (customer service)*

- Management of calls from licence holders regarding invoices, late payments, fees and general enquiries.
- PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture staff are encouraged to visit licensed aquaculture sites to understand operational constraints, the use of particular farming structures and engage with industry participants to ensure a relevant understanding of current practices and trends within the sectors of the SA aquaculture industry. This also improves communication channels between PIRSA staff and industry.

#### *Production returns*

- Production returns are collected, collated and analysed for each aquaculture business, to enable adequate reporting of state and national economic information. Production returns that are not returned within set timeframes established under the Act or are deficient, are followed up in a timely manner by PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture to ensure adequate and accurate information can be used to inform decision-making, policy development, regulation and licence conditions.

## **2. Processing of licence applications (Fee for Service<sup>1</sup>) (Pursuant to the Act and Regulations)**

#### *New licence applications*

- Provision of support to licence holders in regard to completion of required forms and application information, in regard to administrative requirements.
- Ensure the development of the terms and conditions of licences address the interests of aquaculture operators, the environment and the broader community, in addition to adhering to the objects of the Act and other relevant legislation.

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<sup>1</sup> Fee for Service activity refers to work undertaken by PIRSA to process applications submitted by individuals and companies relating specifically to their own site/s. It does not include activities that are relevant to the whole industry sector.

- Provision of support to licence holders in regard to the submission of required forms to relevant local government councils.

#### *Licence renewal*

- PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture coordinates a renewal procedure for aquaculture licences. The procedure ensures that the Case Manager identifies if there are any legislative or technical requirements associated with an aquaculture activity that need to be addressed on the licence.
- PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture also reviews adherence to performance criteria and regulatory requirements and the renewal period based on performance against these requirements. This includes provision of correspondence, resolving delinquent fees, historical submission of returns and adherence to regulatory requirements.

#### *Licence variation and substitution*

- PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture is to ensure that there is sufficient provision of information provided to licence holders to enable the variation of existing licences contemplated under the Act to occur. This includes the provision of application forms that collect suitable information for assessment of risks and the establishment of associated fees. Variations include:
  - a. New species addition.
  - b. Change of species type or production system.
  - c. Transfer of a licence.
  - d. Surrender of a site.
  - e. Change to specified or nominated person.

#### *Licence ESD Assessment and Agency Referrals*

- PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture assess licence applications in a manner that ensures regulatory responsibilities for ESD under the Act are maintained.
- Referrals that are sent to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) for approval, as legislated under the Act, contain accurate and adequate information to enable EPA staff to make a timely assessment of applications.
- Ensure accurate and adequate information is detailed in ESD assessment reports to enable compliance with other government agency policies and legislation and as part of the ESD, and ensure the concerns of key industry members, relevant government agency staff and interested stakeholders, including the community from public notification are addressed.
- Ensure information provided to the Department of Environment and Water (DEW) is accurate and adequate for DEW staff to make a timely assessment of aquaculture licence applications in light of the requirements of the *Coast Protection Act 1972*, *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, *Crown Land Management Act 2009*, *Heritage Places Act 1993* and *Wilderness Protection Act 1992*.
- Ensure ESDs are assessed for any aquatic biosecurity risks including threats to established industry and wild stocks of aquatic animals (refer Program 7: Environmental Monitoring and Management for ESD assessment development and Program 2: Aquaculture Leasing and Licensing for ESD implementation).

### *Spatial Assessment of Sites*

- Ensure accurate coordinates of new site locations are not in conflict with Conservation Parks, National Parks and Reserve buffers, proximity to other aquaculture activities, thereby addressing concerns from agencies, industry and the public. The spatial data also updates the Aquaculture Public Register with both application and current site locations.
- Ensure the spatial assessment of proposed sites in a timely manner for efficient processing of applications.

## **Outputs/Outcomes**

### **Activity 1 - Management of licences**

- Maintenance of the eBusiness environment, systems and procedures to support day to day administration of licensing activities, including industry consultation and liaison and reviewing licence application forms and processes and ESD templates to increase efficiency in application assessments.
- Ongoing liaison with relevant government (e.g. Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI), Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Attorney-General's Department – Native Title) and non-government agencies (industry peak bodies).
- Maintain efficient working arrangements between PIRSA and EPA, including progress of strategic activities through workshops and meetings that will increase efficiency and reduce red tape (e.g. site assessment requirements).
- Implementation of Broodstock and Seedstock Collection Permit regulations and process permit applications.
- Maintenance of internal licence audit functions, including auditing procedures (flowcharts, checklists and manuals) and performance criteria relating to leases and licences.
- Adherence to internal policies, guidelines and processes relating to application Case management administration.
- Implement revised licence categories for land-based aquaculture and ensure all current licences are appropriately categorised based on the risk posed by their operations.
- Process annual production returns. Follow-up unreturned Production returns to ensure licence holders meet their obligations under the regulations.
- Generate annual invoices, collect associated fees and payments, follow up unpaid invoices and monitor payment plans where requested.
- Process requests from lease and licence holders who make such inquiries over the counter, through the call centre, via facsimile or e-mail.

### **Activity 2 - Processing of licence applications**

- Assessment of licence applications in an accurate and timely manner.

- Issuing and processing of invoices relating to licence applications.
- Ongoing liaison with applicant/licence holder.
- Endorsement of outcomes of application assessment by Senior Management Team.
- Production of internal risk assessment documents specific to each application.
- Referrals and liaison with other government and non-government agencies as required (e.g. EPA, DPTI, AGD, Industry).
- Respond to public submissions specific to applications.
- Adherence to internal policies, guidelines and processes relating to application Case Management administration.

## Legislation

### Program Summary

The administration of the Act is a core function of PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture. The stand-alone Act is unique to South Australia and provides evidence of the importance of aquaculture to the State. To support this industry, planning and management arrangements under this legislation should be regularly reviewed for relevance and coverage. Where gaps exist, it is PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture's role to assist in the development of appropriate legislation in consultation with industry and to ensure the legal framework allows for effective decision-making for industry and for government. This program facilitates the translation of policy decisions into legislation, where necessary, and ensures that policies, procedures and guidelines are developed to facilitate the operation of regulations.

### Objectives

To ensure the Act is administered legally, effectively, transparently and consistently and remain up to date and relevant to manage industry practices.

### Activities

#### 1. Administration of the Act and Aquaculture Regulations 2016 (sections 7 and 9 of the Act)

Administrative decision-making under the Act is both within jurisdiction, under appropriate delegation and made on the basis of due consideration of relevant information. Appropriate delegations must be in force. Example decisions (not a complete list - referral of draft policy to the ERD Committee; determining the manner and form of application forms; waiver of fees; cancellation of licences; causing action to be taken by licence holder; notifications and requiring information for the determination of applications under the Aquaculture Regulations 2006 (Regulations).)

Ongoing implementation of requirements of the Act and *Aquaculture Regulations 2016* (legislative compliance) to: continue to streamline regulatory requirements for the industry by rationalising the regulatory rules imposed on aquaculture lease and licence holders; and continue to improve the delivery of the objectives of the Act, including 1) the promotion of ecologically sustainable development or marine

and inland aquaculture, 2) maximising the benefits to the community from the state's aquaculture resources, and 3) ensuring the efficient and effective regulation of the aquaculture industry.

## **2. Legal Services and legislative interpretation (sections 7 and 9 of the Act)**

PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture provide strategic legal services are provided for day to day administration of the Act and Regulations. Formal advice as to the Interpretation of the provisions of the Act, as amended, and associated Acts, Regulations and policies is sought from either Parliamentary Counsel or the Crown Solicitor's Office (CSO), where required, before some decisions are made and proposed actions are taken.

Key internal processes, documents, instruments and correspondence are reviewed for consistency with Act and Regulations.

Finalisation of the Standard Lease and Licence Conditions Policy across all aquaculture sectors, following its development in 2019/20.

The coordination of advice and the preparation of contractual documentation for commercial and property transactions undertaken by PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture through the Crown Solicitor's Office is required to ensure compliance with legal and PIRSA policy responsibilities relating to contract law.

Input into applications made under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI).

## **Outputs/Outcomes**

### **Activity 1 Administration of the Act and *Aquaculture Regulations 2016***

- Implementation of informed and legally valid administrative decisions consistent with the Act to promote efficient and transparent government administration and industry development.
- Referral to and liaison with Parliamentary committees and gazettal process for aquaculture policies.
- Internal strategic, Crown and Parliamentary Counsel legal input into new internal policies, procedures, documents, instruments and decisions under the Act as amended.
- Ongoing implementation of the requirements of the Act and *Aquaculture Regulations 2016*.
- Working with Parliamentary Counsel and CSO to effect policy requirements.

### **Activity 2 Legal Services and legislative interpretation**

- Interpretation of the Act and Regulations.
- Interaction of the Act with requirements of other legislation (e.g. *Fisheries Management Act 2007*, *Native Title Act 1993*, *Marine Parks Act 2007*, *Environment Protection Act 1993*, *Livestock Act 1997*, *Development Act 1993*).



# Compliance Operations

## Program Summary

Compliance of the activities conducted on aquaculture sites with required legislative frameworks includes provision of due notice, monitoring and compliance activities by PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture staff and other related SA government agencies to ensure lease and licence holders comply with the Act, associated Acts, Regulations, policies and specific lease and licence conditions pertaining to their operations.

## Objectives

To maximise voluntary compliance through education and awareness programs and creating an effective deterrence through strategic monitoring and enforcement programs.

## Activities

### 1. **Operational planning and implementation (Section 82 of the Act; Regulations 11, 12, 19)**

Communication and monitoring activities are undertaken by PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture and related SA government agencies to ensure compliance by aquaculture licence holders with legislation (Act, other Acts, Regulations and policies) and conditions of licences.

Procedures and processes required for response to notifiable events (e.g. high mortalities) in an efficient and timely manner are developed and implemented by all agencies concerned.

Work is undertaken to strategically plan for compliance inspections to enable targeted inspection of high risk activities, in order to increase the overall efficiency of the compliance process.

### 2. **Site Surveillance (Section 82 of the Act)**

Site surveillance inspections are undertaken by PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture pursuant to ensure licence holders comply with the Act, associated Acts, Regulations, policies and specific licence conditions or to investigate complaints from the public. Surveillance activities include:

- Site inspections undertaken by Fisheries Officers and the Aquaculture Environment Program.
- Reports made to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture subsequent to compliance inspections outline any compliance issues with a site and include photographs, site descriptions and location.
- PIRSA officers respond to various reactive compliance issues that arise from complaints by members of the public or other government agencies, from issues observed during environmental monitoring programs or from aquaculture licence holders, in regard to operational infrastructure, inappropriate discharge of water, aquaculture stock, escape events and possible disease outbreaks.
- Follow up inspections are required for sites that have identified or known compliance issues. These inspections are carried out within a reasonable timeframe. Fisheries Officers respond to various reactive compliance issues that arise from complaints by members of the public, or from

aquaculture licence holders, in regard to operational infrastructure, aquaculture stock, escape events and possible disease outbreaks.

- PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture work with licence holders for failure to submit Environment Monitoring Program reports.

### **3. Aquaculture Compliance Liaison (Section 9 of the Act)**

PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy Staff liaise with the Fisheries Officers to assist with annual compliance planning activities, to provide information on conditions relating to individual licence holders and existing aquaculture legislation and policy, to assist compliance field operations, investigations and other compliance activities. Policy staff also provide technical input to environmental compliance and the nature of aquaculture development and operation when concerning compliance related issues.

Policy staff also assist with collation of compliance data after the inspection process and supply lines of evidence regarding compliance outcomes if and when required.

## **Outputs/Outcomes**

### **All Activities**

- Maximise compliance with the Act, regulations and licence conditions through education, deterrence and site inspections.
- Conduct appropriate investigations of reported and potential disease, or fish kills.
- Planning and revision of compliance program for land-based sites. This includes:
  - Designing of compliance inspection data sheets, assessment of the type of data that is required from compliance inspections, designing handouts and information sheets for land-based audits and inspections to educate licensees about their legislative requirements i.e. chemical use, reporting escapes of stock and stock register.
  - Planning of vehicles, personnel, accommodation etc. to undertake compliance inspections, and provision of technical input regarding environmental compliance and development and operation of aquaculture sites.
- Specific land-based audits can be carried out which target one area of compliance such as chemical use/antibiotic residue.
- Follow up audits may result from this to re-visit compliance with legislation.

# Aquaculture Systems

## Program Summary

Aquaculture Systems comprise of a range of key computer-based and manually-operated tools to ensure that PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture operates in an efficient and effective manner. Activities under Aquaculture Systems include ensuring up to date IT systems are in place and are effective, such as the Primary Industries Information Management System, Public Register and ArcGIS mapping software.

## Objectives

To develop, maintain and review systems to support management and administration of the aquaculture industry, in accordance with the Act.

## Activities

### 1. IT Systems management (Section 7, 9, 80 and 83 of the Act)

Successful delivery of services to the aquaculture industry is dependent upon the effective maintenance and management of IT systems. These include:

- State-wide Primary Industry Information Management System (PIIMS) database - PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture uses PIIMS to manage licence holder information to ensure that accurate records are kept on all legal parties involved in aquaculture in South Australia, where the activities are occurring, the correct allocation of licence conditions for each registration and for the management of transactions by Case Managers. PIIMS is required to create legal licence instruments and to supply selected information held on the database to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture's online Public Register (AgInsight).
- Public register – Maintaining a public register is a mandatory requirement under section 80 of the Act. PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture's Public Register online application (AgInsight) has been developed using Spatial Software tools that will provide a visual, interactive and printable display of aquaculture licence sites and conditions (maintained in PIIMS).
- ArcGIS mapping software and layers – is used to spatially map all sites, to ensure these meet the requirements of various parameters including Conservation Parks, National Parks, Reserves, and areas of National and environmental significance (e.g. Wetlands, water protection area of the River Murray). The spatial information is used to address concerns of other government agencies, industry members or public resource users. PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture engages with PIRSA Spatial Information Services to ensure that the spatial data collected and used to regulate aquaculture licence information is up-to-date and operates with current software. The spatial data also updates the Aquaculture Public Register with both application and current site locations.
- Review, troubleshooting and ongoing maintenance of the on-line reporting system for electronic lodgement of annual EMP and production return reports (myPIRSA) by licence holders.
- Microsoft Access and Excel Databases – Information supplied to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture from aquaculture licence holders for Environmental Monitoring Program reporting and production return information is managed through the use of Microsoft Access and Excel Databases. Production return data is analysed and summarised into a standard format to identify production of

aquaculture products for the various aquaculture sectors in SA (for economic analysis). Environmental Monitoring Program reports also need to be summarised and published on the public register (section 80).

- PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture utilises all available PIRSA systems and internal processes such as the Objective filing system, records management processes, email, intranet and website systems.
- Reporting from these databases are also required for external agencies on state government and national levels, so that trends in aquaculture development and management can be quantified.
- Time is also spent liaising with PIRSA spatial and IT staff to rectify issues that may arise with databases, this also includes updates to systems and testing required when updates or upgrades are installed.

## Outputs/Outcomes

### Activity 1 IT Systems management

- Accurate and efficient systems are maintained and enhanced to provide for effective and efficient management and administration of the aquaculture industry, in accordance with the Act.
- Provide for public transparency of use of the States aquaculture resources (e.g. Public Register is available on the PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture website for all stakeholders, including the aquaculture industry, relevant government Agencies and general public).
- To safeguard licence holder details by adhering to broader government guidelines (e.g. records management requirements for public service document standards and freedom of information requests).
- Included in the management of the PIIMS database is assessing reporting functionalities, liaison with the PIRSA IT group, testing updates to the database, reporting of functional issues and troubleshooting with system users.
- Included in the management of the Public Register system is rollout of updates, reporting of functional issues to the PIRSA IT group, testing when updates occur and troubleshooting with system users both internally and externally.
- Included in the management of ArcGIS is the rollout of update software, appropriate training for use of the program, recognition, requests and testing for software fixes, liaison with the PIRSA spatial group, reporting spatial information and troubleshooting with system users.
- Management of the Microsoft Access Database includes alignment of databases annually to reflect data requirements of Environmental Monitoring Reports.
- Management of records management systems (e.g. Objective) may include testing of various functionalities, liaison with the PIRSA IT group and requests for further updates to systems and software.
- Ongoing maintenance and troubleshooting of the electronic lodgement system (my PIRSA) for environmental monitoring program and production return data.

# Aquatic Animal Health

## Program Summary

The Aquatic Animal Health program provides a range of services relating to the prevention, preparedness, and response to aquatic disease. The program is underpinned by science and risk-based management. In addition the program provides input to and alignment with broader state and national biosecurity policy.

## Objectives

To maintain the integrity of SA's aquatic biosecurity through prevention, preparedness and response strategies, the use of risk based assessments and surveillance that aim to identify and manage the disease risks to industry and the aquatic environment associated with aquaculture stocks.

## Activities

### 1. Management of aquatic animal health risks and emergency response (Pursuant to the Act and the *Aquaculture Regulations 2016*)

#### *Monitoring of aquatic animal health/biosecurity risks*

- PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture's aquatic animal health programs address the potential risk and occurrence of aquatic animal pathogens and diseases in relation to aquaculture stocks that are important focus for the aquaculture industry, its productivity and other users of SA State waters.
- Provide technical advice to industry on how to implement national Aquaculture Farm Biosecurity Plan guidelines: <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/fisheries/aquaculture/farm-biosecurity-plan>. Farm biosecurity provides the measures to minimise the risk and impact of disease.
- Assessment and management of biosecurity risks include particular attention to significant and notifiable diseases of finfish, crustaceans and molluscs. These include (but not limited to): epizootic haematopoietic necrosis (EHN), epizootic ulcerative syndrome (*Aphanomyces invaderis*) (EUS), viral encephalopathy and retinopathy (VER), iridovirus diseases, enteric septicaemia of catfish (*Edwardsiella ictaluri*), bacterial kidney disease (*Renibacterium salmoninarum*), viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS), abalone viral ganglioneuritis (AVG), Infection with abalone herpes-like virus, Perkinsosis (*Perkinsus olseni* and other *Perkinsus spp*), gill associated virus (GAV), infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis virus (IHHNV), Crayfish plague (*Aphanomyces astaci*), Ostreid herpesvirus (OsHV-1).

#### *Disease surveillance*

- Maintenance of a passive surveillance capacity to comply with Commonwealth disease reporting requirements. Information from surveillance allows PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture to determine what is occurring within a sector, what disease issues are of concern and allows identification of emerging disease issues.
- Coordinate active surveillance programs as determined or required by the Commonwealth.
- Provide advice to licence holders on industry based active surveillance programs.

#### *Site inspections and investigations*

- PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture staff monitor and investigate breaches of the aquaculture stock translocation requirements under the *Livestock Act 1997* and inappropriate use of chemicals in accordance chemical use approvals issued under the *Aquaculture Regulations 2016*. Provide assistance to Biosecurity SA or the Commonwealth with regard to breaches of Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicine Authority (APVMA) permitted or registered chemicals. Investigation of breaches includes taking evidence and undertaking a site visit in conjunction with PIRSA Biosecurity Officers to determine the nature of the breach. Investigations may result in legal action or education of licence holders.
- PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture staff investigate unusual mortalities and suspected disease as per the reporting requirements under the *Aquaculture Regulations 2016*. Investigations may include site visits to obtain information from the farmer, inspection of the stock register and the taking of samples for laboratory diagnosis. Investigations may result in assistance to the licence holder, administrative or legal action and education of licence holders. If an investigation results in the detection of an infectious or notifiable disease, then this may initiate an emergency response led by Biosecurity SA.

#### *Emergency response*

- PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture are responsible for the prevention and preparedness of aquatic animal disease incidents. This includes maintaining a capacity to deal with minor and major aquatic disease incidences reportable under the Regulations and the *Livestock Act 1997*. The management of emergency responses, once initiated if a significant biosecurity issue is identified from investigation, are not led by PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture but by Biosecurity SA. However, PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture would be closely involved during an emergency response.
- Assist Biosecurity SA in emergency response training as well as developing, reviewing and updating emergency response plans.

#### *Policy and Legislation*

- Develop, review and update aquatic animal health related policy and legislation as required.
- Implement the outcomes of the *Aquaculture Regulations 2016*.
- Review and update the *Livestock (Restriction on Entry of Aquaculture Stock) Notice 2014*, as required.

#### *Processing of translocation and chemical use applications*

##### *Translocation applications*

- Provision of support to licence holders in regard to translocation applications.
- Ensure new applications meet the requirements outlined in the *Livestock (Restrictions on Entry of Aquaculture Stock) Notice 2014* and PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture's internal procedures where applicable.
- Ensure the application and any conditions address the interests of aquaculture operators, the environment and the broader community, in addition to adhering to the objects of all relevant legislation.

- Ensure appropriate health certification and biosecurity protocols are provided where required and potential biosecurity risks are considered and evaluated (including State and National notifiable diseases), where necessary, in line with relevant risk assessments.
- Ensure required consultation with all applicable stakeholders (interstate authorities, State government agency staff including Biosecurity SA, aquaculture industry, commercial and recreational fisheries and general public) is undertaken in a timely and efficient manner to ensure the application assessment process can be undertaken efficiently.
- Provide background and advice to the Executive Director Fisheries and Aquaculture and Chief Veterinary Officer where required for Ministerial Approval.
- Follow up on conditions of approvals as required and collate information where required. Maintain all relevant information and data in a central database.

#### *Chemical use applications*

- Provision of support to licence holders in regard to chemical use applications.
- Ensure new applications meet the requirements outlined in the Regulations and PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture's internal procedures where applicable.
- Ensure the application and any conditions address the interests of aquaculture operators, the environment and the broader community, in addition to adhering to the objects of all relevant legislation.
- Ensure appropriate veterinarian prescription and biosecurity protocols are provided, where required, and assessment of the environmental risks are evaluated. Where necessary, a risk assessment may be required.
- Ensure required consultation with all applicable stakeholders (interstate authorities including the APVMA, State government agency staff including Biosecurity SA and the EPA, industry veterinarian, aquaculture industry, commercial and recreational fisheries and general public as required) is undertaken in a timely and efficient manner to ensure the application assessment process can be undertaken efficiently.
- Where required, undertake a literature search and collate background information including efficacy, environmental and ecotoxicology research.
- Provide background to the Executive Director Fisheries and Aquaculture where required for Ministerial Approval.
- Follow up on conditions of approvals as required and collate information where required. This includes environmental monitoring data and information. Maintain all relevant information and data in a central database.

## **2. Provide Input to and alignment with broader state and national biosecurity policy frameworks, legislation and other processes (Sections 7 and 9 of the Act)**

#### *Disease surveillance reporting*

- States and Territories are required to regularly report the presence or absence of notifiable and significant diseases in their jurisdictional zone to the Australian Government. As a member country of the OIE, Australia contributes to the international reporting of OIE listed diseases of aquatic

animals on a regular basis. Australia's active participation in the OIE aquatic animal disease reporting program provides historical evidence to substantiate Australia's claims of freedom from major diseases to support export certification and quarantine import policies.

#### *Representation on Committees dealing with aquatic animal health*

- Sub-Committee for Aquatic Animal Health (SCAAH) provides scientific and technical advice on aquatic animal health/biosecurity issues to Animal Health Committee. SCAAH members represent the Australian, State and Northern Territory governments and the CSIRO Australian Animal Health Laboratory. Other aquatic animal health experts from both government and non-government agencies including specialists from academia, industry and the private sector - may also be invited to participate.
- Aquatic Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Disease (Aquatic CCEAD) coordinates a national response to aquatic animal disease emergencies. This advisory committee is made up of the Australian Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO), representatives from the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service and Biosecurity Australia, the Chief Veterinary Officer (or the Director of the fisheries department) in each State and Territory government, and the head of the CSIRO Australian Animal Health Laboratory. Technical representatives from industry are also included. The Aquatic CCEAD helps to ensure that the most effective technical response is implemented. PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture provides advice to the South Australian CVO and sits on the Aquatic CCEAD as needed.
- Advice and input for all aquatic issues dealt with by the CVO when representing SA at the Australian Animal Health Committee. AHC provides scientific and technical advice on animal health issues to PISC via NBC. Comprising Australian state and territory and New Zealand Chief Veterinary Officers and representation from CSIRO, Biosecurity Australia and Animal Health Australia, AHC drives and manages high level strategic policy development, operational strategies and standards for government in animal health, domestic quarantine, animal welfare and veterinary public health. AHC members also meet regularly to discuss issues of national importance.
- PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture regularly participates in committees and working groups whose objectives have a direct link to the SA aquaculture industry. For example the Aquatic Emergency Animal Disease Response Arrangement working group (under Animal Health Committee) which is exploring cost sharing agreements between industry and government in the event of any aquatic emergency animal disease incident. Other working groups include: Translocation working groups, the Biosecurity Plan guideline working group and the Aquatic Veterinary Medicines working group.

#### *South Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program*

- Liaise with South Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program to ensure Food Safety Standards for shellfish are implemented and adhered to by industry.

#### *Representation to national regulators dealing with aquatic animal health*

- Advice and input for all aquatic animal health issues dealt with by state and federal authorities, including the APVMA when representing SA aquaculture industry sectors. PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture provides scientific and technical advice on animal health issues to underpin development of industry-wide scale chemical use.



## Outputs/Outcomes

### Activity 1 Management of aquatic animal health risks and emergency response

- Maintain the ability to deliver accurate and timely investigations for minor and major disease events (e.g. unexplained mortality event) and information to lease and licence holders to provide for appropriate response.
- Site visits conducted by PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture staff to investigate issues identified by lease and licence holders, government and local government agencies and general public or other stakeholders.
- Conduct appropriate investigations of reported shellfish or fish kills or suspected disease.
- Ensure the maintenance and accuracy of PIRSA's passive surveillance database.
- Assist with or coordinate active surveillance activities as required, for example in response to disease threats or requirements from the Commonwealth to support trade and market access. Examples include the AVG survey during 2010/2011, the 2019 national abalone disease surveillance program and the white spot disease surveillance in the prawn fishing industries. Where surveillance programs need to be developed and implemented, seek funding to undertake those activities (for example POMS surveillance in the oyster industry).
- Provide technical advice to industry on how to implement national Aquaculture Farm Biosecurity Plan guidelines. When sector or farm specific biosecurity guidelines are required to be developed or implemented, seek funding to undertake those activities (for example the development of national abalone and oyster hatchery biosecurity guidelines: <http://www.frdc.com.au/project?id=22>).
- Develop, review and update emergency disease response plans as required.
- Ongoing liaison with applicant/licence holder where technical advice is required.
- Ongoing liaison with relevant government [e.g. Interstate authorities (APVMA, government veterinarians), Biosecurity SA, Environment Protection Authority (EPA)] and non-government agencies (Industry peak bodies).
- Production of internal risk assessment documents specific to each application where required.
- Referrals and liaison with other government and non-government agencies as required (e.g. EPA, DPTI, AGD, DAC, Industry).
- Contribute to the implementation of the *Aquaculture Regulations 2016*.
- Review and update the *Livestock (Restriction on Entry of Aquaculture Stock) Notice 2014*, as required.
- Translocation and chemical use applications are processed.
- Investigate breaches of the aquaculture stock translocation requirements under the *Livestock Act 1997* and inappropriate use of chemicals in accordance chemical use approvals issued under the *Aquaculture Regulations 2016*.

- Provide assistance to Biosecurity SA or the Commonwealth with regard to breaches of Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicine Authority (APVMA) permitted or registered chemicals.

**Activity 2 Provide Input to and alignment with broader state and national biosecurity policy frameworks, legislation and other processes**

- Participation in biosecurity committees related to the land-based sector.
- Provide input to national policy developments to ensure alignment with South Australian considerations and priorities.
- Align South Australian legislation and disease response plans with national requirements.

# Environmental Monitoring and Management

## Program Summary

The Environmental Monitoring and Management programs are required for all licence holders to ensure that the environmental risks associated with the aquaculture industry can be adaptively managed, and the industry can operate in a sustainable manner. Information obtained as a result of environmental assessments and monitoring programs inform policy and planning decisions, and therefore must be derived from the best available information. If environmental issues arise, PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture are responsible for government response to such issues as the central point for the management of the aquaculture industry. This may include collaboration with external government departments, to ensure adherence to relevant environmental legislation.

## Objectives

To monitor and manage the environmental performance of the South Australian Aquaculture industry.

To ensure aquaculture policy, planning and assessment activities are informed by the best available scientific and environmental information.

To ensure risks to the aquaculture industry, posed by other uses of aquatic resources remain within acceptable limits.

To ensure that environmental issues are understood and responded to by the most efficient and effective means.

## Activities

### **1. Management of environmental monitoring programs (Regulations part 3; Regulations 28, 29 and 30 of the *Aquaculture Regulations 2016*)**

Ensure the sector specific EMPs are reviewed on a regular basis and are current to evolving industry practices and needs, actual and perceived environmental risks (i.e. industry, government agencies, general public etc.) and up to date technical information to ensure the ongoing sustainability of the SA aquaculture industry.

Ensure site specific EMP's are developed and regulated appropriately in the event that a sector specific EMP is not considered appropriate for a given activity or site.

Ensure EMP information is collected by licensees, contractors or PIRSA officers in a timely manner, as per formal EMP frameworks and regulatory arrangements.

Ensure analysis of EMP data is undertaken by PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture in a timely manner to determine compliance with licence conditions and the Act, its subordinate regulations, and other associated legislation and policies (refer Program 4: Compliance for taking action on noncompliance events identified). Conduct on-site audits that investigate adherence to licence conditions.

Ensure EMP data collected is used to inform relevant decision-making processes (e.g. policy development, licence renewal, regulation and licence conditions).

Ensure a public summary of EMP and other relevant information is collated by PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture for each sector within an appropriate timeframe and made publicly available to demonstrate ongoing awareness and compliance with ESD directed by the Act for aquaculture activities within SA. The South Australian Aquaculture report is produced annually and is available on the PIRSA website.

EMP reports that are not returned within set timeframes established under the Act or are deficient in information submitted are followed up in a timely manner to ensure complete set of data is maintained for each licence holder. Correspondence and decisions regarding penalty may be required to be carried out thereafter.

## **2. Response to Environmental issues (Sections 7 and 82A of the Act)**

PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture staff monitor and investigate potential breaches of the Act, *Aquaculture Regulations 2016* or other relevant environmental legislation, based on random and targeted inspections, information received by the public, other government agencies and other stakeholders (including recreational marine resource users), in an efficient and timely manner. PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture aim to work in collaboration with the industry to address and rectify any environmental issues as they arise. Subject to the circumstances of any reported non-compliance, PIRSA will apply the most appropriate measures such as education of licence holders, changes in licence conditions, direction to carry out work or further enforcement action if required.

## **3. Provide input to and alignment with State and National environmental policy, legislation and strategies (Section 7 of the Act)**

### *Broader Environment and Conservation Policy Initiatives*

- Ensure that representation of PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture activities and activities of the SA aquaculture industry within other government legislation, strategies and plans are reflective of each industry sector's actual environmental risk (not perceived environmental risk).
- PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture must also work with the SA aquaculture industry to ensure that technical inputs into other State legislation, strategies and plans are accurate and adequate.
- South Australia has particular natural advantages as a location for aquaculture operations and the SA aquaculture industry must be cognisant of these environmental factors to ensure there is stable and sustainable growth. It is therefore essential for PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture to provide a comprehensive legislative, regulatory and administrative framework to guarantee maximum access and use for industry while ensuring that the following sections of the Act (Section 4(1) a to c) are addressed through the regulation and activities of the SA aquaculture industry:
  - a. Natural and physical resources are maintained to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations (including adherence to *Environment Protection Act 1993*, *Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2015*, *Coast Protection Act 1972*, *Heritage Places Act 1993*, *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1981* and *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988*).
  - b. Biological diversity and ecological processes and systems are protected (including adherence to *Coast Protection Act 1972*, *Marine Parks Act 2007* and *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*).
  - c. Adverse effects on the environment are avoided, remedied or mitigated (including adherence to the *Environment Protection Act 1993*).

#### **4. Identify research needs/opportunities for sustainable aquaculture planning and management (Section 9 of the Act)**

Aquaculture related research produces information that can lead to new innovations and opportunities for industry development and State and National governments to reach accurate and timely decisions and to produce effective solutions to a range of challenges facing the SA aquaculture industry.

PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture to further develop projects under PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture and Fisheries and Research Development Corporation (FRDC) initiative called Innovative Solutions for Aquaculture Planning and Management from recommendations identified by the SA aquaculture industry, research providers, national/international innovation and research that will support the development of aquaculture in South Australia.

Address recommendations from SARDI scientists and other research agencies to ensure these are considered in the development of policies, regulations and licence conditions.

### **Outputs/Outcomes**

#### **Activity 1 Management of environmental monitoring programs**

- EMP programs are specific to monitoring the Land-based sector's key risks through annual review.
- Licence holders provide the information required to submit EMP forms electronically.
- If requested, hard versions of the EMP proformas are sent to licence holders to ensure that they are received.
- Follow up correspondence to all licence holders that have not submitted EMP proformas or where there is information missing.
- Entry of EMP data into the respective sectors' database.
- Analysis of water quality obtained as part of the EMP (including viewing against criteria of the water quality policy, mapping of the co-ordinates relative to the site boundaries, or farming structures and assessment of the overall state of the site).
- Accurate and timely analysis of data collected from EMP reports (e.g. collect and analyse within timeframes established for each reporting period so that further action can be taken if required) (refer Program 4: Compliance for actioning noncompliance). Analysis includes viewing EMP data against the Regulations. Summary of EMP reports is available through the Public Register.
- EMP summary of EMP reports is available through the South Australian Aquaculture Report, available on the PIRSA website.
- Review, troubleshooting and maintenance of a database to allow licence holders to access, fill out and submit EMP proformas electronically.

#### **Activity 2 Response to Environmental issues**

- Implement accurate and timely action by licence holders in response to issues identified from submitted EMP reports, site visits and complaints.

- Conduct appropriate investigations of reported and potential protected species interactions and escapes.

### **Activity 3 Provide input to and alignment with State and National environmental policy, legislation and strategies**

- Land-based sector represented at inter and intra, Departmental and Agency meetings and workshops on environmental issues or development of new legislative arrangements/tools. Specifically, input is provided on behalf of the land-based sector to internal PIRSA documents, climate change strategies/work plans (e.g. EPA's review of ANZECC water quality guidelines).

### **Activity 4 Identify research needs/opportunities for sustainable aquaculture planning and management**

- Accurate and timely input to the development of research initiatives that contribute to more efficient and adaptive management (e.g. workshops conducted with the South Australian Research and Development Institute).
- Recommendations from research initiatives are implemented in an accurate and timely manner (e.g. land-based category review, environmental monitoring program review).

# Program Management and Administration

## Program Summary

Program Management and Administration broadly outlines those activities relating to running the PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture Division. This includes financial processes, including cost recovery, human resource management, customer liaison, business and strategic planning, implementation and cross-agency relationship building and collaboration.

## Objectives

To ensure strategic goals of PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture are achieved and overall governance of PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture operations meet public sector standards.

## Activities

The following activities are undertaken by the Management and Administration Program:

### 1. Directorate (Section 9 of the Act)

Directorate activities provide a range of essential management and administrative services for support of PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture activities required by the Act, including:

- Providing strategic direction and leadership to deliver on PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture strategic goals.
- Establishing interagency agreements to support the efficient and timely endorsement of aquaculture leases and licences.
- Coordinating internal aquaculture program reports, administering external contracts and agreements.
- Ensuring that practices and procedures of PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture remain current and progressive in line with business developments and requirements of PIRSA, Government and industry and that reporting processes are maintained to support decision-making.
- Providing effective executive administrative support to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture's Senior Management Team.
- Ensuring appropriate delegations under the Act, and associated legislation, are in place to support effective decision-making.

### 2. Human Resource Management and Administration (Sections 7 and 9 of the Act)

General Management and Administration activities ensure that all administrative tasks undertaken by PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture adhere to departmental and broader government policies and standards for human resource management, work, health and safety, customer service standards, records management and other specified policies as determined by PIRSA.

### *HR Management*

- Effective recruitment, selection, retention and ongoing management and development of staff within the PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, in line with requirements of the Public Sector Act 2009.
- Effective management and development of human resources, including delegation of HR responsibilities.
- Promote operational efficiencies within PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture, whilst maintaining appropriate levels of responsibility, security and protocol for all staff.

### *Team/Divisional/Strategic Meetings*

- Effective management of divisional operations ranging from specific internal agency groups to whole divisional meetings where necessary.

### *WHS Management*

- PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture is required to align all WHS policies, actions and committees to meet State legislative requirements and PIRSA policies to ensure a safe working environment is provided for all staff to undertake their duties.

### *Define and develop customer service standards*

- Improve customer satisfaction with the services provided by PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture and to meet the SA Strategic Plan targets of an increase in the level of satisfaction of SA people with government services.

### *Participation in training, education and awareness programs*

- A broader awareness of the environment in which PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture operates, including other industries and government priorities, provides a greater depth of understanding which can be used to inform decision-making, or challenge current thinking to remain at the forefront of aquaculture planning and management.
- Ensure PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture staff understand and are aware of their responsibilities and remain abreast of the latest technical and business tools. This includes both formal and internal training of staff by mentors and peers.

### *Project management*

- To ensure all routine activities and special projects are undertaken in an efficient and effective manner.
- Ensure that reporting timeframes are kept by PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture staff.

## **3. Operational and Strategic Business Planning (Section 9 of the Act)**

Business Planning ensures that PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture has a vision, actions and goals that are consistent with the broader PIRSA direction, industry expectations, and the Strategic Planning for South Australia and supports the growth and innovation for the state's aquaculture industry.



PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture activities are aligned to the Strategic Planning for SA and PIRSA Strategic Directions, where appropriate.

Provide administrative support for statutory boards and committees.

#### **4. Financial Management and Cost Recovery (Section 9 of the Act)**

Finance and Budget Management ensures that all PIRSA Financial policies and procedures are adhered to in line with Treasury and Finance guidelines.

Ensure appropriate financial delegations are in place.

Effectively manage and implement the PIRSA Cost Recovery Policy (2019) to ensure a consistent and equitable process for the SA aquaculture industry.

PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture is required to regularly review existing cost recovery arrangements having regard to the full range of activities/ services provided to the SA aquaculture industry.

The principles underpinning PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture's cost recovery process must be aligned to the PIRSA Cost Recovery Policy (2019) and the 'Australia Government Cost Recovery Guidelines' report (2014)<sup>2</sup>, in addition to the Productivity Commission's 'Cost recovery by government agencies: inquiry report' (2001)<sup>3</sup>.

#### **5. Provision of timely advice to Chief Executive and Minister – PIRSA and other government agencies (Sections 7 and 9 of the Act)**

Ensure that the Chief Executive of PIRSA and Minister are aware of current and emerging issues faced by PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture and the SA aquaculture industry through the provision of relevant, accurate and timely advice.

Provide Ministerial Liaison services to the Minister's office.

## **Outputs/Outcomes**

### **Activities 1, 2 and 3 (Directorate, Human Resource Management and Administration, Operational and Strategic Business Planning)**

- Strategic direction provided to aquaculture development in South Australia.
- Management and development of human resources.
- Develop, review and implement policies and procedures relating to administrative practices.
- Develop, review and monitor customer satisfaction standards and implement recommendations for improvement.
- Accurate and timely project management and administration of external contractual services and agreements that are consistent with SA Public Service standards and legal obligations (e.g. tenders for rehabilitation of suspended aquaculture sites).

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<sup>2</sup> Commonwealth Department of Finance and Administration (2014) Australian Government Cost Recovery Guidelines, July. <[https://www.finance.gov.au/sites/default/files/australian-government-cost-recovery-guidelines\\_0.pdf](https://www.finance.gov.au/sites/default/files/australian-government-cost-recovery-guidelines_0.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Australian Productivity Commission (2001) Cost recovery by government agencies: inquiry report. Australian Government.

- Develop, review monitor and implement PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture's budget and business plan.
- Demonstrated alignment of PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture strategies and actions with State plans and strategic frameworks.

#### **Activity 4 Financial Management and Cost Recovery**

- Develop, review and implement cost recovery procedures that are transparent, evidence-based and are developed in a consultative manner.

#### **Activity 5 Provision of timely advice to Chief Executive and Minister – PIRSA and other government agencies**

- Accurate and timely advice is provided to the Chief Executive of Primary Industries and Regional Development and other Ministers.

# Other Aquaculture Activities

## Program Summary

External Activities and Costs encompasses other processes that are undertaken by third parties and are these activities undertaken on an as required basis including economic and marketing research. All of this is undertaken to ensure decision-making and management of aquaculture industry activities is consistent and based on complete and verifiable information.

## Objectives

To ensure effective engagement of external expertise to support PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture activities.

## Activities

### 1. Perform economic and production forecasting (Sections 9 and 83 of the Act)

PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture to determine the economic inputs the SA aquaculture industry is providing to SA and national economies in terms of direct and indirect employment, farm gate value, direct business turnover and flow on effects from processing, transport, retail and food sectors in alignment with Strategic Planning for SA and PIRSA Strategic Directions. PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture engages a contractor to provide this service. A summary of these data are supplied to Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES), on an annual basis for collation of the Australian fisheries and aquaculture statistics report.

Economic analysis of the consequences from new legislative decisions recommended by PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture or other parties that can influence SA legislation and SA aquaculture industry practices is necessary to determine if there is potential to restrict industry development, limit the opportunity for competition in the market place or stifle industry innovation from these decisions.

### 2. Marketing Research (Section 9 of the Act)

Marketing analysis of the future trends of the industry including demand for products, impacts from changing financial markets and impact of Australian dollar value on the SA aquaculture industry are undertaken to address issues including identifying trade barriers to ensure policies, regulations and lease and licence conditions are consistent with future industry trends (e.g. production of PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture promotional material).

## Outputs/Outcomes

### Activity 1 Perform economic and production forecasting

- Annual production of economic report (currently through BDO Advisory Pty Ltd) which is made publicly available through the PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture website.

## **Activity 2 Marketing Research**

- Accurate and timely extension of recommendations from economic and marketing research to the land-based industry sector.
- Representation of achievements of aquaculture in SA at national and international forums and conferences.

