

# **Annual Report on PIRSA's Service Delivery on the Cost Recovery Agreement for the Western Zone Abalone Fishery**

2021-22



Government  
of South Australia  
Department of Primary  
Industries and Regions

# Annual Report on PIRSA's Service Delivery on the Cost Recovery Agreement for the Western Zone Abalone Fishery 2021-22

Information current as of 30 June 2022

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# Summary of Outcomes for 2021-22

## Assessment and Research

Funding Source	Deliverables	Date Completed /Delivered
SLA	Delivered stock assessment report for Blacklip (BL) and stock status report for Greenlip (GL), including application of the new WZ harvest strategy.	October 2021
SLA	Delivered stock assessment presentations, including year-to-date data, to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture, AIASA Executive Committee and Industry.	October 2021
SLA	Surveys for GL at Anxious Bay (February 2022), The Gap (March 2022) and Avoid Bay (May 2022) completed	May 2022
SLA	Provision of aggregated data/information to the Executive Officer, AIASA	June 2022
SLA	Surveys for BL at Sheringa and Anxious Bay (November 2021; from previous SLA) completed. Delay primarily caused by temporary suspension to diving activities for procedure review following diver fatality in the SE, followed by subsequent unfavourable weather conditions.	November 2021
PIRSA	Information and workshop attendance to support review of <i>Roei</i> fishing arrangements	Ongoing – workshop not held
PIRSA	Scientific advice and workshop attendance to support the development of industry initiatives, including diver assessments	June 2022
PIRSA	Assist with review/finalisation of Abalone Management Plan including Harvest strategy	November 2021
PIRSA	Support industry implementation of electronic reporting and deckhand	June 2022
PIRSA/FRDC	Project continuation: Accelerating Greenlip Abalone stock recovery in South Australia using release of hatchery-reared juveniles.	June 2022
FRDC	Project continuation: Best practice and policy in abalone stock enhancement, restocking and translocation (FRDC project 2019/110)	June 2022
FRDC	Project continuation: The impact and implication of <i>Perkinsus olensi</i> on Australian abalone fisheries (FRDC project 2020/004).	June 2022
FRDC	Project continuation: 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)	June 2022

FRDC	Project continuation: Indicators for density and biomass of exploitable abalone – developing and applying a new approach (FRDC Project 2020/065)	June 2022
FRDC	Project continuation: Drawing strength from each other: simulation testing of Australia's abalone harvest strategies (FRDC Project 2019/118)	June 2022
FRDC	Project continuation: For the Abalone diver observation collection, analysis and reporting system for improved management decision making (FRDC Project 2019/038)	June 2022

# Policy and Management Program

	Deliverables
1.	<p>Attended meetings with industry to discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Abalone enhancement genetics risk assessment method at 2 day workshop.</li> <li>AIASA Research and Development strategy</li> <li>WZAF Pre-TACC</li> <li>WZAF TACC meeting.</li> <li>Implementation of the Undercatch/Overcatch Policy Paper</li> <li>Annual performance report under 2020/21 CRIS and scope of 2021/22 CRIS</li> </ul>
2.	<p>Liaised within the PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, with SARDI, other parts of PIRSA and other State and Commonwealth agencies on matters relevant to fisheries management including the following key issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of Undercatch/Overcatch Policy Paper</li> <li>Cost recovery including attending cost recovery scoping meeting and cost recovery discussion meeting</li> <li>Considered Ministerial determination for CDR reporting</li> </ul>
3.	<p>Liaised within PIRSA, with other government agencies and with industry representatives in implementing decisions and answering queries relevant to Abalone fisheries management including.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementing carry-over of uncaught quota entitlements from 2020 to 2022 under COVID mitigation measures</li> <li>Implementation of Undercatch/Overcatch Policy Paper</li> <li>Cost recovery including attending cost recovery scoping meeting and cost recovery discussion meeting.</li> <li>Strategic research and development planning</li> <li>Considered Diver survey assessment in TACC meeting</li> <li>Considered available information on research on shell and viscera provided by SARDI at TACC meeting</li> </ul>
4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalised Undercatch/Overcatch Policy Paper and commenced seeking necessary legislative amendments to implement the arrangements</li> <li>Reviewed stock assessment report Stobart, B., Mayfield, S. and Heldt, K. (2021). Western Zone Greenlip Abalone (<i>Haliotis laevis</i>) and Blacklip Abalone (<i>H. rubra</i>) Fisheries in 2020/21.</li> <li>Reviewed the 'Economic Indicators for South Australian Abalone Fishery 2020/21 report and provided comment back to BDO EconSearch.</li> <li>Commenced consideration of Ministerial determination for CDR reporting</li> <li>Coordinated Ministerial exemption to facilitate continuation of Roei commercial harvest.</li> <li>Reviewed report on annual TEPS interaction reports across all commercial fisheries</li> <li>Provided annual report as required under the Abalone export approval under the EPBC Act</li> </ul>
5.	<p>Finalised development and implementation of the <i>Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Abalone fisheries</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalised plan and coordinated adoption of new management plan</li> <li>• Supported provision of new licences for WZAF licence holders</li> </ul>
6.	Supported development of a forward plan of meetings with industry
7.	<p>Liaised with PIRSA Fisheries officers, SARDI Aquatic Sciences, and other state and local agencies on the following matters relevant to the fishery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalised Undercatch/Overcatch Policy Paper and commenced seeking necessary legislative amendments to implement the arrangements</li> <li>• Reviewed stock assessment report</li> <li>• Reviewed the 2020/21 'Economic Indicators Report for Abalone Fishery.</li> <li>• Adoption of replacement management plan</li> <li>• Provision on new licences related to adoption of new management plan</li> </ul>
8.	<p>Prepared background information and developed recommendations for the Minister's consideration with licence holders through established co-management processes by facilitating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WZAF Pre-TACC</li> <li>• WZAF TACC meetings.</li> </ul>
9.	<p>Participated in liaison with industry to strengthen management knowledge and understanding. Attended meetings with industry to discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshop on Abalone enhancement genetics risk assessment method.</li> <li>• AIASA Research and Development strategy</li> <li>• Prepared background information and developed recommendations for the Minister's consideration with licence holders through established co-management processes including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ WZAF Pre-TACC</li> <li>○ WZAF TACC meetings.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Invited AIASA to presentation on implementation of the Undercatch/Overcatch Policy Paper</li> <li>• Annual performance report under 2020/21 CRIS and scope of 2021/22 CRIS</li> </ul> <p>Provided Notice to Fishers regarding 2022 TACC, Carry-over of 2020 uncaught quota under COVID mitigation arrangements and Ministerial exemption for Roei harvest.</p>
10.	<p>Supported PIRSA, SARDI and industry meetings, related to research project for stock enhancement including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attending approx. six AIASA, PIRSA, SARDI meetings on project</li> <li>• Supporting development on project proposal</li> <li>• Assessment of AIASA Abalone release permit application</li> <li>• Attended industry held workshop to develop research plan</li> </ul>
11.	Attended to general correspondence and inquiries relevant to the WZAF including
12.	Considered Roei abalone harvest at a meeting of 20 October 2021. Noted at that meeting that current market environment had resulted in limited demand for Roei and there was a discussion regarding the costs associated with Roei management and the potential profit

	<p>derived from harvested fish. Considered a cost/benefit analysis should be conducted to inform strategic development of the Roei Fishery.</p> <p>Coordinated Ministerial exemption to facilitate continuation of Roei commercial harvest in 2022.</p>
13.	<p>Provided advice to Minister in relation to the management of WZAF and Ministerial correspondence, including TACC briefings, implementation of ongoing carryover and overcatch arrangements consistent with the PIRSA Policy Paper.</p>
14.	<p>Communicated on fisheries management issues to key stakeholder groups and the broader community</p>

# 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. Input into fees amendment submissions, settling of notices, 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.

# Leasing and Licensing Program

	Deliverables
1.	<p>Issued annual fee invoicing packs for 22 licences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reported licence and quota unit information for cost recovery to assist in calculating new financial year annual fees</li> <li>• Entered new rates into the Primary Industries Information Management System (PIIMS)</li> <li>• Prepared Notice to Fishers for annual fee invoicing pack</li> <li>• Generated and audited invoices to ensure correct annual fee amount was raised</li> <li>• Issued invoices and SMS reminders each quarter</li> <li>• Generated 12 monthly debtor's reports to reconcile annual fee payments.</li> </ul>
2.	<p>Set up of the new Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) into PIIMS for the new quota season.</p> <p>Printed and posted 22 updated registrations and entitlements certificates to all licence holders.</p>
3.	<p>Generated final quota balance statements and posted to all 22 licence holders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calculated any quota adjustments required to be entered into PIIMS.</li> </ul> <p>Generated and posted updated registration and entitlements certificate.</p>
4.	<p>Data entry of 916 CDRs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data entry check of each CDR entered.</li> </ul> <p>Manual filing and archiving of all 916 CDR documents.</p>
5.	Manual recording of 3 Roei catches into separate spreadsheet.
6.	Manual recording and separate approvals for each of the 16 catches identified with Perkinsus.
7.	Issuing of bin tags in PIIMS to licence holders on 36 occasions.
8.	Issuing of 16 CDR books into PIIMS and packing and posting to licence holders.
9.	Generated 12 monthly quota status reports for industry on catch status and CDRs received.
10.	<p>System maintenance including auditing user access and system testing after any system update:</p> <p>377 quota balance statements requested via the online system.</p>

11.	Regularly provided copies of CDR documentation to compliance for quota audit checks.
12.	<p>Processed 50 applications which included liaising with government stakeholders to verify the credentials of fishers as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 vary boat applications</li> <li>• 9 vary master applications</li> <li>• 29 quota transfer applications</li> </ul>
13.	Provided reports to fisheries management as required regarding meat weight and quota integrity issues raised by industry and as required to assist with fishery management decisions.
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 of FRDC contribution from WZAF.
2.	Worked with SARDI to prepare project scopes before and after cost recovery meetings with industry.
3.	Developed and prepared 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.	Followed up action items from cost recovery meetings, responding to cost recovery related correspondence.
6.	Published cost recovery documentation and reports on PIRSA's web site.
7.	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.
8.	Ongoing review of PIRSA's cost recovery policy, costing models and processes to achieve continuous improvement and transparency.
9.	Coordinated co-management services request and prepared standard goods and services agreement for execution.

# Compliance Program

## Deliverables

The coordination of compliance outputs is guided by a fishery specific compliance plan which was initially developed in consultation with the Western Zone Abalone Fishery and is reviewed annually.

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.

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.

The Western Zone Abalone Fishery Compliance Reports are produced and forwarded to the Executive Officer, Abalone Industry Association of SA.

