

Cost Recovery Implementation Statement for the Central Zone Abalone Fishery

1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024



**Government
of South Australia**
Department of Primary
Industries and Regions

Cost Recovery Implementation Statement

Information current as of February 2023
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Introduction

Wild catch commercial fisheries in South Australia are managed in accordance with the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) Cost Recovery Policy. This policy requires commercial fishery licence fees to fund services related to commercial fisheries management costs. PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture continue to manage the process of consulting with service providers and relevant industry associations to establish fishery-based management programs, which form the basis of annual licence fees.

For each sector, the program required to manage the fishery has the following components:

- Assessment and Research Services.
- Fisheries Policy and Management Services.
- Compliance Services, including communication, enforcement and monitoring activities.
- Support Services, including Legislation, Licensing and Business Services (Directorate).

This documentation provides a framework to assist in establishing appropriate research, policy, compliance and support services to manage a fishery.

Previous years Cost Recovery Implementation Statements, Reviews, Cost Recovery Policy and the Cost Recovery Framework can be found at

https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing/commercial_fishing/pirsa_services_to_fisheries_industry.

Consistent with Principle 7 of the PIRSA Cost Recovery Policy, an annual schedule of meetings for stakeholder engagement and support for the cost recovery process in relation to commercial fisheries is outlined below:

Annual schedule of meetings		
Date	Activity	Parties
Sept/Oct	Review long-term objectives for fishery and update if necessary. Identify priority outcomes for upcoming financial year.	PIRSA and industry association
October	Develop policy, research and compliance work programs in readiness for discussions (fisheries managers with industry) in November.	PIRSA
November	Discuss proposed programs with relevant industry associations and reach agreement on programs for the upcoming period. Industry associations to consult with wider industry.	PIRSA and industry association
February	Formal meetings with industry associations to finalise work programs and summarise costs.	PIRSA and industry association
March	Submit proposed licence fees to Minister. Prepare Ministerial Notice briefing to vary and prescribe lease and licence fees for the next financial year.	PIRSA and government agencies
June	Invoices sent for annual licence fees.	PIRSA

*Dates above are indicative only and may vary due to unforeseen circumstances that may arise throughout any year.**

Summary Table

2022-23 (\$)	PROGRAM AREA	2023-24 (\$)	COMMENTS	DAYS	FTE
RESEARCH COSTS					
237,278	Stock Assessment and Monitoring	128,659	Year 1 program cost of \$210,135. Please see page 31 for details of historic data logger program credits, reducing the 2023-24 program cost to \$128,659.		
3,445	Economic Assessment	3,549	As per contracted services 2023-24		
286	Other Research	184	Contribution towards Threatened and Endangered Species		
PIRSA RELATED COSTS *					
13,125	Policy and Management	13,755	Same level of service as previous year	15	0.8
1,615	Legislation	1,692	Same level of service as previous year	2	0.01
8,126	Licensing	8,520	Same level of service as previous year	9	0.04
2,685	Directorate	2,811	Same level of service as previous year	3	0.02
165,880	Compliance	173,810	Same level of service as previous year	130	0.65
5,190	Quota Monitoring	5,292	Same level of service as previous year	6	0.03
	Information Services	3,807	Logbook Program – Entry, validation, management and reporting of data		
OTHER COSTS					
13,501	FRDC	10,188	Funding based on 0.25% of rolling three year average GVP		
451,131	TOTAL	\$352,267			

*Figures rounded to nearest day

* The indexation rate of 4.8% confirmed by the Department of Treasury and Finance has been applied to the 2023/24 PIRSA program cost

Licence Fees 2023-24 (\$)	
CZ Base Fee	11,742
CZ Unit Fee	470
Total Licences	6
<i>Licence Fees 2022-23 (\$)</i>	
<i>CZ Base Fee</i>	<i>15,038</i>
<i>CZ Unit Fee</i>	<i>602</i>
<i>Total Licences</i>	<i>6</i>

Program Daily Charge Out Rate 2023-24

	DAILY RATE (\$)					
	Compliance	Directorate	Legislation	Licensing	Fisheries Management	Quota
Total Employee Expenses	692	640	764	521	618	453
Total Operating Expenses	350	127	64	145	166	151
Deprecation and Capital Costs	56	0	0	0	0	0
Total Other Expenses*	239	145	159	328	133	304
TOTAL DAILY RATE	1,337	911	987	994	917	906

Please Note: All dollar values have been rounded to the nearest dollar figure.

* Other expenses include ICT, finance, human resources, WHS, accommodation, insurance and other costs incurred corporately in providing services to divisions, apportioned across PIRSA using a range of cost drivers such as number of logons, headcount, volume data and other workload indicators, in accordance with PIRSA's cost recovery policy.

Fishery Management Objectives

Long term objectives	Outcomes	Fishery Policy and Management	Compliance	Assessment and Research	Leasing and Licensing
<p>Ensure the abalone resource is harvested sustainably.</p> <p>Optimum economic utilisation and equitable distribution of the Abalone resource.</p>	<p>Maintain Greenlip and Blacklip Abalone stocks above ecologically sustainable levels.</p> <p>Ensure sufficient data and information is available to implement the Harvest Strategy.</p> <p>Maximise catches for both abalone species within ecologically sustainable limits.</p> <p>Implement improvements to integrity of quota (TACC) management process.</p> <p>Explore suitable economic and social indicators to inform decision-making processes</p> <p>Implement Management Plan under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 2007</i>.</p>	<p>Manage fishery in accordance with Management Plan.</p> <p>Set TACC annually, in accordance with the Harvest Strategy.</p> <p>Support consideration of appropriate methods to inform biomass estimates for Blacklip.</p> <p>Support industry development of suitable diver survey to inform TACC recommendations.</p> <p>Continue to support investigation of use of fishery independent data (GPS and data loggers) into the interpretation of stock status.</p>	<p>Implement compliance program, informed by risk assessment.</p> <p>Implement changes to quota monitoring system.</p> <p>Support review of the Harvest Strategy and Management Plan.</p> <p>Support review of meat weight /quota integrity.</p>	<p>Stock Assessment and monitoring to underpin stock status and stock assessment reports.</p> <p>Support implementation of Harvest Strategy.</p> <p>Facilitate the development of a preliminary diver survey to inform Harvest Strategy decisions.</p> <p>Support planning, execution and reporting of industry-based surveys of Blacklip Abalone.</p> <p>Assist in the development of a FRDC proposal to develop a diver survey to contribute to Stock Status.</p>	<p>Provide ongoing support for licensing, quota and transfer queries.</p> <p>Support implementation of fishery Management Plan.</p>

Long term objectives	Outcomes	Fishery Policy and Management	Compliance	Assessment and Research	Leasing and Licensing
				Support review of fishery Management Plan in 2019.	
Minimise impacts on the ecosystem.	Disease risk management.	Undertake aquatic animal health risk assessment. Provide management advice on fish kills and Perkinsus, as required.	Provide support with investigations of fish kills and Perkinsus, as required.	Provide scientific advice on aquatic animal health risks and support with investigation of fish kills and Perkinsus.	
Cost effective and participative management of the fishery.	Support co-management of the fishery.	Maintain regular communication with industry representatives and be accessible to all licence holders. Provide management advice, where necessary, throughout the licensing year. Progress co-management arrangements consistent with the Co-management Policy.	Maintain regular communication with industry representatives. Provide compliance advice, where necessary, throughout the licensing year.	Maintain regular communication with industry representatives. Provide scientific advice to inform decision-making process of new Harvest Strategy.	Maintain regular communication with industry representatives. Provide licensing advice, where necessary, throughout the licensing year.

Fisheries Policy and Management Program

Program Manager:

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Program summary

The Fisheries Policy and Management Unit of PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture undertakes activities such as day-to-day management, long-term planning and policy development for South Australian commercial, recreational and Aboriginal traditional fisheries.

The Fisheries Policy and Management unit has the following core functions:

- Administer the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* and regulations.
- Day-to-day management of fisheries resources, to ensure catch and effort levels are commensurate with resource sustainability.
- Develop and implement Management Plans, including Harvest Strategy development and ESD risk assessment, in accordance with the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*.
- Provide advice to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development and Chief Executive on matters relating to fisheries.
- Represent the Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture on committees and other forums on matters related to the administration of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*.
- Develop over-arching policy frameworks to support fisheries management.
- Build and maintain relationships with key stakeholders, with a particular focus on the commercial and recreational fishing sectors.
- Progress Australian Government recommendations under *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* assessment.

Objectives

To provide day-to-day fisheries management services to for the Central Zone Abalone Fishery to government and industry, as well as advice and facilitation of fisheries policy and management issues, through the Fisheries Policy and Management Program.

Program strategies and supporting actions and initiatives

Anticipated outcomes

1. Provision of clear instructions for complex legal drafting or compilation of drafts of simple legislative instruments in consultation with the legal manager as necessary for the management of the Central Zone Abalone Fishery (regulations, closure notices, licence conditions, Ministerial exemptions etc).
2. Provide advice to the Minister or his/her delegate on setting total allowable commercial catch and effort levels for the Central Zone Abalone Fishery.
3. Preparation of policies to support fisheries management actions and decisions.
4. Prepare submissions to enable regular assessment of the Central Zone Abalone Fishery under the EPBC Act (1999).
5. Prepare annual report to the Australian Government on EPBC Act (1999) requirements for the Abalone fisheries.
6. Develop and maintain day-to-day productive working relationships and outcomes through cooperative management and collaboration with stakeholders.
7. Further the development of co-management arrangements.
8. Implement revision of the Harvest Strategy and revised Management Plan.

Performance indicators

1. Strong industry and government involvement in co-management relationship and adherence to formally agreed co-management arrangements.
2. Develop and implement Management Plan. Management Plans to include harvest strategies that protect sustainability of the fishery based on ESD risk assessment processes.
3. Australian Government recommendations met in relation to EPBC assessment.
4. Setting of TACC for Central Zone Abalone Fishery.

Program effort allocation

The table below includes an abbreviated suite of core activities and initiatives used to manage risks and reflect the anticipated split of effort and associated costs.

Activity	Days	FTE	Cost (\$)
Fisheries Management	15	0.8	13,755

Please Note: All dollar values have been rounded to the nearest dollar figure.

	Deliverables	Due date
1.	Participate in inter and intra-departmental meetings and workshops on issues relevant to fisheries management.	Ongoing
2.	Liaise 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.	Ongoing
3.	Liaise within PIRSA, with other government agencies and with industry representatives in implementing decisions relevant to fisheries management.	Ongoing
4.	Conduct 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.	November 2023
5.	Implement <i>Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Abalone fisheries</i> under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 2007</i> .	Ongoing
6.	<p>Implement initiatives to recover the Blacklip abalone stocks in Kangaroo Island.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support consideration of appropriate arrangements to monitor the recovery of Blacklip stocks around Kangaroo Island. Work with industry to identify initiatives to support the recovery of Blacklip abalone stocks at Kangaroo Island. 	Ongoing
7.	<p>Coordinate consultation with fishery stakeholders through established co-management processes.</p> <p>For TACC setting;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PreTACC Meeting (if requested) TACC Meeting 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>October 2023 November 2023</p>
8.	Participate in industry liaison in the field and on vessels to strengthen fishery management knowledge and understanding and develop rapport with licence holders and divers.	Ongoing
10.	Attend to general correspondence and enquiries relevant to the CZAF.	Ongoing
11.	Provide advice to Minister in relation to the management of fisheries and Ministerial correspondence.	Ongoing
12.	Communicate on fisheries management issues to key stakeholder groups and the broader community.	Ongoing
13	Include investigation of Number of masters allowed on licence	30 Nov 2023

Legislative Services Program

Program Manager:

Lambertus Lopez, Manager, Legal and Legislative Programs

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Program summary

PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture provides legal and legislative services to the Executive Director and all other members of the Division, in particular the policy and licensing groups, on a daily basis. Among other things these services include strategic/ governance advice and problem-solving, review of draft documentation and correspondence and the provision of general advice and statutory interpretation, in consultation with the Crown Solicitor's Office where necessary, regarding any legal issues relating to proposed actions and the implementation or administration of abalone fisheries management and regulatory arrangements through existing legislative frameworks and licence conditions. Consideration is also given to the impacts and effects of other related legislation where and when required.

Objectives

To provide legal and legislative services supporting the implementation of necessary, appropriate and effective statutory and administrative changes to government administration of all fishery sectors, as well as strategic advice and facilitation of related policy development, legislative and regulatory issues, through the Legal Services Program.

Program strategies and supporting actions and initiatives

Program effort allocation

The table below includes an abbreviated suite of core activities and initiatives used to manage risks and reflect the anticipated split of effort and associated costs.

Activity	Days	FTE	Cost (\$)
Legislation	2	0.01	1,692

Please Note: All dollar values have been rounded to the nearest dollar figure.

Anticipated outcomes

	Deliverables	Due date
1.	Co-ordinate and review 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 require the drafting of Cabinet submissions and supporting documentation, including the preparation of drafting instructions, for consideration by Cabinet. This service includes co-ordinating and review 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 are accurately described, drafted and scrutinised before being implemented.	Ongoing
2.	Review licensing arrangements required on an as needs basis to lawfully implement approved fishery management policy and measures within the limitations of the Act. The service includes working with the Licensing program (part of Leasing and Licensing) and policy program to ensure licence conditions are effective and where necessary to implement efficient administrative systems and finalise forms and instruments that are legally sound.	Ongoing
3.	Problem solve and review policy developments together with the provision and co-ordination of legal advisory services in liaison with the Crown Solicitor's office relating to and 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.	Ongoing
4.	Coordinate applications for Ministerial exemptions under Part 10 Division 1 and Permits under Part 7 Division 2 of the Act and review draft notices.	Ongoing
5.	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, to implement 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).	Ongoing
6.	Support compliance for statutory interpretation, problem solving and correspondence advice (per above).	Ongoing

Leasing and Licensing Program

Program Manager:

Todd Sutton, Manager Leasing and Licensing Telephone: 08 8207 5321

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Program summary

The Fisheries Leasing and Licensing unit of PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture is responsible for the management of licensing and quota monitoring services.

This business unit provides a range of services related to the timely processing and management of information leading to the issue of licences and other reporting services.

The unit administers a licensing call centre for licence inquiries and other administrative services. The success of these functions is based on maintaining the Primary Industries Information Management System (PIIMS) database.

Objectives

To provide leasing and licensing services to government and industry through the Leasing and Licensing Program.

Program strategies and supporting actions and initiatives

Program effort allocation

The table below includes an abbreviated suite of core activities and initiatives used to manage risks and reflect the anticipated split of effort and associated costs.

Activity	Days	FTE	Cost (\$)
Leasing and Licensing	9	0.04	8,520
Quota Monitoring	6	0.03	5,292

Please Note: All dollar values have been rounded to the nearest dollar figure.

Anticipated outcomes

1. Issue licences to licence holders in an accurate and timely manner.
2. Provide accurate and timely information related to licences.
3. Provide reports as required.

	Deliverables	Due date
	Services to directly support the fishery	
1.	Issue and maintain fishery licences.	Ongoing
2.	Database management for licence renewal.	Ongoing
3.	Quota monitoring.	Ongoing
4.	Collect licence fees and associated payments.	Ongoing
5.	Compose and send quarterly instalment notices.	Ongoing
6.	Record and track unpaid invoices.	Ongoing
7.	Compose and send late payment instalment notices for un-paid quarterly instalments.	Ongoing
8.	Draft and issue notices to fishers.	Ongoing
9.	Process 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.	Ongoing
10.	Regularly update information about licence holders.	Ongoing
11.	Research and prepare documents for public record.	Ongoing
12.	Liaise with government stakeholders to verify the credentials of fishers.	Ongoing
13.	Liaise with PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture, SARDI Aquatic Sciences, Crown Solicitors and other state and local agencies on matters relevant to the fishery.	Ongoing
14.	Draft and update licence conditions over the duration of the licensing year as determined by the Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture.	Ongoing
15.	Provide information to licence holders relating to the requirements pursuant to licence administration.	Ongoing
16.	Manage calls from fishers regarding late payment notices, fees and general enquiries about their licences.	Ongoing
17.	Provide support regarding an increased frequency of 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.	Ongoing

	Services to support fisheries management	
1.	Participate in inter and intra departmental meetings and workshops on issues relevant to the fishing industry.	Ongoing
2.	Liaise with relevant staff within PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture in implementing decisions relevant to the fishery.	Ongoing
3.	Interrogate the PIIMS database to extract information for other stakeholders to use in preparing reports.	Ongoing
4.	Prepare reports requested by internal and external customers including maintenance of a public register of licence holders.	Ongoing
5.	Liaise with information technology providers to maintain PIIMS and administer licensing requests.	Ongoing
6.	Generate quota management reports to update stakeholders on varying Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) returns and end of season quota holdings.	Ongoing

Directorate Program

Program Manager:

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Program summary

Business Services, within the Directorate Unit of PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture, provides a range of services to support fisheries management. These include coordinating the cost recovery process and establishing agreements with service providers; coordinating program provider reports; administering external contracts and agreements; and providing audit, financial and human resource functions.

Objectives

To provide support services to government and industry, as well as advice and facilitation of corporate related policy and management issues, through the Directorate Program that incorporates the Fisheries and Aquaculture Business Services unit.

Program strategies and supporting actions and initiatives

Program effort allocation

The table below includes an abbreviated suite of core activities and initiatives used to manage risks and reflect the anticipated split of effort and associated costs.

Activity	Days	FTE	Cost (\$)
Directorate	3	0.02	2,811

Please Note: All dollar values have been rounded to the nearest dollar figure.

Anticipated outcomes

	Deliverables	Due date
1.	Coordinate and facilitate cost recovery processes and program agreements, including liaising with program providers, managers and financial services as required.	Ongoing
2.	Meet with industry on matters relating to cost recovery, licence setting and related policy issues.	Ongoing
3.	Develop and review cost recovery policy, processes and program agreements.	Ongoing
4.	Manage major service providers' contractual agreements	Ongoing
5.	Project manage and administer 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.	Ongoing
6.	Provide advice on procurement and invoicing requirements.	Ongoing
7.	Consult 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.	Ongoing
8.	Ongoing review, development and documentation of the cost recovery model, framework, processes and roles.	Ongoing
9.	Meet agreed timeframes on management and administration of external contractual services.	Ongoing
10.	Appropriate management of industry funds and services.	Ongoing
11..	Provide an Annual Report on PIRSA's service delivery on the cost recovery agreement to the Executive Officer.	September

Fisheries Compliance Operations Program

Program Manager:

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Program summary

PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture teams coordinate compliance activities (outputs) to build awareness and behavioural outcomes that have a long-term beneficial impact in the Central Zone Abalone Fishery. The objective of the compliance activities (outputs) is to minimise the risks to aquatic resource sustainability, resource allocation and access rights and ultimately commercial economic viability.

The coordination of the compliance outputs is guided by an industry specific compliance plan which was developed in consultation with the Central Zone Abalone Industry. These outputs are aimed at educating fishers, deterring opportunistic and financially motivated crimes, enforce the rules and regulations and reducing overall compliance risks to resource sustainability.

Legislative and regulatory framework

Fisheries Management (Abalone Fisheries) Regulations 2017

Fisheries Management Act 2007

Fisheries Management (Fish Processors) Regulations 2017

Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017 Schedule 2

Fisheries Management (Demerit Points) Regulations 2009

Abalone Fisheries Management Plan

Program effort, funding and resources

The level of effort required to deliver the compliance program in accordance with the dedicated plan is reviewed annually taking into account:

- previous effort required to deliver established programs developed over last 10 years.
- the identified risks to the fishery and any associated changes.
- shifts or changes to the fishery management.
- changes to fishing practices.

- additional pressures or influences on fishers or the fishery.
- intelligence holdings.
- trends or change behaviours that required monitoring and/or investigation.
- cost effectiveness and identified efficiencies.
- any other relevant information required to deliver an effective compliance program to monitor and enforce the rules and regulations for each fishery.

PIRSA continually reviews the CZA fishery compliance program, gaining efficiencies through data driven compliance activities, targeted operations and re-directing compliance effort where necessary to address any current or emerging issues and risks.

The following table includes the number of days predicted to reflect the anticipated split of effort and associated costs to deliver the compliance outputs for 2023/24:

Compliance Outputs	Days	FTE	Cost
Education Awareness	21	0.11	28,077
Effective Deterrence, Monitoring and Surveillance	62	0.31	82,894
Enforcement	47	0.24	62,839
TOTALS	130	0.65	173,810

Please Note: to comply with Work Health and Safety obligations and evidentiary requirements, operational activities are generally required to be undertaken by a minimum of two (2) officers at any time.

IT systems, technology and data

Fisheries and Aquaculture Compliance Operations are supported by a number of electronic systems which continue to be refined to allow optimum delivery of information in a reliable and timely way. Some of the key systems that assist to drive the compliance outputs include:

- IBase and Analyst Notebooks (Intelligence system).
- FACT (Fisheries and Aquaculture Information Collection Tool).
- Timewise (Effort Reporting Tool).
- Evidence.com (Video Evidence Collection Tool).
- PIIMS (Primary Industries Information Management System – Quota and Licence Information).
- eCatch.
- eBrief (prosecutions system).
- Commercial Fishing Application.

Delivery outputs

The coordination of compliance outputs is guided by an industry specific compliance plan which was developed in consultation with the Central Zone Abalone Industry. The plan ensures compliance effort is intelligence driven, efficient, and cost effective and outcome focused. The compliance plan comprises three core outputs (Education and Awareness, Effective Deterrence and Enforcement) and is optimised towards increasing voluntary compliance and maximising effective deterrence.

Analysis of intelligence and information holdings is regularly conducted to identify the major risks to the sustainable harvest of Abalone. The combination of strategies, actions, and initiatives are critical to focus the primary compliance effort to manage the risks and achieve targeted outcomes. The details are identified herein.

Intelligence

- Information collection.
- Analysis and testing of information voracity.
- Provide recommendations for targeted operations.
- Develop strategic assessments.

Education and awareness

- Conduct education meetings with new entrants into the fishery and participate in industry days.
- Provide electronic distribution of educational material to fishers and licence holders.
- Ensure all interested parties understand their respective obligations.
- Develop Industry communication and relationship programs to facilitate discussion of topics such as compliance inspection outcomes and issues impacting the Central Zone Abalone fishery.
- Ongoing one on one education during inspections.

Effective deterrence, monitoring and surveillance

- Ensure all aspects of the Quota Management System are monitored such as prior reporting and chain of custody requirements in catch disposal records (CDR) including auditing.
- Ensure all aspects of commercial fishing activities are monitored such as inspections of catch at sea, when landed, in transit and at fish processing premises.
- Ensure information from mandated data loggers is being obtained by SARDI.
- Minimize the possibilities of disease spread (eg. AVG and Perkinsus) within the State.
- Ensure Fisheries Officers have an understanding of actions to be taken to minimize a disease outbreak in the fishery.
- Conduct intelligence driven operations that give rise to appropriate enforcement action.
- Respond to reported incidents/issue.

- Communicate activities in formal reporting.
- Follow up of incorrect, incomplete reporting

Enforcement

- Investigate reports of non-compliance and where appropriate take action.
- Issue expiations and caution notices.
- Prepare briefs of evidence for the Crown Solicitors Office to consider court enforced actions.
- Communicate enforcement outcomes in formal reporting.
- Service of suspension notices.

Risk assessment and management (work priorities)

PIRSA use information obtained from intelligence, monitoring, surveillance and enforcement processes to assess compliance and sustainability risks to the fishery. This subsequently informs work priorities for service delivery. The priorities are prone to change during the fishing season however the following are currently relevant to the Central Zone Abalone Fishery.

1. Quota Management System (QMS) Integrity.
2. Take undersize / underweight Abalone.
3. Pest and Disease Incursion.
4. Illegal Unreported Unregulated Take (included in the Recreational Fishery Plan).

Deliverables

In line with the annual performance report, the compliance deliverables will be presented separately.

Stock Assessment and Monitoring Program

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1. Project details

1.1 Title

South Australian Abalone Fishery (Central Zone)

1.2 Timeframe

Commencement Date: 1 July 2023

Completion Date: 30 June 2024

1.3 Summary

This is the ninth Project Scope developed specifically for the Central Zone (CZ) of the South Australian Abalone Fishery. Previous Project Scopes for this Zone rationalised work programs and reporting frameworks across years. Consequently, not all activities are undertaken in the CZ in all years. This scope of work for 2023/24 includes further changes to that work program but maintains the biennial reporting cycle. The scope of work specifically addresses strategic research priorities for the fishery, which include: application of the Harvest Strategy; surveys of key fishing areas; fine-scale management and fine-scale fishery assessments.

The primary outputs from the research program are:

- (1) A stock status report for greenlip (GL; due 31/10/2023); and
- (2) completion of fishery-independent surveys on GL in the West Yorke Peninsula Spatial Assessment Unit.

Secondary outputs include 'year-to-date' catch and effort summaries in the form of PowerPoint presentations provided to PIRSA and industry at port meetings to inform TACCs.

2. Project description

2.1 Background

There are five primary components to the research provided by SARDI Aquatic Sciences to PIRSA in support of the CZ abalone fishery. These are:

- analyse commercial catch-effort and catch length-frequency data across the fishery;
- fishery-independent surveys of the abundance of greenlip in key Spatial Assessment Units (SAUs); and
- provision of comprehensive reports that assess relevant fishery-dependent and fishery-independent data, assess fishery performance against performance indicators defined in the Management Plan and detail resource status.

2.2 Need

This project addresses the need for scientific information to support sustainable utilisation of abalone in the South Australian Abalone Fishery and application of the Harvest Strategy identified in the Management Plan for the fishery.

2.3 Objectives

- 2.3.1 Provide PIRSA with a stock status report for GL in the CZ (There is no reporting for blacklip in 2023/24 due to the zero TACC);
- 2.3.2 complete fishery-independent surveys on GL in the West Yorke Peninsula Spatial Assessment Unit in 2023/24 (Tiparra Reef is planned to be surveyed again in 2024/25);
- 2.3.3 provide PIRSA with an updated biomass estimate from leaded-line surveys in 2023 in the West Yorke Peninsula Spatial Assessment Unit;
- 2.3.4 provide PIRSA with scientific advice to support the sustainable management of the CZ of the South Australian Abalone Fishery, including TACC setting in accordance with the Management Plan and design and implementation of a blacklip monitoring program;
- 2.3.5 assist PIRSA with implementation of the Abalone Fishery Management Plan, including application of the Harvest Strategy; and
- 2.3.6 provide PIRSA and industry with 'year-to-date', catch and effort data summaries to support TACC setting.

2.4 Methods

- 2.4.1 collect, collate, store and analyse biological information for GL representative of the key populations;
- 2.4.2 collect, collate, store and analyse the time-series of abundance for GL in the West Yorke Peninsula SAU (no survey for Tiparra Reef in 2023/24), including survey rationalisation through less frequent sampling of historically-low-count transects (next survey for Tiparra Reef is planned for 2024/25);

- 2.4.3 review and apply the Harvest Strategy to determine zonal status for GL using the methods described in the Management Plan; and
- 2.4.5 document and interpret the research findings.

3. Deliverables

The key deliverables of the 2023/24 Central Zone Abalone stock assessment and monitoring program are tabulated below; additional work related to the core program is also identified:

Funding Source	Deliverable	Due Date
This SLA	Stock Status report for GL in Central Zone, including application of harvest strategy	31 October 2023
This SLA	Stock Status presentations, including year-to-date data, to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture, and Industry delivered as required	30 June 2024
This SLA	Fishery-independent surveys in the West Yorke Peninsula SAU completed	30 June 2024
PIRSA	Work with PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture and Industry to finalise a sampling program to monitor changes in Central Zone Blacklip Abalone (BL) stock abundance.	30 June 2024
PIRSA	Assist with implementation of Abalone Management Plan including application of Harvest strategy	30 June 2024
PIRSA/FRDC	Project completion: Accelerating Greenlip Abalone stock recovery in South Australia using release of hatchery-reared juveniles (Phase 1 - genetics risk assessment and preliminary cost-benefit analysis)(FRDC project 2020/116; Principal investigator: Dr Stephen Mayfield).	31 December 2023
FRDC	Project completion: The impact and implication of <i>Perkinsus olensi</i> on Australian abalone fisheries (FRDC project 2020/004; Principal Investigator: Dr Ben Stobart)	31 December 2023
FRDC	Project completion: 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; Principal Investigator: Dr Crystal Beckmann).	31 December 2023
FRDC	Project continuation: Best practice and policy in abalone stock enhancement, restocking and translocation (FRDC project 2019/110; Principal Investigator: Dr Lachlan Strain)	30 June 2024
FRDC	Project continuation: Indicators for density and biomass of exploitable abalone - developing and applying a new approach (FRDC Project 2020/065; Principal Investigator: Dr Keith Sainsbury).	30 June 2024

FRDC	Project continuation: Drawing strength from each other: simulation testing of Australia's abalone harvest strategies (FRDC project 2019/118; Principal Investigator: Dr Cathy Dichmont).	30 June 2024
FRDC	Contribute to Status of Key Australian Fish Stocks Report	30 June 2024

3.1 Service Provided:

3.1.1 *Collect, collate, store and analyse data on the size composition of the commercial catch*

- Receive, collate, store and analyse data on the size composition of the commercial GL catch from licence holders.

3.1.3 *Analyse abalone population biological data*

- Store, and analyse as required, biological data representative of the fishery.

3.1.4 *Collect, collate, store and analyse abundance-survey data for GL at sites across the fishery*

- Maintain the time series of the abundance and size composition of GL in the CZ. Surveys at West Yorke Peninsula are to be undertaken in 2023/24 (Tiparra Reef is planned to be surveyed again in 2024/25).

3.1.5 *Management and quality assurance of research data*

- Provide effective storage and management of research data.

3.1.6 *Apply Harvest Strategy*

- Apply the Harvest Strategy to GL using the approach detailed in the Management Plan.

3.1.7 *Analysis and interpretation*

- Interpret the results of the research program in reports and presentations. Determine stock status for each species.

3.1.8 *Catch/effort/survey summaries*

- Provide presentations summarising year-to-date information for GL across the fishery at TACC and other relevant meetings.

3.1.9 *Fishing strategies*

- Assist PIRSA and Industry with the management of the fishery.
- Assist PIRSA with implementation of the Abalone Fishery Management Plan.
- Assist PIRSA and Industry with the identification of management options for the fishery.

3.1.10 *Project management*

- Ongoing supervision of projects.
- New project development and implementation.
- Management of deliverables including quality control.
- Liaise with PIRSA, industry, State and Commonwealth agencies on matters relevant to the fishery.
- Participate in industry development initiatives.
- Work with PIRSA and stakeholders to identify research priorities and to develop and implement new projects, including review of the Harvest Strategy.
- Collaborate on proposed/existing projects.
- Update relevant chapter in status report for SA fisheries.

3.2 Outcomes:

The principal outcome will be scientific advice to support sustainable management of the CZ abalone

3.3. Outputs and extension:

There are two principal output and extension elements:

- (1) A stock status report for GL will be provided for the CZ by 31 October 2023; and
- (2) 'Year-to-date', catch and effort data summaries (PowerPoint presentations) for GL and BL will be provided to PIRSA and at 'port' meetings to support TACC setting.

4. Funding arrangements

4.1 Project costing policy

This Research Project Scope and Costing has been costed at a Discounted rate.

4.2 Project cost

Financial Year	Total Funded by Licence Holders \$ (GST N/A)	Total SARDI In-kind \$ (GST N/A)	Total Project Cost \$ (GST N/A)
2023/24	\$210,135	\$38,508	\$248,643
TOTAL PROJECT	\$210,135	\$38,508	\$248,643

4.3 Milestone and payment schedule

Date	Milestone	Payment (\$) Ex GST
31 October 2023	GL stock assessment report	
31 December 2023	Payment 1 of 2023/24 SLA	\$105,067
31 May 2023/2024	Payment 2 of 2023/24 SLA	\$105,068
TOTAL COST		\$210,135

5. Project staff

Staff	2023/24 FTE
Principal Scientist	0.10
Research Services Officer	0.20
Research Scientist	0.50
TOTAL	0.80

6. Project cost summary

Cost	Detail	2023/24 Total (\$) Ex GST
Salaries (FTE)		0.80
Salaries (\$)		\$113,239
Operating (\$)		
Payment to industry for surveys (\$)		
Fieldwork (\$)		\$32,710
Laboratory (\$)		\$300
Travel (\$)		
Office and communication (\$)		
Capital equipment (\$)		
SARDI overhead (\$)		\$63,886
SARDI inkind (\$)		\$38,508
Total Cost (\$)		\$248,643
Revenue – PRICE		
PIRSA F&A Licence holders (\$)	84%	\$210,135
Total Revenue (\$)		\$210,135
SARDI Investment (\$)	16%	\$38,508

Explanation of costs above:

The 2023-24 program cost of \$210,135 has been reduced by \$81,476 due to the return of previously collected funds paid by the CZ Abalone sector, breakdown provided below: .

- \$31,628 due to logger work not undertaken in 2021/22.
- \$17,000 recovered in 2016/17 to purchase replacement data loggers that was not used.
- \$32,848 due to data logger work not undertaken in 2022/23 FY.

These reductions to the program cost are reflected in the summary cost table on page 6.

Payment to industry for surveys - Direct costs of using industry vessels and staff to undertake surveys

Fieldwork - Fieldwork costs including vessels, travel and OHS requirements

Laboratory - Costs for processing samples

Travel - Costs for attending meetings with industry, PIRSA F&A and stakeholders

Office and communication - Stationery, communications and publications

SARDI Overhead - Indirect costs that cannot be directly attributed to a specific business activity, product, or service

SARDI in kind – SARDI investment through supporting costs for specific equipment, capital depreciation, infrastructure and research facilities

