

# Compliance Benchmarking: Fisheries

**Governing authority:** Cost Recovery Implementation Committee (CRIC)

**Agency:** Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA)

**Agency responsibility:** Executive Director Fisheries and Aquaculture (PIRSA)

## 1. Background

The **Cost Recovery Implementation Committee (CRIC)** was formed to implement the recommendations of the Independent Cost Recovery Review Panel. Compliance benchmarking was a recommendation of this review to ensure that compliance activities and costs are transparent, risk-based and aligned with best practice.

Appropriate enforcement, aimed at maximising voluntary compliance and creating an effective deterrence, is delivered through intelligence driven, risk-based and outcome focused compliance plans developed for each fishery and/or sector utilising the three core strategies of education and awareness, effective deterrence and appropriate enforcement.

Section 7(3) of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* sets out that the fisheries resources of the State are to be managed in an efficient and cost effective manner.

The Terms of Reference sets out the objectives, scope, and deliverables of the compliance benchmarking process for fisheries within South Australia.

## 2. Objectives

This benchmarking exercise seeks to ensure the appropriateness and cost-effectiveness of compliance services across commercial fisheries as a whole, and at the individual fishery level.

The primary objectives of the Fisheries Compliance Benchmarking process are to:

1. **Evaluate current compliance frameworks** and cost structures within the fisheries sectors to determine if these are appropriate, risk-based and effective.
2. Ensure compliance costs are **transparent** and aligned with best practice.
3. **Identify efficiencies** in current activities and future opportunities for modernisation, particularly through digital transformation.

4. **Ensure Compliance with Legislation.** Confirm that compliance service provision aligns with the requirements of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*, where the aquatic resources of the State are to be managed in an efficient and cost effective manner.

### 3. Scope and Process

The Fisheries Compliance Benchmarking will include:

- **Sector Review:** The following fisheries will be reviewed:
  - Abalone – Central Zone
  - Abalone – Southern Zone
  - Abalone – Western Zone
  - Blue Crab
  - Charter Boat
  - Lakes and Coorong – Finfish
  - Lakes and Coorong – Pipi
  - Marine Scalefish
  - Miscellaneous – Giant Crab
  - Prawn – Gulf St Vincent
  - Prawn – Spencer Gulf
  - Prawn – West Coast
  - Rock Lobster – Northern Zone
  - Rock Lobster – Southern Zone
  - Sardine
  - Vongole.
- **Review of Current Compliance Program:** Assessing the effectiveness, efficiency, and cost structure of existing compliance measures within fisheries, including routine monitoring, audits, and enforcement. Determine if the current compliance activities are appropriate, risk-based and effective across fisheries. Also, recommend a sustainable compliance model that balances **regulatory effectiveness** with financial viability for industry stakeholders.
- **Digital Transformation Opportunities:** Assessing the potential of transitioning to or enhancing digital tools, and their impact on compliance costs and processes.

- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Where required, consulting with key stakeholders, including fisheries licence holders, commercial industry bodies, and PIRSA, to gather input on current compliance challenges and potential improvements.
- **Benchmarking with External Jurisdictions and Peers:** Comparing South Australia's compliance framework with other jurisdictions to ensure adoption of best practices.

In achieving this task, the Contractor will be required to:

- Engage with PIRSA to identify the data, information, reports and policies necessary to undertake the review and analysis.
- If deemed necessary by the Contractor, undertake consultation with technical experts familiar with compliance cost recovery models used for fisheries.
- Provide options that align with the principles of risk-catch-cost that promote best practice and identify opportunities for improvement to both industry and PIRSA within the current regulatory framework.
- Consult (online or face-to-face) with the commercial fisheries sectors and relevant government agencies, as required.
- Maintain full records of all activities undertaken by the Contractor.
- Regular updates will be required by the Contractor to the CRIC.

PIRSA will provide relevant background information, any additional relevant information requested by the Contractor where such information exists, and access to PIRSA's files regarding relevant matters.

A draft report to be presented to the CRIC by 14 March 2025, subject to all necessary data and information being provided to the Contractor in a timely manner.

Following CRIC feedback on the draft report, a final report to be provided by 11 April 2025.

## 4. Confidentiality

All documents and other materials used and produced by the Contractor in the course of its activities remain the property of PIRSA.