

Annual Report on PIRSA's Service Delivery on the Cost Recovery Agreement for the Marine Scalefish 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 Marine Scalefish Fishery 2022-23

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Summary of Outcomes for 2022-23

Assessment and Research - Marine Scalefish Fishery

Funding Source	Deliverables	Date Completed /Delivered
SLA	Stock status report for Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 Marine Scalefish species, including stock assessment for King George Whiting delivered.	September 2023
SLA	Stock status, assessment presentations and advice to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture, Industry, the Marine Fishers Association, MSFMAC and the Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council delivered as required	May 2023
Other SLA	Data summary report delivered.	November 2022
Other SLA	Blue Crab Fishery assessment report delivered	June 2023
PIRSA	Assist PIRSA with a review of the Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery	June 2023
FRDC	Project completion: Informing structural reform of South Australia's Marine Scalefish fishery (FRDC project 2017/014; Principal Investigator: Dr Mike Steer)	September 2022
FRDC	Project completion: Fisheries biology of Western Australian salmon: improving our understanding of population dynamics in South Australia to enable quantitative stock assessments and improved fisheries management (FRDC project 2018/035; Principal Investigator: Dr Jason Earl)	Not completed. Expected completion date is June 2024
FRDC	Project continuation: Developing a positive cultural attitude towards the capture and release of sharks and rays (FRDC project 2018/055; Principal Investigator: Dr Michael Drew).	June 2023
FRDC	Project completion: Quantifying post-release survival and movement of Snapper (<i>Chrysophrys auratus</i>): informing strategies to engage the fishing community in practices to enhance the sustainability of an important multi-sector fishery (FRDC project 2019/044; Principal Investigator: Dr Troy Rogers).	Not completed. Expected completion date is June 2024

FRDC	Project continuation: Cost-effective, non-destructive solutions to developing a pre-recruit index for Snapper (FRDC project 2019/046; Principal Investigator: Dr Anthony Fowler).	June 2023
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

Fisheries 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"> Coordinated several meetings across the Fisheries and Aquaculture Division to progress key issues, including Snapper management, red tape reduction proposals, implementation of lift nets and regulatory reforms including allowing for heading of school and gummy shark, the Wrasse size slot limit. Participated in Snapper Science Stakeholder Group meetings. Participated in Economic Indicators workshop and meetings.
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"> Liaised with SARDI regarding the evaluation and monitoring of key stocks in the MSF, including the 2022 Snapper assessment. Liaised with SARDI for the finalisation of the FRDC project report (2017-014) 'Informing the structural reform of South Australia's Marine Scalefish Fishery'. Liaised with SARDI regarding the results of 2021/22 Recreational Fishing Survey. Submitted proposals to AFMA regarding the management of School Shark and Gummy Shark in South Australia and potential dual jurisdiction fishing during a single trip. Engaged with the Department of Climate Change, Energy and the Environment (DCCEEW) regarding application for export approval under the <i>EPBC Act 1999</i>. Provided Annual Report against the export approval conditions. Liaised with DCCEEW and PIRSA Information Services Team and SARDI regarding the addition of shark and ray species to CITES Appendix II.
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"> Engaged with other parts of PIRSA and SARDI to evaluate and/or progress proposals to reduce red tape in the MSF. Completed the initial commercial allocation review in relation to Southern Calamari. Administered an extension to the Snapper closure in the short-term and progressed regulatory amendments to implement the closure on a longer-term basis. This included Ministerial exemptions for licenced State and Commonwealth fishers to allow for the possession of lawfully caught Snapper whilst transiting Snapper closed areas.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented amendments to determinations to enable multi zone fishing, reduce the time frame for reporting before fishing and mandating the requirement to report quota weights to 1 decimal place. • Administered section 115 Ministerial exemption for the take of Wrasse above its legal maximum size. • Administered section 115 Ministerial exemption for the use of hoop and drop nets interchangeably. • Implemented total allowable commercial catch limits for the 2022/23 quota period. • Supported administration of the carry-over of uncaught quota including variation of licence conditions. • Contributed to regulatory amendments to implement a permanent closure within the waters of the northern Spencer Gulf for Giant Cuttlefish. • Completed the review and commenced development of a new <i>Management Plan for the South Australian Marine Scalefish Fishery</i>. • Prepared information to support internal and external reviews undertaken related to decisions undertaken under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 2007</i>. • Administered an extension of the Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery.
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"> • Implementation of RTRWG proposal to remove of licence condition – haul net mesh size within 3 nautical miles of Kangaroo Island. • Review of various regulations and licence conditions in relation to 21 proposals for red tape reduction in the fishery. • Review of interactions with key species and stocks to inform an update of the EPBC Act Annual Report. • Review of the draft Economic and Social Indicators for the South Australian Marine Scalefish Fishery 2021/22 report and related new dashboard. • Evaluated results of the SARDI stock status report for primary, secondary and tertiary Marine Scalefish species, including stock assessments for Snapper and King George Whiting. • Reviewed the 2021/22 Recreational Fishing Survey. • Reviewed report on annual TEPS interaction reports across the MSF. • Completed a review of the Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery. • Coordinated and supported development of a replacement draft Harvest Strategy Framework for the Marine Scalefish Fishery.
5.	<p>Coordinated consultation with fishery stakeholders through established co-management processes.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinated and administered several changes to membership of the Marine Scalefish Fishery Management Advisory Committee (MSFMAC). Provided expert Fisheries Management and Executive Support to the MSFMAC including two MSFMAC meetings, one out of session MSFMAC meeting and two MSFMAC Science Subcommittee meetings with key recommendations provided in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management of depleted Snapper stocks Recommendations for 2023-24 catch limits for the priority species; A Report on the review of the Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial marine Scalefish Fishery Development of a new Harvest Strategy Framework Sought comments from the MFA and/or Red Tape Reduction Working Group on proposals to reduce red tape, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaising with the MFA to progress 3 x RTRWG proposals Various correspondence in support of progression of RTRWG proposals Coordinated a workshop between the Marine Fishers Association and the South Australian Blue Crab Pot Fishers Association to discuss proposals for changes of boundaries for Blue Swimmer Crab (and related crab species). Supported process to transition to electronic CDRs. Maintained regular contact with the MFA, including calls or meetings between the Executive Officer, MFA, and the PIRSA Fisheries Manager, and several calls/meetings with the Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture. Supported and hosted quarterly PIRSA/MFA meetings at PIRSA West Beach. Participated in several calls with the MFA and BDO Econsearch regarding the review and roll-out of the industry survey on the social and economic indicators for 2023. Liaised with net fishers regarding various issues including the assessment and management of Yellowfin Whiting in Gulf St Vincent, proposed changes to the Germein Bay netting closure and haul net restrictions on public holiday periods. Supplied MFA comments to DCCEEW regarding the addition of several shark and ray species to CITES Appendix II. Liaised with the MFA executive officer regarding development of cost recovery implementation statements.
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 and divers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participated in a commercial haul netting fishing trip in the Spencer Gulf Met with a number of fishers and fish processors in Port Lincoln. Attended various MFA meetings on request. Provided introductory email to MFA for new MSF Fishery Manager.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received and responded to in excess of 40 phone calls from MSF licence holders relating to topics including gear, electronic reporting and red tape reduction.
7.	<p>Participated in industry development initiatives related to fisheries management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed or supported industry projects / funding proposals, including the provision of various data requests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eyre Peninsula Ocean Jackets Fishing Cluster Project (Regional Growth Fund)
8.	<p>Attended to general correspondence and enquiries relevant to the Marine Scalefish Fishery .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 100 items of correspondence received and responded to by the Minister and/or the Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture, in relation to the MSF.
9.	<p>Provided advice to the Minister in relation to the management of fisheries and Ministerial correspondence.</p>
10.	<p>Communicated on fisheries management issues to key stakeholder groups and the broader community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided 18 'Notice to Fishers' to licence holders in the MSF. Various correspondence to stakeholder groups, including the recreational, charter, rock lobster, Aboriginal traditional, and conservation sectors regarding key matters including the extension of the Snapper closure. Coordinated and supported SARDI Snapper Science information sessions. Supported updates to the PIRSA website.

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 the <i>Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017</i> to update snapper closure arrangements, introduce cuttlefish closure in the northern Spencer Gulf and update all regulated coordinate references to GDA2020 in line with national standards. 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's, 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.	Support ongoing processes for internal and external review of decisions of the Minister under the implementation of reforms in liaison with the Crown Solicitor's Office, coordinating SACAT matters consistent with Government protocols.
7.	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. Issued annual fee invoicing packs for all licences. 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 and posted updated invoices each quarter. Regular filing and archiving of licensing and quota documentation.
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Database management for licences and licence holder information. Implemented online quota trading system for licence holders to temporarily sell quota Designed and built quota trading system to include payment option, this option was not activated for this season.
3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managed changes to licences as part of the on-going MSF reform of management arrangements. Surrendered licences as part of the MSF reform voluntary licence surrender program were processed.
4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managed and maintained quota trading system for new quota entitlements to include temporary transfers and the ability to pay online. Conducted testing of system and provided demonstrations to working group. Updated system based on feedback and implemented by start of quota season. Administered amendments to the <i>Fisheries Management (General Fees) Notice 2022</i> to enable free quota trading for another 12 months.
5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collected licence fees and associated payments. Monitored payment plans for 14 licence holders that requested alternate payment arrangements. Created individual payment plans as requested. Liaised with Shared Services SA to allocate payments against invoices
6.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compose and send quarterly instalment notices.
7.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record and track unpaid invoices.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Processed financial invoice adjustments for all surrendered licences to credit any fees not payable beyond date of surrender application.
8.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Composed and sent late payment instalment notices for unpaid quarterly instalments.
9.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafted and issued 11 Notices to Fishers to all Marine Scalefish licence holders.
10.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. System maintenance including auditing user access and system testing after any system update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6103 quota balance statements requested via the online system. Validation and review of 7,893 eCDRs through eCatch. Data entry and checking of 4,511 CDRs.
11.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly updated information about licence holders. Issued and printed new licence and entitlements extracts for all active licences. Issued and posted out renewed Certificate of Consent for replacement masters on 20 licences.
12.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Researched and prepared documents for public record. Processed 661 licensing and quota applications and liaised with government stakeholders to verify the credentials of fishers as required. 19 vary boat applications. 10 licence transfer applications. 11 vary master applications. 399 quota transfer applications. 2 add/remove third party interest applications.
13.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaised with government stakeholders to verify the credentials of fishers.
14.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaised with PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture, SARDI Aquatic Sciences, Crown Solicitors and other state and local agencies on matters relevant to the fishery.
15.	<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.
16.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided information to licence holders relating to the requirements pursuant to licence administration. Generated 12 monthly quota status reports for industry on catch status and CDRs received.

17.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managed calls from fishers regarding late payment notices, fees and general enquiries about their licences. Provided support via phone or email to any requests from licence holders.
18.	<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.
19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quota monitoring and management including applying over-catch and under-catch adjustments. Generated final quota balance statements and posted to all Vongole quota holders: Calculated any quota adjustments required to be entered into PIIMS. Generated and posted updated registration and entitlements certificates.
	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.
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. Generated reports on licensing and catch information for compliance or fishery management purposes as requested. Regularly provided copies of CDR documentation to compliance for quota audit checks.
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.
7.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided administrative assistance to the MSF Reform process in relation to licence surrenders, licence holder history, and implementation of new quota entitlements.

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.	Coordinated a review of the Co-Management Services request form, managed industry association co management services requests and payments
11.	Provided an Annual Report on PIRSA's service delivery on the cost recovery agreement to the Executive Officer.
12.	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 Marine Scalefish (MSF) 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 Marine Scalefish Fishery (MSF). 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 Marine Scalefish Fishery (MSF) Compliance Reports are produced and forwarded to the Executive Officer, Marine Fishers Association.</p>