

Annual Report on PIRSA's Service Delivery on the Cost Recovery Agreement for the Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery

2022-23

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Information current as of 30 June 2023

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Summary of Outcomes for 2022-23

Assessment and Research

Funding Source	Deliverables	Date Completed /Delivered
SLA	Delivered end-of-season (2021/22) NZ presentations to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture and the RLFMAC	July 2022
SLA	Delivered Status report for SZ and NZ (2021/22 season)	October 2022
SLA	SZ September FIMS completed	October 2022
SLA	SZ September Fishing Advice Note delivered	October 2022
SLA	SZ September FIMS Advice Note delivered	December 2022
SLA	SZ January FIMS completed	February 2023
SLA	SZ January FIMS Advice Note delivered	April 2023
SLA	Delivered Stock Assessment report for the Southern and Northern Zone (2021/22 season)	July 2023
FRDC	Project continuation: Improving Southern Rock Lobster on-vessel handling practices, data collection and industry tools for lobster quality assessment (FRDC project 2019/028)	June 2023
FRDC	Project continuation: Evaluation of a smart-phone application to collect recreational fishing catch estimates, including an assessment against an independent probability based survey, using South Australia as a case study (FRDC project 2020/056).	June 2023
FRDC	Project completion: Assessing the efficiency of alternative pot designs for the Southern Rock Lobster (<i>Jasus edwardsii</i>) Fishery (FRDC project 2016/258).	July 2023

Fisheries Management Program

	Deliverables
1.	<p>Participated in inter- and intra-departmental meetings and workshops on issues relevant to fisheries management.</p> <p>Coordinated frequent and regular meetings across the Fisheries and Aquaculture Division to coordinate the management of the Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Undercatch/Overcatch Policy Paper • RLFMAC and RSC Meetings • Carry-over of uncaught quota entitlements • Changes to duration of the fishing season.
2.	<p>Liaised within the Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, with SARDI Aquatic Sciences, other parts of PIRSA and other State and Commonwealth agencies on matters relevant to fisheries management.</p> <p>Numerous meetings were held and correspondence delivered in relation to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The carry-over of uncaught quota entitlements from the 2021/22 quota periods to the 2022/23 quota period. • The setting of the TACC for the respective zones of the fishery for the 2022/23 quota period. • MSF access under Options A, B and C. • The disruption to the market. • Alternative pots and SLEDs (including application of correction factor). • Proposed shifts in season start date and removal of seasonal closure.
3.	<p>Liaise within PIRSA, with other government agencies and with industry representatives in implementing decisions relevant to fisheries management.</p> <p>Provided a wide range of information relevant to the management of the Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery (NZRLF), this work includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending and speaking at West Coast Crayfishermen's Association meetings • Consulting with Rock Lobster Fishery Management Advisory Committee (RLFMAC) members on proposed regulatory changes (season start date, annual closure, alternate pots, TACC and SLED) • Attending two RLFMAC and two Research Subcommittee meetings (July 2022 and February 2023) • Informal meeting with the Executive Officer of the SANZRLFA regarding review of the regulations and license conditions to reduce red tape and apportioning licence fees between Outer and Inner Region quota units.
4.	<p>Conducted regular assessment or review of existing management arrangements for fisheries management, including analysis of statistical information on fisheries and interactions with threatened, endangered and protected species.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented arrangements to carry-over uncaught 2021/22 quota entitlements on individual licences • Undertook a review of the draft Economic and Social Indicators for the Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery 2021/22 report • Reviewed the SARDI 2021/22 Northern Zone Rock Lobster Stock Assessment report • Provided annual report as required under the Rock Lobster export approval under the EPBC Act • Reviewed report on alternative pots.
5.	<p>Coordinated consultation with fishery stakeholders through established co-management processes.</p> <p>Coordinated industry consultations regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert fisheries management advice at RLFMAC meetings and Research Subcommittee meetings (July 2022 and February 2023) • Discussions on setting the TACC, and PIRSA carry-over and over-catch regulation at port meetings. • Transfer of Outer Region quota entitlements to the Inner Region • Application of the harvest strategy in the fishery • Changes to season start date • Removal of season closure for the Inner Region • Implementation of alternative pots and SLEDs.
6.	<p>Participated in industry liaison in the field to strengthen fishery management knowledge and understanding and develop rapport with licence holder.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended and participated in the West Coast Crayfishermen's Association AGM.
7.	<p>Participated in industry development initiatives related to fisheries management.</p> <p>In order to alleviate the impact of the disruption to the Chinese market PIRSA has worked with industry to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement arrangements to permit winter fishing in the Inner Region of fishery in 2022/23 • Develop and implement arrangements to carry-over uncaught quota entitlements from the 2020/21 and 2021/22 quota period to the 2022/23 quota period, in both the Inner and Outer Regions of the fishery. • Developed and sought arrangements to implement the Undercatch/Overcatch arrangements. • Sought amended regulations to allow fishers market flexibility including selling product directly to the public. • Amendments to the management arrangements above included the development of updated government gazette notices, notices to fishers and associated correspondence. <p>Progressed request to reduce red tape in the regulations and licence conditions.</p>

8.	<p>Attending to general correspondence and enquiries relevant to fisheries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PIRSA has responded to correspondence from licence holders, the RLFMAC, and the SANZRLFA. Responses to the RLFMAC have been the mechanism to confirm positions in relation to the primary management issues in the fishery including, setting the TACCs (Inner and Outer Region), the carry-over and over-catch of quota entitlements and winter fishing.
9.	<p>Provided advice to the Minister in relation to the management of fisheries and Ministerial correspondence.</p> <p>PIRSA has provided advice to the Minister in relation to the setting of the TACC, the carry-over and over-catch of quota entitlements, winter fishing, the impact of the disruption to the Chinese market, and shift in season start date.</p>
10.	<p>Communicated on fisheries management issues to key stakeholder groups and the broader community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting the TACCs (Inner and Outer Region).

Legal Services Program

	Deliverables
1.	<p>Co-ordinated and reviewed the introduction, amendment or revocation of Fisheries legislation in line with Fisheries Policy decisions i.e. Act or regulation amendments, the introduction of new regulations and drafting of other legislative and administrative instruments such as delegations, licences, permits, closures or exemption instruments as required under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 2007</i> (the Act). New regulations or amendments that required drafting of Cabinet submissions and supporting documentation, including the preparation of drafting instructions, for consideration by Cabinet – in particular amendments to the <i>Fisheries Management (Rock Lobster Fisheries) Regulations 2017</i> and <i>Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017</i> implement ongoing carry over and over-catch provisions, vary arrangements for escape gaps and quota period. This service included co-ordinating and reviewing of the cabinet process and working with the Office of Parliamentary Counsel and the Crown Solicitor's Office and other government agencies to ensure that proposed regulatory arrangements were accurately described, drafted and scrutinised before being implemented.</p>
2.	<p>Reviewed licensing arrangements required on an as needs basis to lawfully implement approved fishery management policy and measures within the limitations of the Act. The services included working with the Licensing program (part of Leasing and Licensing) and policy program to ensure licence conditions were effective and where necessary to implement efficient administrative systems and finalised forms and instruments that were legally sound.</p>
3.	<p>Problem solved and reviewed policy developments together with the provision and co-ordination of legal advisory services in liaison with the Crown Solicitor's office relating to the lawful implementation and administration of the Act, regulations and fisheries management policies, interaction with other Acts, and the defence of those policies and arrangements raised in litigation or industry correspondence.</p>
4.	<p>Coordinated applications for Ministerial exemptions under Part 10 Division 1 and Permits under Part 7 Division 2 of the Act and reviewed draft notices.</p>
5.	<p>Additional legal services to support and review, on an as needs basis, the legislative compliance of decision-making documentation created for the Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture and the Director Operations and other delegates of the Minister under the Act to safeguard the ongoing sustainability of a fishery in any particular year (where required), depending on positive or negative scientific indicators, implemented new fisheries management arrangements (for example the introduction or variation of a quota system, carry over of quota arrangements) or new administrative or compliance arrangements (for example, changes to licensing processes, conditions, introduction of closures).</p>

6.	Supported compliance with statutory interpretation, problem solving and correspondence advice (per above).
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Leasing and Licensing Program

	Deliverables
	Services to directly support the fishery
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issued and maintained fishery licences. Printed and posted 63 updated registrations and entitlements certificates to all licence holders. Manual filing and archiving of all 849 CDR documents. Issuing of bin tags in PIIMS to licence holders on 45 occasions requiring packaging for posting. Regular filing and archiving of licensing and quota documentation.
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Database management for licence and licence holder information. Entered new rates into the Primary Industries Information Management System (PIIMS). Set up of the new Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) into PIIMS for the new quota season. Issuing of 21 CDR books into PIIMS and packing and posting to licence holders. Adjustment in PIIMS for lost/damaged bin tags on 3 occasions. System maintenance including auditing user access and system testing after any system update.
3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quota monitoring and management including applying overcatch and undercatch adjustments. Generated final quota balance statements and posted to all 63 licence holders. Calculated all quota adjustments required to be entered into PIIMS. Generated and posted updated registration and entitlements certificates. Data entry and checking of 838 CDRs.
4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitored and supported eBusiness services. Manual recording and separate approvals for each of the 10 CDRs with mortalities.
5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collected licence fees and associated payments. Issued annual fee invoicing packs for 63 licences. Generated and audited invoices to ensure correct annual fee amount was raised.
6.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Composed and sent quarterly instalment notices. Issued invoices and SMS reminders each quarter.
7.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recorded and tracked unpaid invoices.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generated 12 monthly debtor's reports to reconcile annual fee payments.
8.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Composed and sent late payment instalment notices for unpaid quarterly instalments.
9.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafted and issued Notices to Fishers. Prepared Notice to Fishers for annual fee invoicing pack.
10.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Processed requests for information from fishers who make such inquiries over the counter, through the call centre, via facsimile or e-mail. For example, helping fishers to process information relevant to licensing and quota, application for licence transfers, boat changes, gear enquiries and fishing regulations. 471 quota balance statements requested via the online system.
11.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly update information about licence holders.
12.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Researched and prepared documents for public record.
13.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaised with government stakeholders to verify the credentials of fishers. Processed 228 applications which included liaising with government stakeholders to verify the credentials of fishers as below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 15 vary boat applications ➤ 7 licence transfer applications ➤ 3 vary master applications ➤ 200 quota transfer applications ➤ 3 third party interest applications
14.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaised with PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture, SARDI Aquatic Sciences, Crown Solicitors and other state and local agencies on matters relevant to the fishery. Reported licence and quota unit information for cost recovery to assist in calculating new financial year annual fees. Generated reports on licensing information for compliance or fishery management purposes as requested.
15.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafted and updated licence conditions over the duration of the licensing year as determined by the Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture.
16.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided information to licence holders relating to the requirements pursuant to licence administration.
17.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managed calls from fishers regarding late payment notices, fees and general enquiries about their licences. Provided support via phone or email to any requests from licence holders
18.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided support regarding last-minute administrative enquiries from fishers. e.g., master changes, boat variations and quota transfers, as well as provide advice and support to fishers on licence information to complete the required forms.

	Services to support fisheries management
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in inter- and intra-departmental meetings and workshops on issues relevant to the fishing industry as required. • Regularly provided copies of CDR documentation to compliance for quota audit checks.
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaised with relevant staff within PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture in implementing decisions relevant to the fishery.
3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interrogated the PIIMS database to extract information for other stakeholders to use in preparing reports.
4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared reports requested by internal and external customers including maintenance of a public register of licence holders.
5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaised with information technology providers to maintain PIIMS and administer licensing requests.
6.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generated quota management reports to update stakeholders on varying Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) returns and end of season quota holdings. • Generated 12 monthly quota status reports for industry on catch status and CDRs received.

Directorate Program

	Deliverables
1.	Coordinated and facilitated the cost recovery processes and program agreements, including liaising with program providers, managers and financial services as required.
2.	Met with industry on matters relating to cost recovery, licence setting and related policy issues.
3.	Developed and reviewed cost recovery policy, processes, program agreements.
4.	Managed major service providers' contractual agreements, and co-management services contractual agreements with industry associations.
5.	Project managed and administered external contractual services and agreements – including liaising with PIRSA Accredited Purchasing Unit, preparing acquisition plans and selecting evaluation criteria, managing tender processes, drafting purchase recommendations and liaising with the Crown Solicitor's office to develop contractual agreements.
6.	Provided advice on procurement and invoicing requirements.
7.	Consulted with the Chief Executive, Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Director Operations, PIRSA Fisheries Managers, and the Office of the Minister and other parties as needed.
8.	Ongoing review, development and documentation of the cost recovery model, framework, processes and roles.
9.	Met agreed timeframes on management and administration of external contractual services.
10.	Coordinated a review of the Co-Management Services request form, managed industry association co management services requests and payments.
11.	Provided an Annual Report on PIRSA's service delivery on the cost recovery agreement to the Executive Officer.
12.	Provided administrative support to the Independent Cost Recovery Review Panel, e.g. mail outs to all licence/lease holders, meeting coordination, travel bookings and other adhoc administration support during the review.

Compliance Program

Deliverables
<p>The coordination of compliance outputs is guided by a fishery specific compliance plan which was initially developed in consultation with the Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery and is reviewed annually.</p> <p>The plan ensures compliance effort is intelligence driven, efficient, cost effective and outcome focused. The plan comprises three core outputs (Education and Awareness, Effective Deterrence and Enforcement) and is optimised towards increasing voluntary compliance and maximising effective deterrence.</p> <p>Analysis of intelligence and information holdings is regularly conducted to identify the major Compliance risks to the sustainability of the Fishery. The combination of strategies, actions, and initiatives are critical to focus the primary compliance effort to manage the risks and achieve targeted outcomes.</p> <p>The Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery Compliance Reports are produced and forwarded to the Executive Officer, South Australian Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishermen's Association.</p>