Fishery Management Plan Goals

1. Ensure the Rock Lobster resource in the Southern Zone is sustainably harvested
2. Optimum economic utilisation and equitable distribution of the Rock Lobster resource in the Southern Zone
3. Minimum impacts on the ecosystem
4. Cost effective and participative management of the fishery

Compliance risk summary:

1. Quota Evasion - PIRSA Risk Rating: HIGH (Likelihood - Occasional 5, Consequence - Severe 3: Score 15)

The Southern Zone Rock Lobster (SZRL) Quota System requires that all fish taken and subsequently sold or transferred are documented. This is documented by licensed Commercial Fishers on Catch and Disposal Records (CDR) and then by Fish Processors on Rock Lobster Sales and Transfer Forms (RLSTF).

Quota Evasion is the process where a Commercial Fisher takes fish but does not document the fish.

Failing to declare fish is driven by the need for increased income but the likelihood of offending can be influenced by contemporary factors such as rising input costs and variations in predicted catches.

Elements of quota evasion include:

- Errors or omissions on Catch & Disposal Record (CDR – SZRL1)
- Fail to prior report / Fail to complete CDR
- Fail to complete/deliver CDR with Rock lobster
- Bins not sealed / sealed incorrectly
- Illegal at sea transfers / Unreported unloading of Rock Lobster
- Collusion with Fish Processors
- Exceed take home allowance
2. Quota Management System Integrity – PIRSA Risk Rating: HIGH (Likelihood - Occasional 5, Consequence - Severe 3: Score 15)

The Quota Management System (QMS) is the collection of elements, each including various measures that when adhered to, enable effective accountability of all fish taken and subsequently sold or transferred. Integrity is the term used to describe the effectiveness of the measures contained within the QMS. The more effective the measures, the better the integrity of the QMS.

The establishment of the QMS in 1994 is in line with Fishery Management Plan goals and primarily aims to prevent over-fishing, which can lead to over-exploitation of the biomass and ultimately collapse of the Fishery. Breaches of QMS rules will trigger a Compliance investigation to either prove or disprove Quota Evasion. Where Quota Evasion is not identified, the breach will be documented as a breach of Quota Integrity.

Electronic submission (E-catch) of part A was trialled in 2013/14 fishing season. It is anticipated that this program will be in an extended trial form or partially/fully implemented for 2014/15. The focus will be on QMS Integrity to ensure all fishers are educated in this system and confidence in the new system has been demonstrated.

Legal requirements to be monitored that provide integrity to the QMS include:

- Fail to prior report / Fail to prior report within required timeframe
- Fail to complete CDR
- Exceeding gear entitlements (Over potting)
- Inaccurately record pot lift data (CPUE)
- Errors or omissions on CDR
- Bins sealed incorrectly
- Use of tags not issued to licence
- Electronic scales integrity

The purpose of minimum legal size limits is to protect juvenile fish and maintain spawning stocks. Should undersize Rock Lobster be taken on a large-scale basis, the cumulative effects could be significant in terms of overall Rock Lobster biomass sustainability within South Australia.

Based on below average puerulus settlement indices from 2008 to 2012, SARDI scientists have predicted a reduction in recruitment to the fishery from 2013 to 2017. This is based on a period of 5 years from puerulus to legal size. In 2011 and 2012 there was a considerable decrease in the number of undersized lobsters recorded in pots across the entire fishery. In addition, commercial CPUE decreased across the Southern Zone in 2012/13.

PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture have seen a reduction in the level of offending relating to the take of undersized lobsters in 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 seasons and this has been reflected in the downgrading of the risk rating from High to Moderate in this plan. However, industry and PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture need to remain vigilant as historically the level of offending in relation to the taking of undersized lobsters has increased as commercial CPUE has decreased. If commercial CPUE continues to decline, a review of the risk level in relation to the retention of undersized rock lobsters may be warranted.

Elements of the risk can include:

- Fishers taking Rock Lobster under minimum legal size
- Fishers using incorrect technique to measure Rock Lobster
- Fish Processors colluding with fishers or failing their duty to check for undersize


Juvenile recruitment within the SZRL Fishery is vital in maintaining the Rock Lobster biomass at sustainable levels. Should Rock Lobster carrying eggs be taken, the cumulative effects could be significant in terms of overall Rock Lobster sustainability within South Australia.

Elements of taking female Rock Lobster carrying eggs can include:

- Fishers failing to return female Rock Lobster carrying eggs to the water
- Fishers removing eggs from female Rock Lobster and landing those Rock Lobster. (It is acknowledged that the practice of actively removing the eggs from the female Rock Lobster is a higher risk and consequence than unintentionally landing a berried Rock Lobster)
- Collusion with Fish Processors
5. Other Compliance risks identified within the fishery that may occur will be addressed as they are detected. They include the following:

- Taking non-permitted species (species not listed on Schedule)
- Use device not registered (bait nets, longlines etc)
- Fishing with a master or vessel not endorsed on a licence
- Assist/provide services to other agencies (ie SAPOL, threats at sea amongst Industry, vandalism to escales).
- Gear interference
- Fish Closed areas / Seasons (Marine Scale)
- Interfering with lawful fishing activity
- Failure to lodge SARDI catch and effort returns
### Risk Likelihood & Consequence Analysis:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIKELIHOOD</th>
<th>CONSEQUENCES</th>
<th>NEGLIGIBLE</th>
<th>MINOR</th>
<th>MODERATE</th>
<th>SEVERE</th>
<th>MAJOR</th>
<th>CATASTROPHIC</th>
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#### Likelihood Definitions
- **Likely**: It is expected to occur
- **Occasional**: May occur
- **Possible**: Some evidence to suggest this is possible here
- **Unlikely**: Uncommon, but has been known to occur elsewhere
- **Rare**: May occur in exceptional circumstances
- **Remote**: Never heard of but not impossible

#### Consequence Definitions
- **Negligible**: Insignificant impacts to population. Unlikely to be measurable against background variability for this population
- **Low**: Local extinctions are imminent / immediate
- **Moderate**: Likely to cause local extinctions, if continued in longer term
- **High**: Affecting recruitment levels of stocks / or their capacity to increase
- **Extreme**: Full exploitation rate, but long term recruitment / dynamics not adversely impacted
- **Negligible**: Possibly detectable, but minimal impact on population size and none on dynamics

#### Risk Rating
- **Negligible**
- **Low**
- **Moderate**
- **High**
- **Extreme**
Strategies

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

Education & Awareness:

- All interested parties understand their respective obligations
- Develop and maintain Industry communication & relationship program

Deterrence:

- All aspects of fishing activity including the QMS are fully monitored
- Enforcement Plan Communication Strategy
- Enforcement Outcomes Communication Strategy
- Identify gaps in QMS Integrity and work collaboratively with Industry to identify and implement solutions

Enforcement:

- Maximise successful prosecutions Outcomes
- Take appropriate and measured outcomes in response to detected offences
- Identify participants & methodology of Quota Evasion
- Reduce ability to evade QMS

Target Outcomes

The following target outcomes have been identified:

1. Minimise quota evasion
2. Maintain quota management system integrity
3. Minimise take of undersize
4. Minimise take of females carrying eggs

#### Risks
1 = Quota Evasion
2 = Quota Management System Integrity
3 = Take Undersize
4 = Take Female Rock Lobster with Eggs

#### Strategies
1 = Education & Awareness
2 = Deterrence
3 = Enforcement

#### Coordination Team:
Limestone Coast – Darryl Cowan (State Coordinator)
Policy Manager – Annabel Jones

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Risks Addressed</th>
<th>Strategies</th>
<th>Initiative</th>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Who</th>
<th>When</th>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>1 on 1 interactions</td>
<td>Update and distribute Fishery User Guide</td>
<td>LC</td>
<td>Pre Season</td>
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<td>Meet with LH’s, RM’s and Fish Processors prior to season. Ensure all have a clear understanding of:</td>
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<td>• Compliance focus for coming season</td>
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<td>• E-catch and their requirements</td>
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<td>Have 1 on 1 interactions with LH’s, RM’s and Fish Processors throughout the season; ensure all remain clear on the rules and their obligations</td>
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<td>Induct new entrants</td>
<td>Induct new entrants</td>
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<td>Established liaison &amp; contact with Industry</td>
<td>Have regular contact with SARDI, Policy, Industry Representatives and Stakeholders</td>
<td>Ops Mgrs, SC</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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<td>Prior to season commencing, communicate forthcoming Compliance focus to Industry</td>
<td>Ops Mgrs, SC</td>
<td>Pre Season</td>
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<td>Attend Industry meetings. Communicate Industry performance. Raise Compliance issues in a timely manner</td>
<td>Ops Mgrs, SC</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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<td>Provide Compliance summary to the RLFMAC</td>
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<tr>
<th>Risks Addressed</th>
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<td>Field based inspections</td>
<td>Fisheries Officers utilise reporting mechanisms including Prior Reports, e-catch/CDR's and RLSTF to monitor all aspects of fishing and processing operations. Inspections at sea, landing / scales, transit and at Fish Processor</td>
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<td>Regulatory review and revision</td>
<td>Contribute to amendment of legislation and policy where appropriate</td>
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<td>Media</td>
<td>Utilise media to update on successful prosecution outcomes</td>
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<td>Intelligence</td>
<td>Collate and analyse information received through FISHWATCH and Stakeholders</td>
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<td>Intelligence driven operations</td>
<td>Develop investigations and carry out targeted operations in line with the Serious Offence Plan</td>
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<td>Address non-compliance</td>
<td>Investigate instances of non-compliance</td>
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<td>Brief Quality Assurance</td>
<td>Briefs of evidence meet evidentiary requirements and are vetted to ensure quality assurance</td>
<td>FO’s, Ops Mgr, PSC</td>
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Abbreviations: FO’s, Fisheries Officers; LC, Limestone Coast Compliance team; SR, Southern Ranger; SC, State Coordinator; SOG, Special Operations Group; PSC, Prosecution Steering Committee (PIRSA internal)