

# PIRSA

## **Annual Report on PIRSA's Service Delivery on the Cost Recovery Agreement for the Tuna Sector**

2020-21



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

# Annual Report on PIRSA's Service Delivery on the Cost Recovery Agreement for the Tuna Sector 2020-21

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# Resource Planning

	Deliverables
1.	Monitored aquaculture zone allocations through audit and review, notably with respect to availability of water enquiries from existing and potential aquaculture industry stakeholders.
2.	Continued the review of the <i>Aquaculture (Zones-Lower Eyre Peninsula) Policy 2013</i> to accommodate future expansion of aquaculture sectors, including future wild-caught tuna quota increases. The Lower Eyre Peninsula Review Advisory Committee continued to work with industry sectors and other government agencies to make recommendations for the review, with two meetings held during this period. Drafted a Statement of Intent outlining proposed amendments to the zone policy, including consideration of the needs and expectations of the Tuna Sector.
3.	Conducted further consultation on the draft Aquaculture (Standard Lease and Licence Conditions) Policy 2020 and supporting Policy Report, finalised the Draft Policy and supporting Policy Report for approval, and sought concurrence from the Minister responsible for administering Specially Protected Areas for the Draft Policy.
4.	Ongoing liaison and consultation with relevant government departments, prescribed bodies and relevant stakeholders in relation to zone policy development.
5.	Provided advice to stakeholders/members of the public in relation to existing aquaculture zone allocations (i.e. area, biomass, etc).
6.	Provided input to a range of State and Commonwealth Government environmental and conservation initiatives, to ensure aquaculture zone development objectives and aspirations were considered and factored into broader policy development.
7.	<p>Provided advice to the Attorney General's Department (AGD) on the following proposed developments to mitigate potential impacts to aquaculture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adequacy of the Whalers Way Orbital Launch Complex Environmental Impact Statement</li> <li>• Adequacy of the Cape Hardy Port Environmental Impact Statement addendum</li> <li>• Port Playford Export Facility development application</li> <li>• Port Spencer Grain Export Facility amendment to the Public Environmental Report</li> </ul>
8.	Provided ongoing advice to Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) on the implementation of the <i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016</i> and associated Regulations. Particularly on the application of the Planning and Design Code and how this relates to for future marine-based aquaculture development outside of aquaculture zones and to mitigate impacts from other forms of development on the aquaculture industry.
9.	Provided ongoing advice to DIT regarding a mandated referral to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture for marine-based developments under the <i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) Regulations 2017</i> to mitigate potential impacts to aquaculture operators and aquaculture zones.
10.	Undertook process to reappoint three ATAB members under the <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i> .
11.	Provided formal comment on Regional Landscape Plans to Landscape Boards in regard to promoting aquaculture development.

12.	Drafted amendments to the <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i> through the <i>Aquaculture (Tourism Development) Amendment Bill 2021</i> to streamline the assessment and approval process for aquaculture related tourism developments.
13.	Provided a submission to a Commonwealth inquiry by the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Water Resources into the Australian aquaculture sector.
14.	Facilitated and provided support to an ATAB meeting for consideration of lease tenure applications for the <i>Aquaculture (Zones – Lower Eyre Peninsula) Policy 2013</i> public call. Draft internal procedures for ATAB meetings to assess applications for lease tenure were also tabled.
15.	Continued process to draft and make variation regulations to amend the <i>Aquaculture Regulations 16</i> , in relation to contemporising and streamlining prescribed bodies under regulation 5 for referral of draft aquaculture policies under the <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i> .
16.	Continued review of current and future provisions for the rehabilitation of aquaculture leases.
17.	Completed a targeted review of the <i>Aquaculture (Zones – Eastern Spencer Gulf) Policy 2005</i> , including a two month consultation period, to include algae as a permitted farming species within the three aquaculture zones located at Hardwicke Bay to provide diversification of aquaculture operations within the area.
18.	Provided a submission to the SA Environment, Resources and Development Committee Parliamentary inquiry into the role and functions of the Coast Protection Board in relation to aquaculture development applications.
19.	Provided input into policy development by the Department for Energy and Mining for Offshore Wind Farms within coastal waters to mitigate potential impacts to aquaculture development.
20.	Continued to attend and provide input to the government agency National Aquaculture Committee on behalf of South Australia.
21.	Reviewed and provided a response to the Commonwealth Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources on proposed amendments to the <i>Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006</i> to mitigate potential impacts to aquaculture development.

# Aquaculture Leasing and Licensing

	Deliverables																
1.	Ongoing maintenance of internal licence audit functions, including auditing procedures (flowcharts, checklists and manuals) and performance relating to tuna licences.																
2.	Completed database maintenance and updates as required.																
3.	Completed testing and amending electronic Production Return and Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP) reporting.																
4.	Commenced a review of renewal and transfer applications to ensure correct information is received at the time of application.																
5.	Updated licence/lease records as required.																
6.	Maintenance of systems and procedures to support day to day administration of leasing and licensing activities related to the Tuna Sector.																
7.	Conducted audits of internal processes and functions including application checklists.																
8.	Records management of leasing and licensing documentation.																
9.	<p>Processing of tuna applications (see table below).</p> <table> <tr> <th>Tuna: Application Type</th><th>Number Completed</th></tr> <tr> <td>Lease movement*</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lease renewal</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lease amalgamation</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>Licence amalgamation</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>Licence Transfer</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lease Transfer</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr> <td>Seed-stock permit (algae)</td><td>2</td></tr> </table> <p>*Environmental assessment and interagency referral conducted</p>	Tuna: Application Type	Number Completed	Lease movement*	4	Lease renewal	12	Lease amalgamation	1	Licence amalgamation	1	Licence Transfer	4	Lease Transfer	4	Seed-stock permit (algae)	2
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10.	Processed annual production returns from the Tuna Sector. This included following-up on unreturned production returns to ensure licence holders meet their obligations under the regulations, collation and analysis of information.																
11.	Processed requests for information from licence holders via front counter, phone or e-mail.																
12.	Liaised with government stakeholders to verify the credentials of lease/licence holders for application processing as required.																
13.	Issued outstanding and annual invoices (including quarterly reminders) relating to licence renewals, transfers and/or surrenders for 11 Tuna licences.																
14.	Reconciled receipt of annual lease and licence fees, application fees and liaised with Shared Services SA as required.																
15.	Continuing to deliver outcomes of 90 Day project to streamline application processes.																

16.	Conducted assessments for licence holders requesting financial alleviation due to experiencing cases of hardship.
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# Legislation

	Deliverables
1.	Assessed and responded to freedom of information requests in relation to PIRSA's administration of the <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i> .
2.	Strategic input into the implementation of administrative decisions in all program areas as required to ensure they are informed and legally valid and consistent with the <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i> to promote efficient and transparent government administration.
3.	Provided input into the finalisation of the draft Aquaculture (Standard Lease and Licence Conditions) Policy 2020 for approval, in conjunction with Office of Parliamentary Council (OPC).
4.	Reviewed aquaculture related notices issued under the <i>Livestock Act 1997</i> and related Ministerial delegations for same.
5.	Updated Ministerial delegations including sub-delegations under the <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i> .
6.	Input into compliance / enforcement / litigation matters as required.
7.	Provided input into draft amendments to the <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i> through the <i>Aquaculture (Tourism Development) Amendment Bill 2021</i> to streamline the assessment and approval process for aquaculture related tourism developments.



# Compliance Operations

	Deliverables
1.	<p>Site surveillance inspections of several leases were undertaken by Fisheries Officers to ensure lease and licence holders comply with the Act, associated Acts, Regulations, policies and specific lease and licence conditions, and to investigate complaints from the public. Surveillance activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routine site inspections undertaken by Fisheries Officers.</li> <li>• Reports made to PIRSA subsequent to compliance inspections outline any compliance issues with a site and include photographs and site waypoints.</li> <li>• Follow up inspections were required for sites that have identified compliance issues.</li> <li>• These inspections were carried out within a reasonable timeframe, with due consideration of the risks to other users of the waters or resource.</li> <li>• Inspections were also undertaken on sites that have been or are due to be, rehabilitated by lease or licence holders or contractors of lease and/or licence holders on an as required basis.</li> </ul> <p>Fisheries Officers inspected several sites, checking primarily the sites were appropriately marked, in good working order and positioned correctly. Most sites were compliant. Fisheries Officers liaised with a grower to ensure the respective non-compliant site was returned to compliant status.</p>
2.	<p>In 2020, Fisheries Officers, in conjunction with SAPOL, allocated considerable resources to addressing the SBT theft issue. Monitoring of transport companies, social media and potential sales outlets was conducted. No instances of theft or evidence of theft were reported by growers during the ranching period in 2021.</p>
3.	<p>Fisheries Officers received feedback from the public in relation to SBT farm related infrastructure that had broken free and liaised with growers who collected the debris.</p>
4.	<p>Communication and monitoring activities are undertaken by PIRSA and related SA government agencies to ensure compliance by Tuna lease and/or licence holders with legislation (Act, other Acts, Regulations and policies) and conditions of leases and/or licences.</p>
5.	<p>Procedures and processes required for response to notifiable events (e.g., entanglements, high mortalities) in an efficient and timely manner are developed and implemented by all agencies concerned.</p>

# Aquaculture Systems

	Deliverables
1.	Accurate and efficient systems maintained and enhanced to provide for effective and efficient management and administration of the Tuna Sector, in accordance with the <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i> .
2.	Provided for public transparency of use of the State's aquaculture resources (e.g., Public Register is available on the PIRSA website for all stakeholders, including the Tuna Sector, relevant government Agencies and general public);
3.	Safeguarded licence holder details by adhering to broader government guidelines (e.g., records management requirements for public service document standards and freedom of information requests).
4.	Included in management of the PIIMS database is assessing reporting functionalities, liaison with the PIRSA IT group, testing updates to the database, reporting of functional issues and troubleshooting with system users.
5.	Included in management of the Public Register system is rollout of updates, reporting of functional issues to the PIRSA IT group, testing when updates occur and troubleshooting with system users both internally and externally.
6.	Included in the management of ArcGIS is the rollout of update software, appropriate training for use of the program, recognition, requests and testing for software fixes, liaison with the PIRSA spatial group, reporting spatial information and troubleshooting with system users.
7.	Management of the Microsoft Access Database includes alignment of databases annually to reflect data requirements of Environmental Monitoring Reports.
8.	Management and maintenance of an electronic lodgement system for environmental monitoring program and production return data for the Tuna Sector.
9.	Development of an electronic reporting system to retrieve data directly from PIIMS in regard to electronic Environmental Monitoring Reports.
10.	Management of records management systems (e.g., Objective) may include testing of various functionalities, liaison with the PIRSA IT group and requests for further updates to systems and software.
11.	Investigated the option to amend Tuna lease and licence certificates and the information on the public register to reflect an alternative coordinate system as requested by ASBTIA.

# Aquatic Animal Health

	Deliverables
1.	Nine finfish related mortality events reported to PIRSA and investigated. This included both aquaculture and wild fish kills. Samples submitted to the laboratory and tested to rule out disease. No significant or notifiable diseases detected.
2.	Maintained passive surveillance systems, including summarise relevant pathology reports from the State Vetlab, summarise fish kill and aquaculture mortality investigations to demonstrate South Australia's disease freedom for trade and market access purposes.
3.	Assessed and processed two veterinary prescriptions to support Ministerial approvals for off-label use of veterinary medicines to maintain fish health and welfare. Liaise with industry veterinarian, adjacent mussel industry and other government departments during assessment.
4.	Assisted with progress of minor use permits for veterinary medicines with Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) through meetings, workshops and communications with APVMA, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, FRDC, National Aquaculture Council, aquaculture industry sectors, EPA, PIRSA rural chemicals, veterinarians and researchers.
5.	Assessment and advice to the PIRSA Fisheries Management group on finfish stock release applications to ensure the risks of introduction and spread of disease in State waters are minimised.
6.	Finalised and submitted the final report for the project "Development of a national sector-specific biosecurity plan guideline and template for the sea-cage finfish (non-salmonid) industry of Australia (DAWE/FRDC: 2019-088)".
7.	Submitted an application for a project titled "Improving the availability of safe and effective veterinary medicines for Australia's seafood industry (FRDC 2020-094)". In this project, one of our primary aims is coordinate a national effort to facilitate the progress of priority aquatic veterinary medicines in the seafood industry through to permitting or registration with the APVMA.
8.	Conducted Emergency Disease Response training and updated PIRSA Emergency Response Plans as required with PIRSA Biosecurity.
9.	Provided advice and review of documentation in relation to disease risks posed by aquatic pests (including a compliance case), biofouling and ballast water management.
10.	Communications sent to all fish processors reminding them of the disease risks and current legislative restrictions for processing and distribution of bait and berley, including the duty to prevent the introduction and spread of notifiable diseases.
11.	PIRSA provided input into developing and reviewing AQUAPLAN 2021-2026, which is Australia's fourth national strategic plan for aquatic animal health. The plan outlines agreed industry and government priorities for enhancing Australia's management of aquatic animal health.
12.	Meetings attended, reviewed documents, contributed to national policy developments and represented South Australia on the national Sub-Committee on Aquatic Animal Health (SCAAH).

13.	Attended the Aquatic Veterinary Medicine Technical Advisory Group meetings (under SCAAH), to facilitate progress of veterinary medicine permits with the Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicine Authority (APVMA).
14	Attended numerous meetings between DAWE, PIRSA and ASBTIA re changed conditions for Scomber spp. Imports for use as tuna feed.

# Environmental Monitoring and Management

	Deliverables
1.	Developed, assessed and processed annual Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP) reports for 11 Tuna licences.
2.	Commenced drafting the 2021 South Australian Aquaculture Report which contains a summary of production and management of aquaculture in South Australia for 2019/20, including EMP summary information for each aquaculture sector.
3.	Conducted Ecologically Sustainable Development assessments and management of EPA referral for Tuna applications (4 movements).
4.	Implemented the 2019/20 to 2023/24 (4-year) Regional Environmental Monitoring Program for the Tuna Sector in Lower Spencer Gulf (in conjunction with EPA, SARDI and industry) that included specific research to monitor impacts of aquaculture nutrients on seagrass.
5.	Responded to environmental issues related to the Tuna Sector, including marine debris and pollution.
6.	Responded to industry requests in regard to applications and management of leases and licences.
7.	Ongoing maintenance of reporting databases for environmental compliance matters, marine debris and chemical use.
8.	Conducted regular meetings with the EPA to discuss and prioritise environmental issues and projects relating to aquaculture industry.
9.	Liaised with Fisheries Officers for environmental issues related to the Tuna Sector.
10.	Provided data to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment regarding the SA Tuna Farm register (Tuna site locations and company names/contacts) on three occasions.
11.	Reviewed approval procedure for in-water cleaning companies provided by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.
12.	Assessment and advice to the PIRSA Fisheries Management group on seedstock applications.

# Program Management and Administration

	Deliverables
1.	Managed major service providers' contractual agreements, and any other contractual agreements with industry associations.
2.	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.
3.	Provided advice on procurement and invoicing requirements.
4.	Met agreed timeframes on management and administration of external contractual services.
5.	Ensured appropriate management of industry funds and services.
6.	Coordinated and facilitated cost recovery processes and program agreements, including liaising with program providers, managers and financial services as required.
7.	Met with industry on matters relating to cost recovery, licence setting and related policy issues.
8.	Developed, reviewed and implemented cost recovery procedures and program agreements for the Tuna Sector for 2021/22 that are transparent, evidence-based and are developed in a consultative manner.
9.	Ongoing review, development and documentation of the cost recovery process and procedures in line with Australian Government Cost Recovery Guidelines.
10.	Provision of relevant, accurate and timely advice was provided to the Chief Executive of PIRSA and Minister, so they were aware of current and emerging issues faced by PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture and the Tuna Sector.
11.	Consulted with the Deputy Chief Executive, Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Director Operations, PIRSA Fisheries Managers, and the Office of the Minister and other parties as needed.
12.	Provided assistance to the Tuna Sector as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
13.	Provision of information to inform responses and decisions in relation to public and industry concerns raised with the Chief Executive of PIRSA and the Minister.
14.	Finalised PIRSA internal guidelines for assessing fee waiver requests under the <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i> .

## Other Aquaculture Activities

	Deliverables
1.	2018/19 annual economic report, incorporating Tuna Sector data, finalised and published on PIRSA website.
2.	All aquaculture sector production data collated and entered and forwarded to BDO EconSearch for compiling 2019/20 report.
3.	2019/20 annual economic report, incorporating Tuna Sector data, drafted.
4.	Collected, through annual fees, the Tuna industry's annual contribution to the FRDC.
5.	Managed the 2019/20 fund transfer to the FRDC as prescribed in the ASBTIA Industry Partnership Agreement.
6.	Attended the Urrbrae Agricultural High School Show Day to promote aquaculture related careers.
7.	Facilitated the establishment for, and provided executive officer support to, the South Australian Seafood Advisory Forum.

