



Chair Report Cost Recovery Implementation Committee (CRIC)

15 August 2025

Dear Stakeholders,

On 14 August 2025, the **Cost Recovery Implementation Committee (CRIC)** held its ninth meeting to gain insights on the progress of the benchmarking activities with the independent consultants and develop outcomes from the recommendations identified by the Independent Cost Recovery Review Panel (ICRRP). This meeting addressed the following key topics:

- Update on the Benchmarking Activities
- Industry Consultation
- PIRSA Annual Report.

Update on the Benchmarking Activities

The consultants provided an update to the CRIC and are making good progress with the benchmarking activities. Key findings were shared, which included:

- Technology Integration
- Data Privacy and Industry Trust
- Jurisdictional Differences
- Alignment of Compliance and Management.

The Project Leads addressed the necessity of early and ongoing coordination between aquaculture and fisheries consultants to ensure consistent approaches and avoid conflicting recommendations. PIRSA and SISA are committed to ensuring that all relevant parties, including key stakeholders, are kept informed and involved throughout this process to maintain transparency and alignment.

The risk-catch-cost model is being used as a high-level tool to identify outlier fisheries for further investigation, focusing solely on compliance as per the agreed scope. Broader management costs and allocations are outside the scope of the current benchmarking activities, and that the consultancy is strictly adhering to the terms of reference.

Industry Consultation

Engagement has been extensive with fisheries and aquaculture stakeholders, all fishery stakeholders have had the opportunity to provide input, and no gaps in engagement have been identified. It was emphasised that ongoing efforts are maintained to obtain comprehensive coverage.

The independent consultant for the Aquaculture Science and Compliance programs, anticipates distributing a survey to all lease and licence holders in August. All the benchmarking consultants will be visiting Adelaide and Port Lincoln in early September, to meet with all key stakeholders, to discuss the science and compliance programs from industry's perspective.

PIRSA Annual Report

PIRSA proposed shifting from a detailed, activity-based report to a concise, outcome-focused annual report. It will also acknowledge deferred or undelivered projects with supporting commentary. It was emphasised to move to a streamlined report that contains value and engages industry.

Next Steps

The CRIC has agreed on the following **key actions** to move forward as quickly as possible:

1. SISA to coordinate with SAOGA and schedule meetings with all aquaculture stakeholders and the independent consultant benchmarking the aquaculture science and compliance programs.
2. PIRSA to prepare a streamlined draft Annual Report, that is outcome focused for review at the next CRIC meeting.
3. SISA to ensure ongoing communication and reassurance for the aquaculture sector regarding the consultation process.

The ninth CRIC meeting held constructive discussions on industry consultation, the benchmarking activities, and the development of an outcome-focused, single Annual Report for Fisheries and Aquaculture. The CRIC emphasised that November 2025 is the deadline for the final benchmarking reports.

The next CRIC meeting is scheduled for a suitable time in **September 2025**, and monthly meetings with the benchmarking consultants will continue.

For more information relating to the Independent Cost Recovery Review and the latest from the CRIC, including the Committee's terms of reference, please visit the [PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture independent cost recovery review webpage](#).

Sincerely,

Mr Brian Jeffriess

CRIC Independent Chair