

PIRSA

Annual Report on PIRSA's Service Delivery on the Cost Recovery Agreement for the Oyster 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 Oyster 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 the Oyster Sector. 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 Oyster Sector.
3.	Conducted further consultation with the Oyster sector 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.	Continued consultation with stakeholders, including the aquaculture industry, fishing industry, local council, and the Department for Environment and Water (DEW), for development of the draft Aquaculture (Zones – Ceduna) Policy 2015, which aims to consolidate the oyster industry within the region.
5.	Ongoing liaison and consultation with relevant government departments, prescribed bodies and relevant stakeholders in relation to zone policy development.
6.	Provided advice to stakeholders/members of the public in relation to existing aquaculture zone allocations (i.e. area, biomass, etc).
7.	Provided input to a range of State and Commonwealth Government environmental and conservation initiatives, to ensure aquaculture zone development objectives and aspirations were adequately taken into account and factored into broader conservation policy development.
8.	<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"> • Adequacy of the Whalers Way Orbital Launch Complex Environmental Impact Statement • Adequacy of the Cape Hardy Port Environmental Impact Statement addendum • Port Playford Export Facility development application • Port Spencer Grain Export Facility amendment to the Public Environmental Report • Lucky Bay shipping channel dredge works application
9.	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.
10.	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 future marine-based aquaculture development outside of aquaculture zones and to mitigate impacts from other forms of development on the aquaculture industry.

11.	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.
12.	Undertook process to reappoint three ATAB members under the <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i> .
13.	Provided formal comment on Regional Landscape Plans to Landscape Boards in regard to promoting aquaculture development.
14.	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.
15.	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> , <i>Aquaculture (Zones – Tumby Bay) Policy 2015</i> , <i>Aquaculture (Zones – Coffin Bay) Policy 2008</i> , and <i>Aquaculture (Zones – Streaky Bay) Policy 2011</i> public call. Draft internal procedures for ATAB meetings to assess applications for lease tenure were also tabled.
16.	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> .
17.	Continued review of current and future provisions for the rehabilitation of aquaculture leases.
18.	Provided a submission to a Commonwealth inquiry by the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Water Resources into the Australian aquaculture sector.
19.	Ongoing liaison and consultation with DIT to streamline the process for aquaculture lease holders to surrender/remove associated lands title leases.
20.	Provided a one stop shop service to progress development approval in regard to an oyster tourism platform development application in Smoky Bay.
21.	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.
22.	Provided a referral response to the SCAP in regard to an oyster tourism platform development application in Coffin Bay.
23.	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.
24.	Continued to attend and provide input to the government agency National Aquaculture Committee on behalf of South Australia.
25.	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 (i.e., flowcharts, checklists and manuals) and performance relating to Oyster 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/lease records as required.																										
6.	Maintenance of systems and procedures to support day to day administration of leasing and licensing activities related to the Oyster Sector.																										
7.	Conducted audits of internal processes and functions including application checklists.																										
8.	Records management of leasing and licensing documentation.																										
9.	<p>Processing of Oyster applications (see table below).</p> <table> <tr> <th>Oyster: Application Type</th><th>Number</th></tr> <tr> <td>New lease/licence*</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lease movement*</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lease renewal</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lease transfer</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr> <td>Licence transfer</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr> <td>Specified person</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lease division</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr> <td>Licence division</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lease amalgamation</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr> <td>Licence variation*</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lease/Licence surrender</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr> <td>Seed-stock permit</td><td>1</td></tr> </table> <p>*Environmental assessment and inter-agency referral conducted</p>	Oyster: Application Type	Number	New lease/licence*	5	Lease movement*	16	Lease renewal	3	Lease transfer	4	Licence transfer	12	Specified person	7	Lease division	3	Licence division	3	Lease amalgamation	11	Licence variation*	1	Lease/Licence surrender	2	Seed-stock permit	1
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10.	Processed annual production returns from the Oyster Sector. This included follow-up on unreturned production returns or incorrect information to ensure licence holders meet their obligations under the regulations, collation and analysis of information.																										

11.	Assisted lease holders with the process to surrender/remove associated lands title leases through DIT and ASIC.
12.	Processed requests for information from licence holders via front counter, phone or e-mail.
13.	Liaised with government stakeholders to verify the credentials of lease/licence holders for application processing as required.

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 Act 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.	Review of 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 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"> • Routine site inspections undertaken by Fisheries Officers. • Reports made to PIRSA subsequent to compliance inspections outline any compliance issues with a site and include photographs and site waypoints. • Follow up inspections required for sites that have identified compliance issues. • These inspections were carried out within a reasonable timeframe, with due consideration of the risks to other users of the waters or resource. • 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. <p>Site inspections were conducted at Coffin Bay, Kellidie Bay, Point Longnose, Dutton Bay, Streaky Bay, Southbank (Perlubie), Northbank (Haslam), Stansbury and American River. Bay representatives were contacted in advance of site inspections. Sites were inspected to ensure they were adequately marked, stock on site was within licenced requirements, farming structures in good working order and all infrastructure located within marked off area.</p> <p>Site compliance with requirements varied but was generally good. Extensive follow up was conducted with growers resulting in most non-compliant issues addressed promptly.</p> <p>Follow up inspections for sites inspected in June 2020 were conducted in this period.</p> <p>Fisheries officers responded to numerous inquiries and ad hoc requests from growers, including reports of infrastructure (including baskets, poles) located outside of lease sites and on nearby beaches.</p> <p>Fisheries Officers liaised with several growers in relation to rehabilitation of their sites which were found to have been in poor conditions and in contravention to licence conditions.</p>
2.	<p>An individual received an Expiation Notice for failing to keep records and Formal Caution for operating as a fish processor without registration. The individual had sourced oysters which she processed for sale from an oyster grower.</p>
3.	<p>Fisheries Officers conducted ongoing inspections of a site which was subject to complaints from members of the public due to its dilapidated state and being a marine hazard due to it not being marked. Some site infrastructure was observed to be located outside the site boundaries and in an adjacent aquaculture exclusion zone. The site and licence holder will continue to be subject to follow up by Fisheries officers during 2021/22.</p>
4.	<p>Fisheries Officers continued to collect Pacific Oyster samples as part of the POMS monitoring program from the Ceduna, Coffin Bay and Lucky Bay areas. Fisheries Officers continued to address inquiries from members of the public in relation to POMS and translocation issues and risks. The West Regional Manager continued to reiterate biosecurity and POMS prevention measures via ABC Radio. Feral oysters were collected from various locations on York Peninsula as part of the POMS surveillance program. Signage was maintained within the Port River system. Fisheries Officers received reports from growers reporting algal blooms in the Kellidie Bay area.</p>

5.	The West Regional Manager attended a meeting with growers after Fisheries Officers observed a general area used as a holding site. An interim agreement and a longer-term solution identified and in progress to address the situation.
6.	Communication and monitoring activities were undertaken by PIRSA and related SA government agencies to ensure compliance by Oyster lease and/or licence holders with legislation (Act, other Acts, Regulations, and policies) and conditions of leases and/or licences.
7.	Procedures and processes required for response to notifiable events (e.g., entanglements, 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 Oyster 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 Oyster 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 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 was 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 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 troubleshooting 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 Oyster 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 troubleshooting of the electronic lodgement system (my PIRSA) for environmental monitoring program and production return data.

Aquatic Animal Health

	Deliverables
1.	One Pacific Oyster related mortality event was reported to PIRSA and investigated. Samples were submitted to the laboratory and tested to rule out disease. No significant or notifiable diseases were detected.
2.	Five farmed and wild shellfish mortality events were also reported to PIRSA and investigated. Samples submitted to the laboratory and tested to rule out disease. No significant or notifiable diseases detected.
3.	Coordination of State-wide early detection surveillance for Ostried herpesvirus-1 (OsHV-1)/Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS). In 2020/21, ~3,600 Pacific Oysters (farmed and feral) were processed. In total, 781 samples were tested, all of which were negative for OsHV-1/POMS.
4.	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.
5.	PIRSA assessed and approved one translocation of Pacific Oysters from Tasmania to South Australia, under the <i>Livestock Act 1997</i> . This translocation was the first assessed using the protocol developed by PIRSA/industries (Protocol for importation of hatchery reared Pacific Oyster spat from jurisdictions where POMS has been detected).
6.	<p>Provided advice to various government agencies and organisations/companies to mitigate potential aquatic animal health risks posed by marine developments/activities. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PIRSA provided advice to other companies involved in marine developments to reduce the risk of spreading POMS in adjacent areas to the Port. PIRSA provided advice on biofouling and ballast water management to various companies and vessel operators at their request.
7.	Communications and awareness: SAOGA newsletter article, SAOGA AGM, factsheets to licence holders on POMS.
8.	The South Australian POMS management plan was implemented. The aims are to contain POMS to the Port Adelaide River System and implement prevention and preparedness activities in the commercial farming regions.
9.	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.
10.	Reviewed and updated the Aquatic Health - Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS) Response Plan.
11.	Administrated two Chief Veterinary Officer approvals for biosecurity audits of two oyster hatcheries. Two of the five oyster hatcheries in South Australia are now considered biosecure.
12.	Conducted Emergency Disease Response training and updated PIRSA Emergency Response Plans as required with PIRSA Biosecurity.

13.	Meetings attended, reviewed documents, contributed to national policy developments and represented South Australia on the national Sub-Committee on Aquatic Animal Health (SCAAH).
14.	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).
15.	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.
16.	Reviewed and updated the notice <i>Declaration of Livestock Movement Restrictions in Relation to Bivalves for the Purposes of Controlling Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome</i> under the <i>Livestock Act 1997</i> .
17.	Provided expert POMS related advice to DEW regarding the Adelaide Metro sand replenishment project. POMS risks determined, managed and mitigated.

Environmental Monitoring and Management

	Deliverables
1.	Developed, assessed and processed annual Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP) reports for 347 Oyster licences.
2.	Conducted Ecologically Sustainable Development risk assessments and management of EPA referral for 22 Oyster licence applications related to new (5), movements (16) and licence condition variations (1).
3.	Commenced drafting the 2021 South Australian Aquaculture Report which contains a summary of production and management of aquaculture in South Australia in 2019/20, including EMP summary information for each aquaculture sector.
4.	Responded to environmental issues related to the Oyster Sector.
5.	Responded to ongoing industry requests in regard to applications and management of leases and licences.
6.	Resolved administrative coordinate discrepancies associated with 19 Oyster leases and corresponding licences at Kellidie Bay.
7.	Responded to industry opposition in relation to applications to move Oyster leases, including seeking SARDI advice in relation to environmental concerns.
8.	Ongoing maintenance of reporting databases for environmental compliance matters, escapes of stock, ecological interactions and marine debris.
9.	Assessed and processed over 14 Oyster strategies in association with transfer applications and new licence holders.
10.	Conducted regular meetings with the EPA to discuss and prioritise environmental issues and projects relating to the aquaculture industry.
11.	Liaised with Fisheries Officers for environmental issues related to the Oyster Sector, particularly in relation to marine debris, site audits and rehabilitation of old sites. This included provision of technical input regarding environmental compliance and development and operation of aquaculture sites.
12.	Reviewed Native Oyster nomination to list the taxon under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act.
13.	Reviewed approval procedure for in-water cleaning companies provided by Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.
14.	Contribution to, support for and implementation of, numerous research projects to assess environmental and economic impacts relating to Oyster aquaculture and research into POMS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FRDC 2014-027: Pacific Oyster feeds and feeding in South Australian waters: towards ecosystem based management • FRDC 2016-005: eSA marine • FRDC 2016-808: Future Oysters CRC-P

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CRC-P Advanced surveillance ○ CRC-P species diversification including a pest and biosecurity risk assessment for Rock Oysters ○ Rapid diagnostic method for OsHV-1 ○ Efficacy of knockdown and POMS outbreak on Pacific Oyster populations and OsHV-1 viral load in the Port River ○ Role of non-C. gigas hosts for POMS ○ Infection model for assessing susceptibility to OsHV-1 • FRDC 2018-090: Improving early detection surveillance and emergency disease response to Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS) using a hydrodynamic model for dispersion of OsHV-1 • FRDC 2019-039: South Australian Pacific Oyster selective breeding program: Building POMS resistance to reduce risk for the South Australian Oyster industry
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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, including FRDC Levy Contributions.
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 Oyster 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 Oyster 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 oyster aquaculture lease and licence holders impacted from the Kangaroo Island bushfires as part of PIRSA's emergency response.
13.	Provided assistance to the Oyster Sector as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
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 Oyster 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 Oyster Sector data, drafted.
4.	Collected, through annual fees, the Oyster industry's annual contribution to the FRDC.
5.	Attended the Urrbrae Agricultural High School Show Day to promote aquaculture related careers.
6.	Provided input to SAOGA newsletter articles.
7.	Attended and presented at the Oyster Information Day in February 2021
8.	Provided executive officer support for the South Australian Seafood Advisory Forum

