

# **Annual Report on PIRSA's Service Delivery on the Cost Recovery Agreement for the Southern Zone Abalone Fishery**

2021-22



**Government  
of South Australia**

Department of Primary  
Industries and Regions

# Annual Report on PIRSA's Service Delivery on the Cost Recovery Agreement for the Southern Zone Abalone Fishery 2021-22

Information current as of 30 June 2022

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# Contents

Summary of Outcomes for 2021-22 .....4

Assessment and Research .....4

Policy and Management Program .....5

Legislation Program .....7

Leasing and Licensing Program.....8

Directorate Program..... 10

Compliance Program ..... 11

# Summary of Outcomes for 2021-22

## Assessment and Research

Funding Source	Deliverables	Date Completed /Delivered
SLA	Delivered Stock Status report for Southern Zone, including application of the new SZ harvest strategy.	July 2022
SLA	Delivered Stock Status presentations, including year-to-date data, to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture, and Industry delivered as required.	July 2022
SLA	Completed surveys (from previous SLA) for Blacklip at two sites in the Middle Point SAU (i.e. Cape Northumberland and Middle Point). Surveys for Blacklip at Number 2 Rocks and Port MacDonnell (from previous SLA) remain incomplete. Delay primarily caused by temporary suspension to diving activities for procedure review following diver fatality in the SE, followed by subsequent unfavourable weather conditions.	June 2022
PIRSA	Assisted with review/finalisation of Abalone Management Plan including implementing new Harvest strategy.	November 2022
PIRSA	Presented options for changes to mapcode 39F in the Middle Point SAU (former Nene Valley Fish Down Area 1).	June 2022
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 2022
FRDC	Project continuation: Indicators for density and biomass of exploitable abalone – developing and applying a new approach (FRDC Project 2020/065)	June 2022
FRDC	Project continuation: Drawing strength from each other: simulation testing of Australia's abalone harvest strategies (FRDC Project 2019/118)	June 2022
FRDC	Project continuation: For the Abalone diver observation collection, analysis and reporting system for improved management decision making (FRDC Project 2019/038)	June 2022

# Policy and Management Program

	Deliverables
1.	<p>Attended meetings with industry to discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TACC setting in Mt Gambier with industry.</li> <li>Industry feedback on the Undercatch/Overcatch Policy Paper</li> </ul>
2.	<p>Liaised within the PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, with SARDI, other parts of PIRSA and other State and Commonwealth agencies on matters relevant to fisheries management including the following key issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cost recovery</li> <li>PIRSA Carry-over/under-catch quota Policy</li> <li>Implementation of changes to Spatial Assessment Unit boundaries through a Ministerial exemption in 2021 and necessary legislative amendments for ongoing arrangements. Work included drafting exemption notice, requesting changes to geofences in VMS reporting system and updating coordinates of boundaries to GDA2020</li> </ul>
3.	<p>Liaised within PIRSA and other State and Commonwealth agencies in implementing decisions related to fisheries management including progressing implementation of changes to Spatial Assessment Unit boundaries through a Ministerial exemption in 2021 and progressing the necessary legislative amendments to implement ongoing arrangements.</p>
4.	<p>Conducted regular assessment or review of existing management arrangements for fisheries management, statistical information on fisheries and interactions with threatened, endangered and protected species including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of 'Status of the Southern Zone Abalone Fishery 2021/22' and related presentations for industry</li> <li>Reviewed the 'Economic Indicators for South Australian Abalone Fishery 2020/21 report and provided comment back to BDO EconSearch.</li> <li>Reviewed annual SARDI advice on TEPS interactions for all commercial fisheries</li> <li>Developed annual report required under export conditions for SZAF under the EPBC Act.</li> </ul>
5.	<p>Finalised development and implementation of the Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Abalone fisheries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalised plan and coordinated adoption of new management plan</li> <li>Supported provision of new licences for SZAF licence holders related to implementation of new management plan.</li> </ul>
6.	<p>Coordinated consultation with fishery stakeholders through established co-management processes including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>facilitated TACC Meeting including presentation of SARDI data to inform harvest strategy decision rules for the setting of the TACC.</li> <li>Facilitated presentation on PIRSA Carry-over/under-catch quota Policy to SZAM delegate</li> </ul>
7.	<p>Undertook meeting with all industry in Mt Gambier as part of TACC setting process.</p>

8.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalised the review of boundary adjustments to Spatial Assessment Unit and progressed legislative amendments to implement changes to Spatial Assessment Unit (11A).</li> <li>Implemented temporary arrangements for boundary adjustments through Ministerial exemption in 2021 to implement the arrangements.</li> </ul>
9.	Attended to general correspondence and enquiries relevant to the SZAF.
10.	<p>Provided advice to Minister in relation to the management of SZAF such as TACC and adjustments to boundaries of Spatial Assessment Units</p> <p>Provided advice on Ministerial correspondence related to the SZAF.</p>
11.	<p>Communicated on fisheries management issues to key stakeholder groups and the broader community.</p> <p>Provided Notice to Fishers of the Southern Zone in regard to the 2021/22 TACC and changes to Spatial Assessment Unit boundaries implemented through Ministerial exemption</p> <p>Provided correspondence to the delegate of the Southern Zone in regard to TACC, changes to Spatial Assessment Unit boundaries implemented through Ministerial exemption and PIRSA Carry-over/under-catch quota Policy.</p>

# Legislation Program

	Deliverables
1.	Co-ordinated the introduction, amendment or revocation of fisheries legislation in line with fisheries management/policy decisions i.e. Act or regulation amendments, the introduction of new regulations and drafting of other legislative and administrative instruments such as delegation, ministerial permit or exemption instruments as required under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 2007</i> (the Act). New variation regulations or amendments required the drafting of Cabinet submissions and supporting documentation, including the preparation of drafting instructions, for consideration by Cabinet. This service included co-ordinating the Cabinet process involving liaison with the Office of Parliamentary Counsel and the Crown Solicitor's Office and inter agency consultation to ensure that proposed regulatory arrangements are accurately described, drafted and scrutinised before being implemented. Input into fees amendment submissions, settling of notices, supporting briefings, minutes and parliamentary reports.
2.	Input into policy documentation and arrangements and responses to industry correspondence, as necessary.
3.	Coordinated applications for Ministerial exemptions under Part 10 and Permits under Part 7 of the Act.
4.	Provided additional legal services to support, on an as needs basis, the lawful decision-making of 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 the fishery in any particular year.

# Leasing and Licensing Program

	Deliverables
1.	<p>Issued annual fee invoicing packs for all licences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reported licence and quota unit information for cost recovery to assist in calculating new financial year annual fees</li> <li>• Entered new rates into the Primary Industries Information Management System (PIIMS)</li> <li>• Prepared Notice to Fishers for annual fee invoicing pack</li> <li>• Generated and audited invoices to ensure correct annual fee amount was raised</li> <li>• Issued and posted invoices each quarter</li> <li>• Generated 12 monthly debtor's reports to reconcile annual fee payments.</li> </ul>
2.	<p>Set up of the new Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) into PIIMS for the new quota season:</p> <p>Printed and posted updated registrations and entitlements certificates to all 6 licence holders.</p>
3.	<p>Generated final quota balance statements and posted to all licence holders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calculated any quota adjustments required to be entered into PIIMS.</li> </ul> <p>Generated and posted updated registration and entitlements certificates.</p>
4.	<p>Data entry of 217 CDRs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data entry check of each CDR entered.</li> </ul> <p>Manual filing and archiving of all 217 CDR documents.</p>
5.	Issuing of bin tags in PIIMS to licence holders on 6 occasions.
6.	Issuing of 4 CDR books into PIIMS and packing and posting to licence holders.
7.	Generated 12 monthly quota status reports for industry on catch status and CDRs received.
8.	<p>System maintenance including auditing user access and system testing after any system update:</p> <p>53 quota balance statements requested via the online system.</p>
9.	Regularly provided copies of CDR documentation to compliance for quota audit checks.

10.	Processed 6 licensing and quota applications and liaised with government stakeholders to verify the credentials of fishers as required.
11.	Provided reports to fisheries management as required regarding meat weight and quota integrity issues raised by industry and as required to assist with fishery management decisions.
12.	Provided support via phone or email to any requests from licence holders.
13.	Regular filing and archiving of licensing and quota documentation.

## Directorate Program

	Deliverables
1.	Reconciled and prepared financial documentation to ensure accuracy of FRDC contribution from SZAF.
2.	Worked with SARDI to prepare project scopes before and after cost recovery meetings with industry.
3.	Developed and prepared draft cost recovery implementation statements and annual reports for industry.
4.	Coordinated cost recovery meetings with industry to discuss cost recovery programs for the following financial year, including agenda preparation, drafting of minutes and liaising with industry executive officer to finalise minutes and cost recovery implementation statement.
5.	Followed up action items from cost recovery meetings, responding to cost recovery related correspondence.
6.	Published cost recovery documentation and reports on PIRSA's web site.
7.	Prepared a Cabinet submission and relevant documentation for the Minister to be briefed on the cost recovery process. Liaised with Parliamentary Council to prepare fee regulations for commercial licence fees.
8.	Ongoing review of PIRSA's cost recovery policy, costing models and processes to achieve continuous improvement and transparency.

# 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 Southern Zone Abalone 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 Southern Zone Abalone Fishery Compliance Reports are produced and forwarded to the Secretary, Southern Zone Abalone Management Inc.</p>

