

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

2022-23



**Government
of South Australia**

Department of Primary
Industries and Regions

OFFICIAL

Annual Report on PIRSA's Service Delivery on the Cost Recovery Agreement for the Southern Zone Abalone Fishery 2022-23

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Summary of Outcomes for 2022-23

Assessment and Research

Funding Source	Deliverables	Date Completed /Delivered
SLA	Delivered stock status presentations, including year-to-date data, to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture, and Industry.	August 2022
SLA	Fishery-independent surveys at Rivoli Bay, Port MacDonnell, Middle Point, Number 2 Rocks, Gerloffs Bay completed	Not completed. Middle Point and Port MacDonnell moved to 2023/24 SLA as part of science review
SLA	Delivered stock assessment report for Southern Zone, including application of the SZ harvest strategy.	July 2023
PIRSA	Completed a review of the science program and host a workshop with PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture and industry.	February 2023
PIRSA	Assisted with implementation of Abalone Management Plan including application of harvest strategy.	July 2023
PIRSA/FRDC	Project completion: Accelerating Greenlip Abalone stock recovery in South Australia using release of hatchery-reared juveniles (Phase 1 - genetics risk assessment and preliminary cost-benefit analysis) (2020/116; Principal investigator: Dr Stephen Mayfield).	Not completed. Expected completion date is October 2023
FRDC	Project completion: Abalone diver observation collection, analysis and reporting system (FRDC Project 2019/038; Principal Investigator: Dr John Minehan).	December 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; Principal Investigator: Dr Crystal Beckmann)	June 2023
FRDC	Project continuation: Best practice and policy in abalone stock enhancement, restocking and translocation (FRDC project 2019/110; Principal Investigator: Dr Lachlan Strain).	June 2023
FRDC	Project continuation: Indicators for density and biomass of exploitable abalone – developing and applying a new approach (FRDC Project 2020/065; Principal Investigator: Dr Keith Sainsbury).	June 2023
FRDC	Project continuation: Drawing strength from each other: simulation testing of Australia's abalone harvest strategies (FRDC Project 2019/118; Principal Investigator: Dr Cathy Dichmont).	June 2023

Fisheries Management Program

	Deliverables
1.	Attended internal meetings including TACC setting process and stock status updates from SARDI
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"> • Cost recovery • Implementation of changes to spatial assessment unit management and quota period definitions. Work included drafting regulations and cabinet submissions.
3.	<p>Liaised within PIRSA, with other government agencies and with industry representatives in implementing decisions relevant to fisheries management including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting of the 2022/23 TACC • Transition of spatial assessment units and applicable Blacklip size limits into the <i>Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017</i> • Amendments to the fishery quota period under the <i>Fisheries Management (Abalone Fisheries) Regulations 2017</i> to commence 1 September.
4.	<p>Conducted regular assessment or review of existing management arrangements for fisheries management, statistical information on fisheries and interactions with threatened, endangered and protected species including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed SARDI information on fishery performance • Reviewed the 'Economic Indicators for South Australian Abalone Fishery 2021/22 report and provided comment to BDO EconSearch. • Reviewed annual SARDI advice on TEPS interactions for all commercial fisheries. • Developed annual report required under export conditions for SZAF under the EPBC Act.
5.	Continued to follow the objectives of the <i>Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Abalone fisheries</i> under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 2007</i> .
6.	<p>Coordinated consultation with fishery stakeholders through established co-management processes including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitated TACC Meeting including presentation of SARDI data to inform harvest strategy decision rules for the setting of the TACC. • Amendments to the fishery quota period • Addition of Abalone Fishing Area 11A into regulations
7.	Undertook meeting with industry members in Mt Gambier as part of TACC setting process.

8.	<p>Finalised and implemented legislative amendments to include Spatial Assessment Unit 11A in regulations and transition SAU management to the general regulations.</p> <p>Implemented amendments to the fishery quota period in regulations.</p>
9.	<p>Attended to general correspondence and enquiries relevant to the SZAF.</p>
10.	<p>Provided advice to Minister in relation to the management of SZAF such as TACC, quota period amendments and the regulatory framework for Spatial Assessment Units.</p> <p>Provided advice on Ministerial correspondence related to the SZAF.</p>
11.	<p>Communicated on fisheries management issues to key stakeholder groups and the broader community.</p> <p>Provided Notice to Fishers of the Southern Zone in regard to the 2022/23 TACC, quota period amendment and changes to spatial assessment unit regulatory framework.</p> <p>Provided correspondence to the delegate of the Southern Zone in regard to TACC, quota period amendment and changes to spatial assessment unit regulatory framework.</p>

Legal Services Program

	Deliverables
1.	Co-ordinated and reviewed 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 that required drafting of Cabinet submissions and supporting documentation, including the preparation of drafting instructions, for consideration by Cabinet i.e. amendments to transition spatial assessment fishing areas into the <i>Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017</i> and amendments to the fishery quota period under the <i>Fisheries Management (Abalone Fisheries) Regulations 2017</i> to commence 1 September. This service included co-ordinating and reviewing 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 were accurately described, drafted and scrutinised before being implemented.
2.	Reviewed licensing arrangements required on an as needs basis to lawfully implement approved fishery management policy and measures within the limitations of the Act. The services included working with the Licensing program (part of Leasing and Licensing) and policy program to ensure licence conditions were effective and where necessary to implement efficient administrative systems and finalised forms and instruments that were legally sound.
3.	Problem solved and reviewed policy developments together with the provision and co-ordination of legal advisory services in liaison with the Crown Solicitor's office relating to 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.
4.	Coordinated applications for Ministerial exemptions under Part 10 Division 1 and Permits under Part 7 Division 2 of the Act and reviewed draft notices.
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, implemented new fisheries management arrangements (for example the setting of TACC, 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, introduction of closures).
6.	Supported compliance with statutory interpretation, problem solving and correspondence advice (per above).

Leasing and Licensing Program

	Deliverables
	Services to directly support the fishery
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issued and maintained fishery licences. Regular filing and archiving of licensing and quota documentation.
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managed the database for licence and licence holder information. Set up of the new Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) into PIIMS for the new quota season. System maintenance including auditing user access and system testing after any system update. Entered new rates into the Primary Industries Information Management System (PIIMS).
3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quota monitoring and management including applying overcatch and undercatch adjustments. Generated final quota balance statements and posted to all licence holders. Calculated quota adjustments required to be entered into PIIMS. Generated and posted updated registration and entitlements certificates to all 6 licence holders.
4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collected licence fees and associated payments. Issued annual fee invoicing packs for all licences. Generated and audited invoices to ensure correct annual fee amount was raised.
5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Composed and posted quarterly instalment notices each quarter.
6.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recorded and tracked unpaid invoices. Generated 12 monthly debtor's reports to reconcile annual fee payments.
7.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafted and issued notices to fishers.
8.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Processed requests for information from fishers who make such inquiries over the counter, through FISHWATCH, via facsimile or e-mail. For example, helping fishers to process information relevant to licensing and quota, application for licence transfers, boat changes and fishing regulations.
9.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly updated information about licence holders. Processed 6 licensing and quota applications and liaised with government stakeholders to verify the credentials of fishers as required.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data entry of 189 CDRs with data entry checking of each CDR entered. Please note that the number of CDR's and eCDRs is different to what is reported in Fleet summary reporting statements as this report is a financial year summary. • Manual filing and archiving of all 217 CDR documents. • Regularly provided copies of CDR documentation to compliance for quota audit checks. • Issued 4 CDR books into PIIMS and packing and posting to licence holders. • Issued bin tags in PIIMS to licence holders on 2 occasions.
10.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researched and prepared documents for public record. • Provided support via phone or email to any requests from licence holders.
11.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Liaised with government stakeholders to verify the credentials of fishers.
12.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaised with PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture and SARDI Aquatic Sciences and other state and local agencies on matters relevant to the fishery.
13.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafted and updated licence conditions over the duration of the licensing year as determined by the Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture.
14.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided information to licence holders relating to the requirements pursuant to licence administration.
15.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managed calls from fishers regarding late payment notices, fees and general enquiries about their licences.
16.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided support regarding 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.
	Services to support fisheries management
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in inter- and intra-departmental meetings and workshops on issues relevant to the fishing industry (e.g. eCDR development and implementation) • Reported licence and quota unit information for cost recovery to assist in calculating new financial year annual fees
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaised with relevant staff within PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture in implementing decisions relevant to the fishery.
3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interrogated the PIIMS database to extract information for other stakeholders to use in preparing reports.
4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared reports requested by internal and external customers including maintenance of a public register of licence holders.
5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaised with information technology providers to maintain PIIMS and administer licensing requests.
6.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generated quota management reports to update stakeholders on varying Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) returns and end of season quota holdings. • Generated 12 monthly quota status reports for industry on catch status and CDRs received. • 45 quota balance statements requested via the online system.

Directorate Program

	Deliverables
1.	Coordinated and facilitated the cost recovery processes and program agreements, including liaising with program providers, managers and financial services as required.
2.	Met with industry on matters relating to cost recovery, licence setting and related policy issues.
3.	Developed and reviewed cost recovery policy, processes, program agreements.
4.	Managed major service providers' contractual agreements, and co-management services contractual agreements with industry associations.
5.	Project managed and administered 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.
6.	Provided advice on procurement and invoicing requirements.
7.	Consulted 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.
8.	Ongoing review, development and documentation of the cost recovery model, framework, processes and roles.
9.	Met agreed timeframes on management and administration of external contractual services.
10.	Provided an Annual Report on PIRSA's service delivery on the cost recovery agreement to the Executive Officer.
11.	Provided administrative support to the Independent Cost Recovery Review Panel, e.g. mail outs to all licence/lease holders, meeting coordination, travel bookings and other adhoc administration support during the review.

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 Southern Zone Abalone 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 Southern Zone Abalone Fishery Compliance Reports are produced and forwarded to the Secretary, Southern Zone Abalone Management Inc.</p>