

Cost Recovery Implementation Statement for the Vongole 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 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.

For further information relating to Cost Recovery Reviews, Policy and Framework, they 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 (Vongole Fishery)

2022-23 (\$)	PROGRAM AREA	2023-24 (\$)	COMMENTS	DAYS	FTE
RESEARCH COSTS					
25,201	Stock Assessment and Monitoring	41,434	Year 1 research program Coffin Bay only		
1,819	Economic Assessment	1,874	As per contracted services 2023-24		
39,375	Fisheries Management	27,510	Have reduced from 45 to 30 days due to the completion of the Harvest Strategy	30	0.14
4,710	Legislation	4,935	Same level of service as previous year	5	0.03
9,480	Licensing	9,940	Same level of service as previous year	10	0.05
1,740	Directorate	1,822	Same level of service as previous year	2	0.01
48,488	Compliance	50,806	Same level of service as previous year	38	0.19
9,515	Quota Monitoring	9,966	Same level of service as previous year	11	0.06
	Information Services	6,853	Logbook Program – Entry, validation, management and reporting of data		
2,578	FRDC	2,527	Funding based on 0.25% of rolling three year average GVP		
142,906	TOTAL	157,667			

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

Licence Fees 2023-24 (\$)	
Base Fee	\$2,577
Section Bank Quota Unit Fee	\$0.00
Coffin Bay Quota Unit Fee	\$99.50
West Coast Quota Unit Fee	\$27.25
Licence Fees 2022-23 (\$)	
Base Fee	2,135
Section Bank Quota Unit Fee	0.00
Coffin Bay Quota Unit Fee	67.00
West Coast Quota Unit Fee	50.50

Program Daily Charge Out Rate 2023-24

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

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

* Other expenses includes 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 (Vongole)

Long term objectives	Outcomes	Fisheries Management	Compliance	Assessment and Research	Leasing and Licensing
Ensure the Cockle and Vongole resource is harvested sustainably. Optimal utilisation and equitable distribution of the Cockle and Vongole resource.	Determine annual TACCs for Vongole quota zones according to biomass estimates. Review status of Port River closure. Support research and development for Port River stock enhancement project.	Recommend annual TACCs for quota zones, in consultation with industry. Consider and apply if appropriate quota carry over arrangements.	Implement compliance program, informed by risk assessment. Provide compliance advice for the implementation of new managements arrangements for the Vongole Fishery. Monitor the effectiveness of the new factory weight management arrangements (ability to maintain the integrity of the quota monitoring systems).	Provide scientific advice to support Harvest Strategy, underpinned by biomass estimates. Consult with fishers on Stock Assessment survey design.	Provide ongoing support for licensing quota and transfer queries.
Minimise impacts on the ecosystem	Address recommendations and conditions from DotE under EPBC Act accreditation. Reassessment of the fishery before expiry.	Prepare EPBC Act reassessment report. Address DotE conditions and recommendations. Provide management advice on fish kills, as required.	Provide support with investigation of fish kills, as required.	Provide scientific advice and aid in investigation of fish kills.	
Cost effective and participative	Support co-management of the fishery.	Maintain regular communication with South	Maintain regular communication with	Maintain regular communication with	

Long term objectives	Outcomes	Fisheries Management	Compliance	Assessment and Research	Leasing and Licensing
management of the Cockle and Vongole Fishery.		<p>Australian Vongole Fishermen's Association and be accessible to all licence holders</p> <p>Provide management advice, where necessary, throughout the licensing year.</p> <p>Consult with licence holders on the setting of the TACCs for the subsequent season.</p>	<p>industry representatives. Provide compliance advice, where necessary, throughout the licensing year.</p>	<p>industry representatives. Provide scientific advice, where necessary, throughout the licensing year.</p>	

Fisheries Management Program

Program Manager:

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Program summary

The Fisheries 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 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 Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture, 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 EPBC Act (1999) assessment.

Objectives

To provide day-to-day fisheries management services to the Vongole Fishery to government and industry, as well as advice and facilitation of fisheries management issues, through the Fisheries Management Program.

Program strategies and supporting actions and initiatives

Program delivery

1. Participate and facilitate in inter and intra-departmental meetings and workshops on issues relevant to fisheries management.

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.
3. Liaise within PIRSA, with other government agencies and with industry representatives in implementing decisions relevant to fisheries management.
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.
5. Coordinate consultation with fishery stakeholders through established co-management processes.
6. 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.
7. Participate in industry development initiatives related to fisheries management.
8. Attending to general correspondence and enquiries relevant to fisheries.
9. Provide advice to the Minister in relation to the management of fisheries and Ministerial correspondence.
10. Communicate on fisheries management issues to key stakeholder groups and the broader community.

Anticipated outcomes

1. Prepare day-to-day necessary legislative instruments and/or advice required for the management of the Vongole Fishery (regulations, catch limits, closure notices, licence conditions, Ministerial exemptions etc.).
2. Ensure the effective application of the new regulations for the Vongole Fishery.
3. Prepare policies to support fisheries management.
4. Prepare regular fisheries status reports.
5. Develop and maintain day-to-day productive working relationships and outcomes through cooperative management and collaboration with stakeholders.
6. Deliver quality and timely responses to correspondence.
7. Further the development of co-management arrangements.

Performance indicators

1. Strong industry and government involvement in co-management relationship and adherence to formally agreed co-management arrangements.
2. Australian Government recommendations met in relation to EPBC assessment.
3. Setting of TACCs for zones of the Vongole 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	30	0.14	27,510

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

	Deliverables	Due date
1.	Liaise within the Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, with SARDI Aquatic Sciences, other parts of PIRSA, other State and Commonwealth agencies and local government on matters relevant to fisheries management as required.	Ongoing
2.	Liaise within PIRSA, with other government agencies and with industry representatives in implementing decisions relevant to fisheries management.	Ongoing
3.	For Vongole TACC setting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TACC Meeting 	May 2024
4.	Ensure the delivery and application of a new harvest strategy to set the TACC for the period.	July 2023
5.	Participate in industry liaison in the field and on vessels to strengthen fishery management knowledge and understanding and develop rapport with licence holders.	Ongoing
6.	Attend to general correspondence and enquiries relevant to the Vongole Fishery.	Ongoing
7.	Provide advice to Minister in relation to the management of fisheries and Ministerial correspondence.	Ongoing
8.	Communicate on fisheries management issues to key stakeholder groups and the broader community.	Ongoing

Legal Services Program

Program Manager:

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Program summary

PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture Directorate provides legal services to the Executive Director and all other members of the Division, in particular the policy group, on a daily basis. Among other things these services include strategic advice and problem-solving, review of draft documentation and correspondence, statutory interpretation 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 Vongole 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 if and when required.

Objectives

To provide legal 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	5	0.03	4,935

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, implementation of closures).	Ongoing
6.	Support compliance for statutory interpretation, problem solving and correspondence advice (per above).	Ongoing

Leasing and Licensing

Program Manager:

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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

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.

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	10	0.05	9,940
Quota Monitoring	11	0.06	9,966

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

	Deliverables	Due date
	Services to directly support the fishery	
1.	Issue and maintain fishery licences.	Ongoing
2.	Database management for licences and licence holder information.	Ongoing
3.	Manage changes to licences as part of the MSF reform management arrangements, including new licence fees and arrangements for the Vongole Fishery to be established as a stand-alone fishery separate from the MSF.	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 unpaid 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 and master 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	2	0.01	1,822

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, and co-management services contractual agreements with industry associations.	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

Vongole Fishery

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 Vongole 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 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 Act 2007

Fisheries Management (Fish Processors) Regulations 2017

Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017 Schedule 2

Fisheries Management (Demerit Points) Regulations 2017

Fisheries Management (Vongole Fishery) Regulations 2021

Marine Scalefish Management Fishery 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 has continually reviewed the Vongole fishery compliance program, gaining efficiencies through data driven and targeted operations and re-directing compliance effort where necessary to address current and 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	7	0.03	9,359
Effective Deterrence, Monitoring and Surveillance	26	0.13	34,762
Enforcement	5	0.03	6,685
TOTAL OFFICER DAYS	38	0.19	50,806

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 Vongole 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 Appropriate 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 Vongole. 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 pre-season education meetings with license holders and registered masters and participate in industry days.
- Provide electronic distribution of educational material to fishers and licence holders at the start of the season.
- Ensure all interested parties understand their respective obligations and the compliance focus for the coming season.
- Develop Industry communication and relationship programs to facilitate discussion of topics such as compliance inspection outcomes and issues impacting the Vongole 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 change of ownership in fish processing premises.
- Conduct intelligence driven operations that give rise to appropriate enforcement action.
- Respond to reported incidents/issues.
- 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.

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 Vongole Fishery.

1. Quota Management System Integrity.
2. Take Undersize.
3. Fishing Outside Quota Zones.
4. Fish Within Quota Closed Area.
5. Illegal Unreported Unregulated Take.

Deliverables

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

Stock Assessment and Monitoring Program

Vongole Fishery (Coffin Bay)

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1. Project details

1.1 Title

South Australian Mud Cackle (Vongole) Fishery (Coffin Bay)

1.2 Subcontractor/Collaborator

Marine Fishers Association

1.3 Timeframe

Commencement Date: 1 July 2023

Completion Date: 30 June 2024

1.4 Summary

The Vongole research program provides survey-based estimates of Vongole biomass in South Australia.

This is the fourth Project Scope developed specifically for the Coffin Bay Zone of the South Australian Vongole Fishery. Confirmed by the independent review, all transects in Coffin Bay are now sampled biennially. Sampling of Coffin Bay was done in 2021/22 and is due again in 2023/24. As stock status is determined from survey estimates of biomass and population length-frequency, status will not be assigned for years where fishery-independent sampling is not completed.

The primary outcome is an Advice Note on harvestable biomass in a risk-analysis framework and stock status in May 2024.

2. Project description

2.1 Background

There are two primary components to the research provided by SARDI Aquatic and Livestock Sciences to PIRSA in support of the Vongole Fishery. These are:

- (1) Conduct fisher-based surveys to determine the biomass of Vongole on the key fishing grounds of the Port River, Coffin Bay and the West Coast; and;
- (2) Provide a summary report that presents estimates of Vongole biomass in a risk-analysis framework and estimates of size at maturity.

2.2 Need

This project addresses the need for biomass estimates and associated scientific information to support sustainable utilisation of Vongole in SA.

2.3 Objectives

- 2.3.1 Apply survey design informed by the independent review of the 2009/10, 2011/12, 2013/14, 2015/16 and triennial (2016/17 to 2018/19) sampling designs and implement an industry-based survey of Vongole populations on commercially important fishing grounds in the Coffin Bay fishing zone;
- 2.3.2 Determine estimates of the harvestable biomass of Vongole in 2023/24 from the area sampled;
- 2.3.3 Provide PIRSA with biomass estimates in a risk analysis framework; and
- 2.3.4 Provide PIRSA with scientific advice to support the sustainable management of the South Australian Vongole Fishery, including TACC setting.

2.4 Methods

- 2.4.1 Work with Vongole fishers from the Coffin Bay fishing zone to apply the survey design confirmed by the independent review of the 2009/10, 2011/12, 2013/14, 2015/16 and triennial (2016/17 to 2018/19) sampling designs, incorporating changes to important commercial fishing grounds;
- 2.4.2 Re-map the commercial fishing grounds and sampling locations into a GIS layer;
- 2.4.3 Undertake a transect-based method, to obtain representative data on the biomass of Vongole across those fishing grounds. Sampling across the principal Coffin Bay fishing grounds (i.e. Point Longnose, Oyster Farms, Little Douglas, and Long Beach with sampling in 2023/24)
- 2.4.4 Apply a multi-level bootstrap analysis to determine estimates of Vongole biomass in a risk-analysis framework; and
- 2.4.5 Document and interpret the research findings in an Advice Note.

3. Deliverables

The key deliverables of the 2023/24 Vongole (Coffin Bay) assessment and monitoring program are tabulated below; additional work related to the core program is also identified:

Funding Source	Deliverable	Due Date
This SLA	Vongole biomass Advice Note delivered	May 2024
PIRSA	Support review of Harvest Strategy and Management Plan	30 June 2024
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 2024
FRDC	Project commencement: Assessing the potential of translocation to increase Vongole productivity and fishery catches. (FRDCI Project 2022-041, Principal Investigator: Dr Katherine Heldt).	30 June 2024
FRDC	Contribute to Status of Key Australian Fish Stocks Report	30 June 2024

3.1 Service Provided:

3.1.1 *Survey estimates of biomass*

- Apply sampling design confirmed by the review of the 2009/10, 2011/12, 2013/14, 2015/16 and triennial (2016/17 to 2020/21) survey designs to estimate Vongole biomass.
- Provide estimates of current biomass to PIRSA following the survey in 2023/24.

3.1.2 *Data analysis*

- Apply a multi-level bootstrap model to provide estimates of Vongole biomass for the Coffin Bay fishing zone.

3.1.3 *Management and quality assurance of research data*

- Provide effective storage and management of research data.
- Develop and implement a formal quality assurance program.

3.1.4 *Analysis and Interpretation*

- Interpret the results of the research program in an Advice Note.

3.1.5 *Project management*

- Ongoing supervision of projects.

- Management of deliverables.
- Quality control.
- Liaise with PIRSA, industry, on matters relevant to the fishery.
- Participate in industry development initiatives.
- Development and implementation of new projects and collaboration 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 SA Vongole Fishery.

3.3. Outputs and extension:

The principal output is an Advice Note on harvestable biomass in a risk-analysis framework in May 2024.

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 Program Cost (\$) No GST
2023/24	\$41,434	\$8,664	\$50,098
TOTAL PROJECT	\$41,434	\$8,664	\$50,098

4.3 Milestone and payment schedule

Date	Milestone	Payment (\$) Ex GST
31 December 2023	First Half Payment 2023/24 SLA	\$20,717
30 March 2024	Biomass surveys completed	
15 May 2024	Harvestable biomass Advice Note delivered	
31 May 2024	Second Half Payment 2023/24 SLA	\$20,717
SUBTOTAL		\$41,434
GST		NO GST
TOTAL COST		\$41,434

5. Project staff

Staff	2023/24 FTE
Research Scientist	0.05
Senior Research Services Officers	0.13
TOTAL	0.18

6. Project cost summary

Cost	Detail	2023/24 Total (\$) Ex GST
Salaries (FTE)	0.18	
Salaries (\$)		21,275
Operating (\$)		
Payment to industry for surveys (\$)		4,800
Fieldwork (\$)		450
Laboratory (\$)		25
Travel (\$)		
Office & communication (\$)		200
Capital equipment (\$)		
SARDI overhead (\$)		14,684
SARDI inkind (\$)		8,664
Total Cost (\$)		50,098
Revenue – PRICE		
PIRSA F&A (\$)	83%	41,434
Total Revenue (\$)		41,434
SARDI Investment (\$)	17%	8,664

Explanation of costs above:

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

Stock Assessment and Monitoring Program

Vongole Fishery (West Coast)

Fisheries and Aquaculture Contact Person:

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SARDI Contact Person:

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Project details

1 Title

South Australian Mud Cockle (Vongole) Fishery (West Coast)

1.2 Subcontractor/Collaborator

Marine Fishers Association

1.3 Timeframe

Commencement Date: 1 July 2023

Completion Date: 30 June 2024

1.4 Summary

The Vongole research program provides survey-based estimates of Vongole biomass in South Australia.

This is the fourth Project Scope developed specifically for the West Coast Zone of the South Australian Vongole Fishery. To minimise costs, this scope of work undertakes sampling and analysis across the three spatial units of the West Coast fishery (i.e. Venus Bay, Streaky Bay and Smoky Bay) on a triennial basis (all three units last sampled in 2021/22, next due 2024/25). As stock status is determined from survey estimates of biomass and population length-frequency, status will not be assigned for years where fishery-independent sampling is not completed. There is no scheduled survey or biomass reporting for 2023/24.

2. Project description

2.1 Background

There are two primary components to the research provided by SARDI Aquatic Sciences to PIRSA in support of the Vongole Fishery. These are:

- (1) Conduct fisher-based surveys to determine the biomass of Vongole on the key fishing grounds of the Port River, Coffin Bay and the West Coast; and;
- (2) Provide a summary report that presents estimates of Vongole biomass in a risk-analysis framework.

3. Deliverables

The key deliverables of the 2023/24 Vongole (West Coast) assessment and monitoring program are tabulated below; additional work related to the core program is also identified:

Funding Source	Deliverable	Due Date
PIRSA	Support review of Harvest Strategy and Management Plan	30 June 2024
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).	30 June 2024
FRDC	Project commencement: Assessing the potential of translocation to increase Vongole productivity and fishery catches. (FRDC Project 2022-041, Principal Investigator: Dr Katherine Heldt).	30 June 2024
FRDC	Contribute to Status of Key Australian Fish Stocks Report	30 June 2024

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 Program Cost (\$) No GST
2023/24	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL PROJECT	\$0	\$0	\$0

4.3 Milestone and payment schedule

Date	Milestone	Payment (\$) Ex GST
31 December 2023	First Half Payment 2023/24 SLA	\$0
31 May 2024	Second Half Payment 2023/24 SLA	\$0
SUBTOTAL		\$0
GST		NO GST
TOTAL COST		\$0

5. Project staff

Staff	2023/24 FTE
Research Scientist	0
Senior Research Officers	0
TOTAL	0.00

6. Project cost summary

Cost	Detail	2023/24 Total (\$) Ex GST
Salaries (FTE)		0
Salaries (\$)		0
Operating (\$)		0
Payment to industry for surveys (\$)		0
Fieldwork (\$)		0
Laboratory (\$)		0
Travel (\$)		0
Office & communication (\$)		0
Capital equipment (\$)		0
SARDI overhead (\$)		0
SARDI inkind (\$)		0
Total Cost (\$)		0
		0
Revenue – PRICE		0
PIRSA F&A (\$)		0
Total Revenue (\$)		0
		0
SARDI Investment (\$)		0

Explanation of costs above:

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

