

Annual Report on PIRSA's Service Delivery on the Cost Recovery Agreement for the Land-based Sector

2021-22

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Resource Planning

	Deliverables
1.	Finalised the <i>Aquaculture (Standard Lease and Licence Conditions) Policy 2022</i> , which was approved on 16 February 2022, and commenced implementation of the Policy.
2.	Provided input to a range of State and Commonwealth Government environmental and conservation initiatives, to ensure Land-based aquaculture development objectives and aspirations were adequately taken into account and factored into broader conservation policy development.
3.	Reviewed and provided advice to the Attorney General's Department (AGD) on a number of port facilities in Spencer Gulf, including consideration of potential aquatic disease and marine pest risks to Land-based aquaculture licences with marine intake pipelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Port Spencer Grain Export Facility Environmental Impact Statement addendum • T-Ports Grain Handling and Export Facility development application • Hawsons Iron Ore development application • SA-NSW Interconnector development application • SA Water Eyre Peninsula desalination plant development application
4.	Continued to provide advice to AGD 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.
5.	Continued to provide advice to AGD regarding proposed amendments to the Planning and Design Code under the <i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016</i> to streamline the development assessment and approval process for future marine and land-based aquaculture developments.
6.	Provided formal comment on the State Landscape Strategy in regard to promoting aquaculture development.
7.	Provided input to the Blue Economy CRC Marine Spatial Planning project to mitigate potential impacts to the aquaculture industry from other users of the marine resource.
8.	Provided input and support to the Marine Bioproducts CRC to support sector growth.
9.	Progressed 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> .
10.	Continued to attend and provide input to the National Aquaculture Committee on behalf of South Australia
11.	Continued to work with the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and State based interested parties to facilitate the import of sturgeon species into Australia for commercial aquaculture purposes. This included providing a submission to DAFF on an Issues Paper for the live import of sturgeon species for commercial aquaculture, as part of a Biosecurity Import Risk Analysis.

12.	Provided advice to the Department for Energy and Mining on a proposed hydrogen plant at Port Bonython to mitigate potential impacts to aquaculture.
13.	Meetings and advice to SA Water regarding a proposed desalination plant for the lower Eyre Peninsula and potential impacts to aquaculture.

Aquaculture Leasing and Licensing

	Deliverables								
1.	Ongoing maintenance of internal licence audit functions, including auditing procedures (i.e. flowcharts, checklists and manuals) and performance relating to Land-based licences.								
2.	Completed database maintenance and updates as required.								
3.	Completed testing and amending electronic Production Return and Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP) reporting.								
4.	Reviewed renewal and transfer applications to ensure correct information is received at the time of application.								
5.	Updated licence records as required.								
6.	Maintenance of systems and procedures to support day to day administration of licensing activities related to the Land-based Sector.								
7.	Conducted audits of internal processes and functions including application checklists.								
8.	Records management of licensing documentation.								
9.	<p>Processing of Land-based applications (see table below).</p> <table> <tr> <th>Land-based: Application Type</th><th>Number</th></tr> <tr> <td>Licence Renewals</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr> <td>Licence Surrender</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr> <td>Licence Transfer</td><td>0</td></tr> </table> <p>*Environmental assessment and inter-agency referral conducted</p>	Land-based: Application Type	Number	Licence Renewals	2	Licence Surrender	2	Licence Transfer	0
Land-based: Application Type	Number								
Licence Renewals	2								
Licence Surrender	2								
Licence Transfer	0								
10.	Processed annual production returns from the Land-based Sector. This included follow-up on unreturned and incorrect 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 licence holders for application processing as required.								
13.	Issued invoices relating to annual fees (including quarterly reminders), licence renewals, transfers and/or surrenders for 60 Land-based licences.								
14.	Reconciled receipt of annual licence fees, application fees and liaised with Shared Services SA as required.								
15.	Concluded the partial fee relief arrangements for inactive land-based licences								
16.	Reviewed all lease and licence application forms and amended where required.								

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

	Deliverables
1.	Provided input into the finalisation of the draft <i>Aquaculture (Standard Lease and Licence Conditions) Policy 2020</i> for approval, in conjunction with Office of Parliamentary Council (OPC).
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.	Review of aquaculture related notices issued under the <i>Livestock Act 1997</i> and related Ministerial delegations for same.
4.	Input into compliance / enforcement / litigation matters as required.
5.	Review of aquaculture related notices issued under the <i>Livestock Act 1997</i> and related Ministerial delegations for same.
6.	Assessed and responded to freedom of information requests in relation to PIRSA's administration of the <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i> .

Compliance Operations

	Deliverables
1.	<p>Site surveillance inspections were undertaken by Fisheries Officers to ensure licence holder compliance with the Act, associated Acts, Regulations, policies and specific licence conditions, and to investigate complaints from the public. Surveillance activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine site inspections undertaken by Fisheries Officers. • Follow up inspections as required for sites that have identified compliance issues.
2.	Fisheries Officers liaised with growers educating them around their obligations.
3.	Fisheries Officers continued to liaise extensively with a grower whose marron farming site had previously been found to be non-compliant.
4.	Fisheries Officers followed up growers in relation to outstanding EMP and Production Returns.
5.	Fisheries Officers conducted site inspections of Riverland based growers. Compliance overall was of a high standard.
6.	Fisheries Officers conducted a site inspection of an Adelaide based grower. The site was determined to be compliant.
7.	Communication and monitoring activities were undertaken by PIRSA and related SA government agencies to ensure compliance by Land-based licence holders with legislation (Act, other Acts, Regulations and policies) and conditions of licences.
8.	Procedures and processes required for response to notifiable events (e.g. high mortalities) in an efficient and timely manner were developed and implemented by all agencies concerned.

Aquaculture Systems

	Deliverables
1.	Accurate and efficient systems maintained and enhanced to provide for effective and efficient management and administration of the Land-based 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 Land-based 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 was assessing reporting functionalities, liaison with the PIRSA ICT group, testing updates to the database, reporting of functional issues and trouble-shooting with system users.
5.	Included in management of the Public Register system was rollout of updates, reporting of functional issues to the PIRSA IT group, testing when updates occurred and trouble-shooting with system users both internally and externally.
6.	Included in the management of ArcGIS was 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 trouble-shooting with system users.
7.	Management of the Microsoft Access Database included 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 Land-based Sector.
9.	Development of an electronic reporting system to retrieve data directly from PIIMS in regards to electronic Environmental Monitoring Reports.
10.	Management of records management systems (e.g. Objective) included testing of various functionalities, liaison with the PIRSA IT group and requests for further updates to systems and software.
11.	Ongoing maintenance and trouble-shooting of the electronic lodgement system (my PIRSA) for environmental monitoring program and production return data.
12.	Maintain accurate and up to date information on the PIRSA Aquaculture website, including for the Land-based Sector.

Aquatic Animal Health

	Deliverables
1.	Two invertebrate (including mollusc and crustaceans) related mortality events, and 13 finfish related mortality events were reported to PIRSA and investigated. This included both aquaculture and wild fish kills. Samples were submitted to the laboratory and tested to rule out disease.
2.	Coordination of State-wide early detection surveillance for Ostried herpesvirus-1 (OsHV-1)/Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS). In 2021/22, ~3,600 Pacific Oysters (farmed and feral) were processed. In total, 759 samples were tested, all of which were negative for OsHV-1/POMS.
3.	Reviewed and commented on the FRDC final report entitled "Accelerating Greenlip Abalone stock recovery in South Australia using release of hatchery-reared juveniles. Phase 1 - genetic risk assessment and preliminary cost-benefit analysis.
4.	Reviewed and commented on the Technical Issues Paper: Import of live sturgeon for aquaculture.
5.	Maintained passive surveillance systems, including summarising relevant pathology reports from the State Vetlab, summarised fish kill and aquaculture mortality investigations to demonstrate South Australia's disease freedom for trade and market access purposes.
6.	Ten livestock translocation requests were assessed and approved by PIRSA.
7.	Administered the regulation and compliance for off-label veterinary medicine use. Assessed and processed 22 veterinary prescriptions for the Land-based Sector to support Ministerial approvals for off label use of veterinary medicines to maintain fish health and welfare. Liaised with industry veterinarian, EPA and adjacent industry where required and other government departments during assessment.
8.	Assisted with progress of minor use permit and registration for veterinary medicines with APVMA through meetings, workshops and communications with APVMA, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC), Seafood Industry Australia (SIA), aquaculture industry sectors, EPA, PIRSA rural chemicals, veterinarians and researchers.
9.	Assessment and advice to the PIRSA Fisheries Management Group on stock release applications to ensure the risks of introduction and spread of disease in the State are minimised.
10.	Facilitated the implementation of disease mitigation strategies as identified in risk assessments. This is to facilitate effective disease management (disease prevention, preparedness, response and recovery strategies). An example included for abalone viral ganglioneuritis (AVG) which involved advice and assistance to Biosecurity and industry with regard to AVG detection in Victoria to manage risks to South Australia.
11.	Administrated four Chief Veterinary Officer approvals for biosecurity audits of two oyster hatcheries and two land-based abalone farms.

12.	Submitted the final report for the project “Risk factors and management strategies associated with summer mortality in Australian abalone (FRDC: 2019-147)”. In this project, we identified risk factors associated with summer mortality in abalone.
13.	Progressed the project “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.
14.	Conducted Emergency Disease Response training and updated PIRSA Emergency Response Plans as required with PIRSA Biosecurity.
15.	Meetings attended, reviewed documents, contributed to national policy developments and represented South Australia on the national Sub-Committee on Aquatic Animal Health (SCAAH).
16.	Advice to the Chief Veterinary Officer (Biosecurity) as required, including for mortality / disease cases, state based emergency response preparedness and for national committees (e.g. Animal Health Committee, National Biosecurity Committee).
17.	Reviewed and commented on the National Biosecurity Guidelines for Farmed Freshwater Finfish.
18.	Attended Aquatic Veterinary Medicine Technical Advisory Group (under SCAAH), to facilitate progress of veterinary medicine permits with the Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicine Authority (APVMA).
19.	<p>Reviewed and updated a notice under the <i>Livestock Act 1997</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Notifiable Diseases</i> <p>Renewed a notice under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 2007</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Temporary prohibition on the use of Abalone as bait or berley.</i> <p>Reviewed and updated a regulation under the <i>Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23A—Taking of bivalve filter-feeding molluscs in Port Adelaide River estuary

Environmental Monitoring and Management

	Deliverables
1.	Developed, assessed and processed annual EMP reports for 61 Land-based licences.
2.	Conducted Ecologically Sustainable Development risk assessments and management of EPA referrals for two variations to Land-based licences.
3.	Assessed and implemented fee waiver for educational facilities.
4.	Commenced drafting the 2022 South Australian Aquaculture Report which contains a summary of production and management of aquaculture in South Australia in 2020/21, including EMP summary information for each aquaculture sector.
5.	Ongoing maintenance of reporting databases for environmental compliance matters, and ecological interactions.
6.	Conducted regular meetings with the EPA to discuss and prioritise environmental issues and projects relating to the aquaculture industry.
7.	Responded to aquaculture inquiries from the Land-based Sector and interested stakeholders.
8.	Liaised with Fisheries Officers for environmental issues related to the Land-based Sector, particularly in relation to site audits. This included provision of technical input regarding environmental compliance and development and operation of aquaculture sites.
9.	Reviewed Sturgeon draft Issues Paper.
10.	Reviewed and provided comment on a number of guidelines/proposals that may impact the Land-based Sector (e.g. SA Productivity Commission Inquiry, Commonwealth Aquaculture Inquiry, EPA dredge guidelines, Port Lincoln desalination plant proposal, Port River dredge proposal, DIT referral for vessel movements between Port River and Kangaroo Island, DEW sand replenishment proposal, Hansons iron Ore Pipeline, State Landscape Strategy).
11.	Development of specific licence conditions and macroalgae management areas to mitigate biosecurity risks associated with growing algae on existing licensed sites, including liaising with SARDI and Biosecurity SA and notification to all licence holders permitted to farm algae of the new management arrangements for algae aquaculture.
12.	Contribution to, support for and implementation of, numerous research projects to assess environmental and economic impacts relating to or applicable Land-based aquaculture, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FRDC 2016-808: Future Oysters CRC-P • FRDC 2019-039: South Australian Pacific Oyster selective breeding program: Building POMS resistance to reduce risk for the South Australian Oyster industry • FRDC 2020/116 Accelerating Greenlip Abalone stock recovery in South Australia using release of hatchery-reared juveniles - Phase 1 - genetics risk assessment and preliminary cost-benefit analysis.

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 Land-based 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 the Minister, so they were aware of current and emerging issues faced by PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture and the Land-based Sector.
11.	Consulted with the Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Director Operations, PIRSA Fisheries Managers, and the Office of the Minister and other parties as needed.
12.	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.
13.	Provided assistance to the Land-based Sector as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other Aquaculture Activities

	Deliverables
1.	All aquaculture sector production data collated and entered and forwarded to BDO EconSearch for compiling 2020/21 report.
2.	2020/21 annual economic report, incorporating Land-based Sector data, drafted, finalised and published on PIRSA website.
3.	Facilitated the establishment for, and provided executive officer support to, the South Australian Seafood Advisory Forum.