

# **Annual Report on PIRSA's Service Delivery on the Cost Recovery Agreement for the Oyster Sector**

2021-22

# Annual Report on PIRSA's Service Delivery on the Cost Recovery Agreement for the Oyster Sector 2021-22

Information current as of 30 June 2022

© Government of South Australia 2022

## Disclaimer

PIRSA and its employees do not warrant or make any representation regarding the use, or results of the use, of the information contained herein as regards to its correctness, accuracy, reliability and currency or otherwise. PIRSA and its employees expressly disclaim all liability or responsibility to any person using the information or advice.

## All Enquiries

Manager Business Services, Fisheries and Aquaculture  
Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA)  
2 Hamra Avenue, West Beach SA  
GPO Box 1625, Adelaide SA 5001  
T 08 8207 5333  
E [Tina.Smith3@sa.gov.au](mailto:Tina.Smith3@sa.gov.au)

# Contents

Resource Planning.....	4
Aquaculture Leasing and Licensing .....	6
Legislation.....	8
Compliance Operations.....	9
Aquaculture Systems .....	10
Aquatic Animal Health.....	11
Environmental Monitoring and Management.....	13
Program Management and Administration.....	15
Other Aquaculture Activities .....	16

# Resource Planning

	Deliverables
1.	Monitored aquaculture zone allocations through audit and review, notably with respect to availability of water enquiries from existing and potential aquaculture industry stakeholders.
2.	Continued the review of the <i>Aquaculture (Zones-Lower Eyre Peninsula) Policy 2013</i> to accommodate future expansion of aquaculture sectors, including the Oyster aquaculture sector. The Lower Eyre Peninsula Review Advisory Committee continued to work with industry sectors and other government agencies to make recommendations for the review. The Statement of Intent outlining proposed amendments to the zone policy, including consideration of the needs and expectations of the Oyster Sector, was finalised and endorsed by the Committee. A draft <i>Aquaculture (Zones-Lower Eyre Peninsula) Policy 2022</i> and supporting report was developed based on the Statement of Intent, and preparations commenced for public consultation on the draft policy.
3.	Finalised the <i>Aquaculture (Standard Lease and Licence Conditions) Policy 2022</i> , which was approved on 16 February 2022, and commenced implementation of the Policy.
4.	Ongoing liaison and consultation with relevant government departments, prescribed bodies and relevant stakeholders in relation to zone policy development.
5.	Provided advice to stakeholders/members of the public in relation to existing aquaculture zone allocations (i.e. area, biomass, etc).
6.	Provided input to a range of State and Commonwealth Government environmental and conservation initiatives, to ensure aquaculture zone development objectives and aspirations were adequately taken into account and factored into broader conservation policy development.
7.	<p>Provided advice to the Attorney General's Department (AGD) on a number of proposed developments to mitigate potential impacts to aquaculture, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• T-Ports Grain Handling and Export Facility development application</li> <li>• Hawsons Iron Ore development application</li> <li>• Port Spencer Grain Export Facility EIS addendum</li> <li>• Whalers Way Orbital Launch Complex Environmental Impact Statement</li> <li>• SA Water Eyre Peninsula desalination plant development application</li> <li>• Venice Energy Outer Harbor LNG Facility development application</li> </ul>
8.	<p>Provided advice to the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) on a number of proposed developments to mitigate potential impacts to aquaculture, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stuart's Landing boat ramp</li> <li>• Port Playford Export Facility port limits</li> <li>• Nepean Bay native oyster reef</li> <li>• Point Turton fireworks aquatic activity licence</li> <li>• Streaky Bay fireworks aquatic activity licence</li> </ul>
9.	<p>Provided advice to the Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) on a number of proposed developments to mitigate potential impacts to aquaculture, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Port Bonython hydrogen plant</li> <li>• Port Augusta Export Facility offshore transshipment points</li> </ul>

10.	Continued to provide advice to AGD regarding a mandated referral to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture for marine-based developments under the <i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) Regulations 2017</i> to mitigate potential impacts to aquaculture operators and aquaculture zones.
11.	Continued to provide advice to AGD regarding proposed amendments to the Planning and Design Code under the <i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016</i> to streamline the development assessment and approval process for future marine and land-based aquaculture developments.
12.	Finalised process to reappoint three ATAB members under the <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i> .
13.	Finalised procedures of the ATAB and PIRSA internal guidelines for ATAB appointments and the public call process for lease tenure applications.
14.	Provided formal comment on the State Landscape Strategy in regard to promoting aquaculture development.
15.	Led the development and passage of the <i>Aquaculture (Tourism Development) Amendment Act 2021</i> to amend the <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i> to streamline the assessment and approval process for aquaculture related tourism developments.
16.	Provided input to the Blue Economy CRC Marine Spatial Planning project to mitigate potential impacts to the aquaculture industry from other users of the marine resource.
17.	Provided input and support to the Marine Bioproducts CRC to support sector growth.
18.	Continued process to draft and make variation regulations to amend the <i>Aquaculture Regulations 16</i> , in relation to contemporising and streamlining prescribed bodies under regulation 5 for referral of draft aquaculture policies under the <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i> .
19.	Continued review of current and future provisions for the rehabilitation of aquaculture leases.
20.	Meetings and advice to SA Water regarding a proposed desalination plant for the lower Eyre Peninsula and potential impacts to aquaculture.
21.	Continued to attend and provide input to the National Aquaculture Committee on behalf of South Australia.

# Aquaculture Leasing and Licensing

	Deliverables																										
1.	Ongoing maintenance of internal licence audit functions, including auditing procedures (i.e., flowcharts, checklists and manuals) and performance relating to Oyster licences.																										
2.	Completed database maintenance and updates as required.																										
3.	Completed testing and amending electronic Production Return and Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP) reporting.																										
4.	Reviewed renewal and transfer applications to ensure correct information is received at the time of application.																										
5.	Updated licence/lease records as required.																										
6.	Maintenance of systems and procedures to support day to day administration of leasing and licensing activities related to the Oyster Sector.																										
7.	Conducted audits of internal processes and functions including application checklists.																										
8.	Records management of leasing and licensing documentation.																										
9.	<p>Processing of Oyster applications (see table below).</p> <table> <tr> <th>Oyster: Application Type</th><th>Number</th></tr> <tr> <td>New lease/licence*</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lease movement*</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lease renewal</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lease transfer</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr> <td>Licence transfer</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr> <td>Specified person</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lease division</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr> <td>Licence division</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lease amalgamation</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr> <td>Licence variation*</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lease/Licence surrender</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>Seed-stock permit</td><td>0</td></tr> </table> <p>*Environmental assessment and inter-agency referral conducted</p>	Oyster: Application Type	Number	New lease/licence*	4	Lease movement*	16	Lease renewal	15	Lease transfer	12	Licence transfer	11	Specified person	0	Lease division	3	Licence division	3	Lease amalgamation	2	Licence variation*	3	Lease/Licence surrender	1	Seed-stock permit	0
Oyster: Application Type	Number																										
New lease/licence*	4																										
Lease movement*	16																										
Lease renewal	15																										
Lease transfer	12																										
Licence transfer	11																										
Specified person	0																										
Lease division	3																										
Licence division	3																										
Lease amalgamation	2																										
Licence variation*	3																										
Lease/Licence surrender	1																										
Seed-stock permit	0																										
10.	Processed annual production returns from the Oyster Sector. This included follow-up on unreturned production returns or incorrect information to ensure licence holders meet their obligations under the regulations, collation and analysis of information.																										

11.	Processed requests for information from licence holders via front counter, phone or e-mail.
12.	Liaised with government stakeholders to verify the credentials of lease/licence holders for application processing as required.
13.	Reviewed all lease and licence application forms and amended where required.

# Legislation

	Deliverables
1.	Assessed and responded to freedom of information requests in relation to PIRSA's administration of the <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i> .
2.	Strategic input into the implementation of administrative decisions in all program areas as required to ensure they are informed and legally valid and consistent with the Act to promote efficient and transparent government administration.
3.	Provided input into the finalisation of the draft <i>Aquaculture (Standard Lease and Licence Conditions) Policy 2020</i> for approval, in conjunction with Office of Parliamentary Council (OPC).
4.	Review of aquaculture related notices issued under the <i>Livestock Act 1997</i> and related Ministerial delegations for same.
5.	Updated Ministerial delegations including sub-delegations under the <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i> .
6.	Input into compliance / enforcement / litigation matters as required.
7.	Provided input into draft amendments to the <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i> through the <i>Aquaculture (Tourism Development) Amendment Bill 2021</i> to streamline the assessment and approval process for aquaculture related tourism developments.



# Compliance Operations

	Deliverables
1.	<p>Site surveillance inspections were undertaken by Fisheries Officers to ensure lease and licence holders comply with the Act, associated Acts, Regulations, policies and specific lease and licence conditions, and to investigate complaints from the public. Surveillance activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routine site inspections undertaken by Fisheries Officers.</li> <li>• Reports made to PIRSA subsequent to compliance inspections outline any compliance issues with a site and include photographs and site waypoints.</li> <li>• Follow up inspections required for sites that have identified compliance issues.</li> <li>• Inspections were also undertaken on sites that have been or are due to be, rehabilitated by lease or licence holders or contractors of lease and/or licence holders on an as required basis.</li> </ul> <p>Site inspections were conducted at Nepean Bay, Port Vincent, Wardang Island, Point Pearce, Coffin Bay, Tod River, Kellidie Bay, Point Longnose, Dutton Bay, Streaky Bay, Southbank (Perlubie), Northbank (Haslam) and Franklin Harbour. Sites were inspected to ensure they were adequately marked, stock on site was within licenced requirements, farming structures in good working order and all infrastructure located within marked off area.</p> <p>Fisheries officers responded to reports relating oyster farming debris which had come detached from farms and was loose on the seafloor nearby or which had washed ashore.</p> <p>Fisheries Officers inspected sites which had been rehabilitated.</p>
2.	<p>Fisheries Officers continued to liaise with a grower who had failed to address the non-compliant issues with their site. The site and licence holder will continue to be subject to follow up by Fisheries Officers during 2022/23.</p>
3.	<p>Fisheries Officers continued to collect Pacific Oyster samples as part of the POMS monitoring program from the Ceduna, Coffin Bay, Lucky Bay and other areas across the State. The West Regional Manager continued to reiterate biosecurity and POMS prevention measures via ABC Radio. POMS signage was maintained within the Port River system.</p>
4.	<p>Communication and monitoring activities were undertaken by PIRSA and related SA government agencies to ensure compliance by Oyster lease and/or licence holders with legislation (Act, other Acts, Regulations, and policies) and conditions of leases and/or licences.</p>
5.	<p>Procedures and processes required for response to notifiable events (e.g., entanglements, high mortalities) in an efficient and timely manner were developed and implemented by all agencies concerned.</p>

# Aquaculture Systems

	Deliverables
1.	Accurate and efficient systems maintained and enhanced to provide for effective and efficient management and administration of the Oyster Sector, in accordance with the <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i> .
2.	Provided for public transparency of use of the State's aquaculture resources (e.g., Public Register is available on the PIRSA website for all stakeholders, including the Oyster Sector, relevant government Agencies and general public).
3.	Safeguarded licence holder details by adhering to broader government guidelines (e.g. records management requirements for public service document standards and freedom of information requests).
4.	Included in management of the PIIMS database was assessing reporting functionalities, liaison with the PIRSA IT group, testing updates to the database, reporting of functional issues and troubleshooting with system users.
5.	Included in management of the Public Register system was 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.
6.	Included in the management of ArcGIS was 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.
7.	Management of the Microsoft Access Database included alignment of databases annually to reflect data requirements of Environmental Monitoring Reports.
8.	Management and maintenance of an electronic lodgement system for environmental monitoring program and production return data for the Oyster Sector.
9.	Development of an electronic reporting system to retrieve data directly from PIIMS in regards to electronic Environmental Monitoring Reports.
10.	Management of records management systems (e.g., Objective) included testing of various functionalities, liaison with the PIRSA IT group and requests for further updates to systems and software.
11.	Ongoing maintenance and troubleshooting of the electronic lodgement system (my PIRSA) for environmental monitoring program and production return data.
12.	Maintain accurate and up to date information on the PIRSA Aquaculture website, including for the Oyster sector.

# Aquatic Animal Health

	Deliverables
1.	One farmed Pacific Oyster related mortality event was reported to PIRSA and investigated. Samples were submitted to the laboratory and tested to rule out disease. No significant or notifiable diseases were detected.
2.	One wild invertebrate related mortality event was also reported to PIRSA and investigated. Samples were submitted to the laboratory and tested to rule out disease.
3.	Coordination of State-wide early detection surveillance for Ostried herpesvirus-1 (OsHV-1)/Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS). In 2021/22, ~3,600 Pacific Oysters (farmed and feral) were processed. In total, 759 samples were tested, all of which were negative for OsHV-1/POMS.
4.	Maintained passive surveillance systems, including summarise relevant pathology reports from the State Vetlab, summarise fish kill and aquaculture mortality investigations to demonstrate South Australia's disease freedom for trade and market access purposes.
5.	PIRSA assessed and approved three intrastate translocations of Native Oysters, under the <i>Livestock Act 1997</i> .
6.	<p>Provided advice to various government agencies and organisations/companies to mitigate potential aquatic animal health risks posed by marine developments/activities. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PIRSA provided advice to other companies involved in marine developments to reduce the risk of spreading POMS in adjacent areas to the Port.</li> <li>PIRSA provided advice on biofouling and ballast water management to various companies and vessel operators at their request.</li> </ul>
7.	Communications and awareness: SAOGA newsletter article, SAOGA AGM, factsheets to licence holders on POMS.
8.	The South Australian POMS management plan was implemented. The aims are to contain POMS to the Port Adelaide River System and implement prevention and preparedness activities in the commercial farming regions.
9.	Administrated two Chief Veterinary Officer approvals for biosecurity audits of two oyster hatcheries. Two of the five oyster hatcheries in South Australia are now considered biosecure.
10.	Conducted Emergency Disease Response training and updated PIRSA Emergency Response Plans as required with PIRSA Biosecurity.
11.	Meetings attended, reviewed documents, contributed to national policy developments and represented South Australia on the national Sub-Committee on Aquatic Animal Health (SCAAH).
12.	Attended Aquatic Veterinary Medicine Technical Advisory Group meetings (under SCAAH), to facilitate progress of veterinary medicine permits with the Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicine Authority (APVMA).
13.	Advice to the Chief Veterinary Officer (Biosecurity) as required, including for mortality / disease cases, state based emergency response preparedness and for national committees (e.g. Animal Health Committee, National Biosecurity Committee).

14.	Progressed the project “Improving the availability of safe and effective veterinary medicines for Australia's seafood industry (FRDC 2020-094)”. In this project, one of our primary aims is coordinate a national effort to facilitate the progress of priority aquatic veterinary medicines in the seafood industry through to permitting or registration with the APVMA.
15.	<p>Reviewed and updated a notice under the <i>Livestock Act 1997</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Notifiable Diseases</i></li> </ul> <p>Reviewed and updated a regulation under the <i>Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 23A—Taking of bivalve filter-feeding molluscs in Port Adelaide River estuary</li> </ul>
16.	Provided expert POMS related advice to DEW regarding the Adelaide Metro sand replenishment project.

# Environmental Monitoring and Management

	Deliverables
1.	Developed, assessed and processed annual Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP) reports for 352 Oyster licences.
2.	Conducted Ecologically Sustainable Development risk assessments and management of EPA referral for 11 Oyster licence applications related to new (5), and licence condition variations (6).
3.	Commenced drafting the 2022 South Australian Aquaculture Report which contains a summary of production and management of aquaculture in South Australia in 2020/21, including EMP summary information for each aquaculture sector.
4.	Responded to environmental issues related to the Oyster Sector.
5.	Responded to ongoing industry requests in regard to applications and management of leases and licences.
6.	Presented at SAOGA AGM on licensing processes.
7.	Provided articles for SAOGA newsletter.
8.	Ongoing maintenance of reporting databases for environmental compliance matters, escapes of stock, ecological interactions and marine debris.
9.	Assessed and processed 16 Oyster strategies in association with transfer applications and new licence holders.
10.	Conducted regular meetings with the EPA to discuss and prioritise environmental issues and projects relating to the aquaculture industry.
11.	Liaised with Fisheries Officers for environmental issues related to the Oyster Sector, particularly in relation to marine debris, site audits and rehabilitation of old sites. This included provision of technical input/mapping regarding environmental compliance and development and operation of aquaculture sites.
12.	Reviewed and provided comment on a number of guidelines/proposals that may impact the Oyster sector (e.g. SA Productivity Commission Inquiry, PIRSA/DEW marine mammal interaction procedure, National Environment Science Program seal research proposal, the Blue economy CRC for Marine Planning, EPA dredge guidelines, Port Lincoln desalination plant proposal, Port River dredge proposal, DIT referral for vessel movements between Port River and Kangaroo Island, Nature Conservancy Kangaroo Island Oyster Reef, DEW sand replenishment proposal).
13.	Development of specific licence conditions and macroalgae management areas to mitigate biosecurity risks associated with growing algae on existing licensed sites, including liaising with SARDI and Biosecurity SA and notification to all licence holders permitted to farm algae of the new management arrangements for algae aquaculture.
14.	Liaised with SAOGA regarding the growing interest in farming algae on existing licensed sites and whether their indemnity fund will cover algae infrastructure.

15.	<p>Contribution to, support for and implementation of, numerous research projects to assess environmental and economic impacts relating to Oyster aquaculture and research into POMS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FRDC 2014-027: Pacific Oyster feeds and feeding in South Australian waters: towards ecosystem based management</li> <li>• FRDC 2016-808: Future Oysters CRC-P <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CRC-P Advanced surveillance</li> <li>○ CRC-P species diversification including a pest and biosecurity risk assessment for Rock Oysters</li> <li>○ Rapid diagnostic method for OsHV-1</li> <li>○ Efficacy of knockdown and POMS outbreak on Pacific Oyster populations and OsHV-1 viral load in the Port River</li> <li>○ Role of non-C. gigas hosts for POMS</li> <li>○ Infection model for assessing susceptibility to OsHV-1</li> </ul> </li> <li>• FRDC 2018-090: Improving early detection surveillance and emergency disease response to Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS) using a hydrodynamic model for dispersion of OsHV-1</li> <li>• FRDC 2019-039: South Australian Pacific Oyster selective breeding program: Building POMS resistance to reduce risk for the South Australian Oyster industry</li> </ul>
-----	--

# Program Management and Administration

	Deliverables
1.	Managed major service providers' contractual agreements, and any other contractual agreements with industry associations.
2.	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.
3.	Provided advice on procurement and invoicing requirements.
4.	Met agreed timeframes on management and administration of external contractual services.
5.	Ensured appropriate management of industry funds and services, including FRDC Levy Contributions.
6.	Coordinated and facilitated cost recovery processes and program agreements, including liaising with program providers, managers and financial services as required.
7.	Met with industry on matters relating to cost recovery, licence setting and related policy issues.
8.	Developed, reviewed and implemented cost recovery procedures and program agreements for the Oyster Sector for 2021-22 that are transparent, evidence-based and are developed in a consultative manner.
9.	Ongoing review, development and documentation of the cost recovery process and procedures in line with Australian Government Cost Recovery Guidelines.
10.	Provision of relevant, accurate and timely advice was provided to the Chief Executive of PIRSA and the Minister, so they were aware of current and emerging issues faced by PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture and the Oyster Sector.
11.	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.
12.	Provided assistance to the Oyster Sector as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Other Aquaculture Activities

	Deliverables
1.	All aquaculture sector production data collated and entered and forwarded to BDO EconSearch for compiling 2020/21 report.
2.	2020/21 annual economic report, incorporating Oyster Sector data, drafted, finalised and published on PIRSA website.
3.	Collected, through annual fees, the Oyster industry's annual contribution to the FRDC.
4.	Provided input to SAOGA newsletter articles.
5.	Attended and presented at the Oyster Information Day in August 2021 and February 2022.