

PIRSA

Annual Report on PIRSA's Service Delivery on the Cost Recovery Agreement for the Land-based Sector

2019-20



Government of South Australia
Department of Primary Industries
and Regions

Annual Report on PIRSA's Service Delivery on the Cost Recovery Agreement for the Land-based Sector 2019-20

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Resource Planning

	Deliverables
1.	<p>Finalised the Draft Aquaculture (Standard Lease and Licence Conditions) Policy 2020 and supporting Policy Report for approval, and commenced implementation. The policy development process included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two month public consultation period • Two public briefings (Adelaide and Port Lincoln) to assist submissions • Three aquaculture sector briefings to assist submissions • Review of submissions and amendments to the Draft Policy and Policy Report
2.	<p>Provided input to a range of State and Commonwealth Government environmental and conservation initiatives, to ensure Land-based aquaculture development objectives and aspirations were adequately taken into account and factored in to broader conservation policy development.</p>
3.	<p>Reviewed and provided advice to the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) on proposed port facilities in Spencer Gulf and Kangaroo Island, including consideration of potential aquatic disease and marine pest risks to Land-based aquaculture licences with marine intake pipelines.</p>
4.	<p>Provided formal response to DIT regarding a mandated referral to PIRSA for aquaculture developments outside of aquaculture zones and land-based aquaculture developments under the proposed Phase 2 of the Planning and Design Code. The referral is an important mechanism for PIRSA to minimise the regulatory burden on the aquaculture industry created by the planning approvals process.</p>
5.	<p>Reviewed and provided a submission to DIT on the draft Phase 2 and 3 of the Planning and Design Code, which replaces all development plans for the State, to streamline development approvals for future marine-based aquaculture development outside of aquaculture zones, as well as land-based aquaculture development, and to mitigate impacts from other forms of development on the aquaculture industry.</p>
6.	<p>Held an aquaculture development scenario testing workshop with DIT, Department for Environment and Water (DEW), EPA, council planners, and aquaculture industry representatives, including the Land-based Sector, to assist industry understand DIT's new planning system and to provide feedback.</p>
7.	<p>Provided input to DIT's review of referral fees under the <i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016</i>, in regard to PIRSA's provision of advice to the relevant planning authority for aquaculture development applications.</p>
8.	<p>Reviewed and provided a response to the EPA on their Dredge Guidelines to mitigate potential impacts to the aquaculture industry.</p>
9.	<p>Commenced 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>.</p>

10.	Facilitated the preparation of an industry led application to address workplace wellness for the seafood sector in South Australia.
11.	Continued to work with the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) and State based interested parties to facilitate the import of sturgeon species into Australia for commercial aquaculture purposes. This included PIRSA, South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI), in collaboration with the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC), funding a research project to support the DAWE Biosecurity Import Risk Analysis for sturgeon import approval.

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 Land-based licences.										
2.	Completed database maintenance and updates as required.										
3.	Completed update to electronic Production Return and Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP) reporting including design and testing of each new report.										
4.	Reviewed renewal and transfer applications to ensure correct information is received at the time of application.										
5.	Updated licence records as required.										
6.	Maintenance of systems and procedures to support day to day administration of licensing activities related to the Land-based Sector.										
7.	Conducted audits of internal processes and functions including application checklists.										
8.	Records management of licensing documentation.										
9.	<p>Processing of Land-based applications (see table below).</p> <table> <tr> <th>Land-based: Application Type</th><th>Number</th></tr> <tr> <td>Licence variation*</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>Licence Renewals</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr> <td>Licence Surrender</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>Licence Transfer</td><td>1</td></tr> </table> <p>*Environmental assessment and inter-agency referral conducted</p>	Land-based: Application Type	Number	Licence variation*	1	Licence Renewals	21	Licence Surrender	1	Licence Transfer	1
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Licence Renewals	21										
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10.	Processed annual production returns from the Land-based Sector. This included follow-up on unreturned production returns to ensure licence holders meet their obligations under the regulations, collation and analysis of information.										
11.	Finalised PIRSA internal guidelines for determining lease performance criteria and terms for aquaculture leases and licences.										
12.	Processed requests for information from licence holders via front counter, phone or e-mail.										
13.	Liaised with government stakeholders to verify the credentials of licence holders for application processing as required.										
14.	Issued invoices relating to annual fees (including quarterly reminders), licence renewals, transfers and/or surrenders for 79 Land-based licences.										
15.	Reconciled receipt of annual licence fees, application fees and liaised with Shared Services SA as required.										

16.	Conducted 22 assessments for fee relief requests that was offered to licenses which had no production, as part of cost recovery agreements for Land-based licences.
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Legislation

	Deliverables
1.	Provided input into the finalisation of the draft Aquaculture (Standard Lease and Licence Conditions) Policy 2020 for approval, including a review of over 300 lease and licence conditions with the Office of Parliamentary Council (OPC) and the Crown Solicitor's Office to ensure these remain modern and reflective of the aquaculture industry's practice.
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 <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i> to promote efficient and transparent government administration.
3.	Review of aquaculture related notices issued under the <i>Livestock Act 1997</i> and related Ministerial delegations for same.
4.	Input into compliance / enforcement / litigation matters as required.
5.	Review of aquaculture related notices issued under the <i>Livestock Act 1997</i> and related Ministerial delegations for same.

Compliance Operations

	Deliverables
1.	<p>Site surveillance inspections were undertaken by Fisheries Officers to ensure licence holder compliance with the Act, associated Acts, Regulations, policies and specific licence conditions, and to investigate complaints from the public. Surveillance activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine site inspections undertaken by Fisheries Officers. • Follow up inspections as required for sites that have identified compliance issues.
2.	A number of sites were inspected at locations including Tumby Bay, Cowell, Kangaroo Island, Limestone Coast, Mallee and York Peninsula after applying for fee relief.
3.	A site was inspected and audited after Fisheries Officers suspected farming activity had commenced prior to the associated development application being approved.
4.	Communication and monitoring activities were undertaken by PIRSA and related SA government agencies to ensure compliance by Land-based licence holders with legislation (Act, other Acts, Regulations and policies) and conditions of licences.
5.	Procedures and processes required for response to notifiable events (e.g. high mortalities) in an efficient and timely manner were developed and implemented by all agencies concerned.

Aquaculture Systems

	Deliverables
1.	Accurate and efficient systems maintained and enhanced to provide for effective and efficient management and administration of the Land-based 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 Land-based 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 ICT group, testing updates to the database, reporting of functional issues and trouble-shooting 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 occurred and trouble-shooting 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 trouble-shooting 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 Land-based 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 trouble-shooting of the electronic lodgement system (my PIRSA) for environmental monitoring program and production return data.

Aquatic Animal Health

	Deliverables
1.	Seventeen invertebrate (including mollusc) related mortality events, and 12 Finfish related mortality events were reported to PIRSA and investigated. This included both aquaculture and wild fish kills. Samples were submitted to the laboratory and tested to rule out disease. In one case, an investigation into a mortality event at a land-based farm escalated to a collaborative investigation with Biosecurity SA and EPA to assist in the rule out of factors other than disease.
2.	Completed the South Australian component for the Commonwealth project titled "Active surveillance of wild and farmed abalone to establish stronger disease status baselines." This project aimed to demonstrate that wild and farmed Australian abalone were free from withering syndrome, and to provide accurate knowledge of the disease status for AVG and Perkinsus spp. The project was funded by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources with substantial in-kind support and resources from PIRSA.
3.	Maintained passive surveillance systems, including summarising relevant pathology reports from the State Vetlab, summarised fish kill and aquaculture mortality investigations to demonstrate South Australia's disease freedom for trade and market access purposes.
4.	Twelve livestock translocation requests were assessed and approved by PIRSA.
5.	Administered the regulation and compliance for off-label veterinary medicine use. Assessed and processed one veterinary prescription to support Ministerial approvals for off label use of veterinary medicines to maintain fish health and welfare. Liaised with industry veterinarian, EPA where required, any adjacent industry where required and other government departments during assessment.
6.	Assisted with progress of permit and registration for veterinary medicines with APVMA through meetings, workshops and communications with APVMA, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC), National Aquaculture Council, aquaculture industry sectors, EPA, PIRSA rural chemicals, veterinarians and researchers.
7.	Assessment and advice to the PIRSA Fisheries Policy Group on Finfish stock release applications to ensure Land-based hatcheries provide adequate health certification and the risks of introduction and spread of disease in the State are minimised.
8.	Provided advice to various government agencies, including the EPA and DIT, and organisations/companies, including Flinders Ports and Maritime Constructions and Kangaroo Island Plantation Timbers Ltd., to mitigate potential aquatic animal health risks posed by marine developments/activities, including consideration of risks to adjacent land-based farms. PIRSA also provided advice on biofouling and ballast water management to various companies and vessel operators.
9.	Facilitated the implementation of disease mitigation strategies as identified in risk assessments. This is to facilitate effective disease management (disease prevention, preparedness, response and recovery strategies).
10.	Completed the project "Improving early detection surveillance and emergency disease response to Ostreid herpesvirus using a hydrodynamic dispersion model" (Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC): 2018-090). In this project, we defined the disease

	management areas (biosecurity zones) in a related mollusc sector. This provided disease management information for Land-based hatcheries.
11.	Commenced the project Risk factors and management strategies associated with summer mortality in Australian abalone (FRDC: 2019-147). In this project, our primary aim is to improve current understanding and management of risk factors associated with summer mortality in abalone.
13.	Presented at the Australasian Aquatic Animal Health and Biosecurity on Aquatic Animal Health and Biosecurity conference.
14.	Conducted Emergency Disease Response training and updated PIRSA Emergency Response Plans as required with PIRSA Biosecurity SA.
15.	Communications sent to all fish processors reminding them of the disease risks and current legislative restrictions for processing and distribution of fish waste for bait and berley, including the duty to prevent the introduction and spread of notifiable diseases.
16.	Meetings attended, reviewed documents, contributed to national policy developments and represented South Australia on the national Sub-Committee on Aquatic Animal Health (SCAAH).
17.	Chaired the National Aquatic Veterinary Medicines Working Group (under SCAAH), to facilitate progress of veterinary medicine permits with the Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicine Authority (APVMA), and progress of the national strategic plan for aquatic animal health (including objective 4: Improving availability of appropriate veterinary medicines).
18	Reviewed and updated the notice <i>Prohibition of Entry into and Movement within South Australia of Aquaculture Stock Notice 2020</i> under the <i>Livestock Act 1997</i> .

Environmental Monitoring and Management

	Deliverables
1.	Developed, assessed and processed annual EMP reports for 79 Land-based licences.
2.	Conducted Ecologically Sustainable Development risk assessments and management of EPA referrals for two new Land-based licence applications and one Land-based licence variation (species addition) application.
3.	Prepared the Zoning In - South Australian Aquaculture Report 2017/18 and commenced drafting the 2018/19 report which contains a summary of production and management of aquaculture in South Australia, including EMP summary information for each aquaculture sector.
4.	Ongoing maintenance of reporting databases for environmental compliance matters, and ecological interactions.
5.	Conducted bi-monthly meetings with the EPA to discuss and prioritise environmental issues and projects relating to the aquaculture industry.
6.	Liaised with Fisheries Officers for environmental issues related to the Land-based Sector, particularly in relation to site audits. This included provision of technical input regarding environmental compliance and development and operation of aquaculture sites.
7.	Conducted eleven site audits as part of the application assessment process for Land-based annual fee relief.
8.	Reviewed and provided a submission on the EPA's Aquatic Ecosystem Condition Report for the South-East inland, in relation to aquaculture activities.
9.	Reviewed and provided comment to DIT on Kangaroo Island Plantation Timbers Ltd draft Assessment Report for the proposed deep water port at Smith Bay, Kangaroo Island.
10.	Contribution to, support for and implementation of, numerous research projects to assess environmental and economic impacts relating to or applicable Land-based aquaculture, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FRDC 2016-005: eSA marine • FRDC 2016-808: Future Oysters CRC-P

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.
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 Land-based Sector for 2020/21 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 Minister so they were aware of current and emerging issues faced by PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture and the Land-based Sector.
11.	Consulted with the Deputy Chief Executive, Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Director Operations, PIRSA Fisheries Managers, and the Office of the Minister and other parties as needed.
12.	Provision of information to inform responses and decisions in relation to public and industry concerns raised with the Chief Executive of PIRSA and the Minister.
13.	Provided assistance to land-based aquaculture licence holders impacted from the Kangaroo Island bushfires as part of PIRSA's emergency response.
14.	Provided assistance to the Land-based Sector as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other Aquaculture Activities

	Deliverables
1.	2017/18 annual economic report, incorporating Land-based Sector data, finalised and published on PIRSA website.
2.	2018/19 annual economic report, incorporating Land-based Sector data, drafted.
3.	All aquaculture sector production data collated and entered, and forwarded to BDO EconSearch for compiling 2018/19 report.

