

PIRSA

Annual Report on PIRSA's Service Delivery on the Cost Recovery Agreement for the Rock Lobster Fishery (Northern Zone)

2019-20



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

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Summary of Outcomes for 2019-20

Assessment and Research

Funding Source	Deliverables	Date Completed/ Delivered
SLA	Delivered the 2018/19 status report for the Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery (NZRLF). Included determination of stock status.	October 2019
SLA	Provided mid and end-of-season presentations to the Rock Lobster Fishery Management Advisory Committee (RLFMAC). Included information to enable total allowable commercial catch (TACC) setting for the 2020/21 season.	June 2020
SLA	Delivered the 2018/19 stock assessment report for the NZRLF.	June 2020
SLA	Collected, collated and stored all key commercial fishery information necessary to assess the fisheries and run the harvest strategy.	Ongoing
SLA	Delivered a puerulus monitoring program across four sites in the NZRLF. Outputs provided in annual reports.	Ongoing
SLA	Delivered a catch sampling program in the NZRLF. Outputs provided in annual reports.	Ongoing
PIRSA	Provided significant scientific support to develop new harvest strategy for the fishery. Attended and presented at 11 harvest strategy working group meetings where extensive harvest strategy harvest testing was provided. Responded to multiple queries on harvest strategy details and testing results.	Ongoing
PIRSA	Delivered three Advice Notes in relation to (1) post release survival and disease risks (31/1/20); (2) maximum carry-over levels (7/2/20 and 24/2/20).	Ongoing
FRDC	Continued FRDC project 2016-258 "Assessing the efficiency of alternative pot designs for the Southern Rock Lobster (<i>Jasus edwardsii</i>) Fishery". This included a dedicated workshop where preliminary catch efficiency estimates of various pots designs were presented to industry and PIRSA on 27/9/19.	Ongoing

Policy and Management Program

Deliverables	
1.	<p>Participated in inter- and intra-departmental meetings and workshops on issues relevant to fisheries management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in regular meetings within PIRSA to discuss fisheries policy and management issues relevant to NZRLF. • Coordinated presentations on NZRLF performance to Fisheries Management and Policy Unit on two occasions.
2.	<p>Liaised 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with SARDI on numerous occasions to discuss research and monitoring of NZRLF. • Met with PIRSA Compliance regularly to discuss compliance issues relevant to NZRLF. • Provided input to the whole of Government submission to the Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications inquiry into the impact of seismic testing on fisheries and the marine environment. • Attended national video conference with fisheries agencies on impacts of COVID-19 on fisheries. • Attended national meeting with Rock Lobster fisheries managers on COVID-19 mitigation measures being implemented.
3.	<p>Liaised within PIRSA, with other government agencies and with industry representatives in implementing decisions relevant to fisheries management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with SANZRLFA Executive Officer and SARDI in providing advice about setting TACC for the NZRLF for 2019/20. • TACC set for the NZRLF for the 2019/20 fishing season allocated to licence holders. • Coordinated legislation amendments to allow for carry-over of uncaught quota from 2019/20 quota period to 2020/21 and 2021/22 quota period. • Coordinated approval of ministerial exemption notices to allow for monitoring of commercial fisheries, as well as fisheries research projects. • Coordinated removal of winter fishing restrictions for commercial fishery in the Inner Region in the normal winter fishing closure to mitigate impacts of COVID-19.
4.	<p>Conducted 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated delivery of fishery information required for implementation of harvest strategy decision rules for setting the 2019/20 TACC at the RLFMAC.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed the 2017/18 NZRLF assessment report and 2018/19 fishery status report. • Reviewed the 'Economic Indicators for South Australian Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery 2017/18' report and provided comment back to BDO EconSearch. • Provided 2018/19 annual reporting to the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment (DAWE) as required under export approval under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>. • Provided updated information to the DAWE related to interactions with marine mammals for reporting against the US marine mammal rules. • Attended meetings related to research project on the efficiency of alternative pot designs for the Southern Rock Lobster (<i>Jasus edwardsii</i>) Fishery. This included attending a dedicated workshop where preliminary catch efficiency estimates of various pots designs were presented to industry on 27/9/19.
5.	<p>Coordinated consultation with fishery stakeholders through established co-management processes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted industry meeting with all licence holders on proposed harvest strategy. • Provided management advice at two RLFMAC meetings including considering outcomes of the research and monitoring program. (July 2019, February 2020). • Provided management advice at three RLFMAC Research Subcommittee meetings including considering outcomes of the research and monitoring program (July 2019, February 2020 and May 2020). • Provided management advice at five meetings of the RLFMAC Harvest Strategy Review Working Group to review and development of harvest strategy for the NZRLF.
6.	<p>Participated in industry liaison in the field and on vessels to strengthen fishery management knowledge and understanding, and develop rapport with licence holders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended three port meetings with industry to discuss fisheries management. • Attended SANZRLF AGM.
7	<p>Participated in industry development initiatives related to fisheries management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended meetings related to research project on the efficiency of alternative pot designs for the Southern Rock Lobster (<i>Jasus edwardsii</i>) Fishery. This included attending a dedicated workshop where preliminary catch efficiency estimates of various pots designs were presented to industry on 27/9/19.
8	<p>Responded to enquiries from industry and other stakeholders on issues related to the NZRLF.</p>
9.	<p>Provided advice to Minister and/or delegate in relation to the management of fisheries and Ministerial correspondence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended 2019/20 TACC for NZRLF. • Impacts of COVID-19 on the fishery.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation for carry-over of uncaught quota. • Recommendation on early start to the 2020/21 fishing season.
10.	<p>Communicated on fisheries management issues to key stakeholder groups and the broader Community, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice to Fishers in regard to 2019/20 TACC, licence renewal and voluntary industry pot sampling program. • Notice to Fishers in regard to carry-over of quota. • Information to stakeholder groups in regard to public consultation on draft Management Plan. • Information to stakeholder groups regarding adoption of new management plan. • Information to fishers related to application for new licences on new management plan coming into effect. • Conducted public meeting on draft management plan during public consultation period. • Attended four port meetings with industry to discuss fisheries management. • Attended event in conjunction with SARLAC AGM.

Legislation Program

Deliverables	
1.	Co-ordinated the introduction, amendment or revocation of fisheries legislation in line with fisheries management/policy decisions i.e. Act or regulation amendments, the introduction of new regulations and drafting of other legislative and administrative instruments such as delegation, ministerial permit or exemption instruments as required under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 2007</i> (the Act). New variation regulations or amendments required the drafting of Cabinet submissions and supporting documentation, including the preparation of drafting instructions, for consideration by Cabinet. This service included co-ordinating the cabinet process involving liaison with the Office of Parliamentary Counsel and the Crown Solicitor's Office and inter agency consultation to ensure that proposed regulatory arrangements are accurately described, drafted and scrutinised before being implemented. Arrangements for electronic transactions / fees for commercial fisheries in Simplify Day 2018/19 Bill supporting correspondence briefings and ministerial documentation. Fees amendment cabinet submissions, settling of variation regulations, supporting briefings, minutes and parliamentary reports.
2.	Input into policy documentation and arrangements and responses to industry correspondence, as necessary.
3.	Coordinated applications for Ministerial exemptions under Part 10 and Permits under Part 7 of the Act.
4.	Provided additional legal services to support, on an as needs basis, the lawful decision-making of 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 the fishery in any particular year (where required); reviewed and coordinated crown input into co-management contract.

Leasing and Licensing Program

Deliverables	
1.	<p>Issued annual fee invoicing packs for 63 licences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported licence and quota unit information for cost recovery to assist in calculating new financial year annual fees • Entered new rates into the Primary Industries Information Management System (PIIMS) • Prepared Notice to Fishers for annual fee invoicing pack • Generated and audited invoices to ensure correct annual fee amount was raised • Issued invoices and SMS reminders each quarter • Generated 12 monthly debtor's reports to reconcile annual fee payments.
2.	<p>Set up of the new Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) into PIIMS for the new quota season:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printed and posted 63 updated registrations and entitlements certificates to all licence holders.
3.	<p>Generated final quota balance statements and posted to all 63 licence holders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculated any quota adjustments required to be entered into PIIMS. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 32 entitlement over-catch adjustments made. ○ Generated and posted updated registration and entitlements certificates.
4.	<p>Data entry of 901 CDRs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data entry check of each CDR entered. • Manual filing and archiving of all 901 CDR documents.
6.	<p>Manual recording and separate approvals for each of the 19 CDRs with mortalities.</p>
7.	<p>Issuing of bin tags in PIIMS to licence holders on 66 occasions requiring packaging for posting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adjustment in PIIMS for lost/damaged bin tags on 13 occasions.
8.	<p>Issuing of 29 CDR books into PIIMS and packing and posting to licence holders.</p>
9.	<p>Generated 12 monthly quota status reports for industry on catch status and CDRs received.</p>
10.	<p>System maintenance including auditing user access and system testing after any system update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 554 quota balance statements requested via the online system.
11.	<p>Regularly provided copies of CDR documentation to compliance for quota audit checks.</p>

12.	<p>Processed 227 applications which included liaising with government stakeholders to verify the credentials of fishers as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 vary boat applications • 8 licence transfer applications • 14 vary master applications • 182 quota transfer applications • 3 third party interest applications
13.	Generated reports on licensing information for compliance or fishery management purposes as requested.
14.	Provided support via phone or email to any requests from licence holders.
15.	Regular filing and archiving of licensing and quota documentation.

Directorate Program

	Deliverables
1.	Reconciled and prepared financial documentation to ensure accuracy.
2.	Worked with SARDI to prepare project scopes before and after cost recovery meetings with industry.
3.	Developed and prepared draft cost recovery implementation statements and annual reports for industry.
4.	Coordinated cost recovery meetings with industry to discuss cost recovery programs for the following financial year, including agenda preparation, drafting of minutes and liaising with industry executive officer to finalise minutes and cost recovery implementation statement.
5.	Prepared standard goods and services agreement to engage contractors (i.e. delivery of Economic Assessment – BDO Advisory (SA) Pty Ltd., engagement of independent scientist as required, co-management services agreements, etc.).
6.	Followed up action items from cost recovery meetings, responding to cost recovery related correspondence.
7.	Published cost recovery documentation and reports on PIRSA's web site.
8.	Prepared a Cabinet submission and relevant documentation for the Minister to be briefed on the cost recovery process. Liaised with Parliamentary Council to prepare fee regulations for commercial licence fees.
9.	Ongoing review of PIRSA's cost recovery policy, costing models and processes to achieve continuous improvement and transparency.

Compliance Program

	Deliverables
	<p>The coordination of compliance outputs is guided by a fishery specific compliance plan which was initially developed in consultation with the SA Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery and is reviewed annually.</p> <p>The plan ensures compliance effort is intelligence driven, efficient, cost effective and outcome focused. The plan comprises three core outputs (Education and Awareness, Effective Deterrence and Enforcement) and is optimised towards increasing voluntary compliance and maximising effective deterrence.</p> <p>Analysis of intelligence and information holdings is regularly conducted to identify the major Compliance risks to the sustainability of the Fishery. The combination of strategies, actions, and initiatives are critical to focus the primary compliance effort to manage the risks and achieve targeted outcomes.</p> <p>The SA Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery Compliance Reports are produced annually and forwarded to the Executive Officer, SANZRLFA.</p>



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