

Cost Recovery Implementation Statement for the Rock Lobster Fishery (Southern Zone)

1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024



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

Cost Recovery Implementation Statement

Information current as of February 2023
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Introduction

Wild catch commercial fisheries in South Australia are managed in accordance with the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) Cost Recovery Policy. This policy requires commercial fishery licence fees to fund services related to commercial fisheries management costs. PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture continue to manage the process of consulting with service providers and relevant industry associations to establish fishery-based management programs, which form the basis of annual licence fees.

For each sector, the program required to manage the fishery has the following components:

- Assessment and Research Services.
- Fisheries Management Services.
- Compliance Services, including communication, enforcement and monitoring activities.
- Support Services, including Legislation, Licensing and Business Services (Directorate).

This documentation provides a framework to assist in establishing appropriate research, policy, compliance and support services to manage a fishery.

For further information relating to Cost Recovery Reviews, Policy and Framework, they can be found at https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing/commercial_fishing/pirsa_services_to_fisheries_industry

Consistent with Principle 7 of the PIRSA Cost Recovery Policy, an annual schedule of meetings for stakeholder engagement and support for the cost recovery process in relation to commercial fisheries is outlined below:

| Annual schedule of meetings | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Date | Activity | Parties |
| Sept/Oct | Review long-term objectives for fishery and update if necessary. Identify priority outcomes for upcoming financial year. | PIRSA and industry association |
| October | Develop policy, research and compliance work programs in readiness for discussions (fisheries managers with industry) in November. | PIRSA |
| November | Discuss proposed programs with relevant industry associations and reach agreement on programs for the upcoming period. Industry associations to consult with wider industry. | PIRSA and industry association |
| February | Formal meetings with industry associations to finalise work programs and summarise costs. | PIRSA and industry association |
| March | Submit proposed licence fees to Minister. Prepare Ministerial Notice briefing to vary and prescribe lease and licence fees for the next financial year. | PIRSA and government agencies |
| June | Invoices sent for annual licence fees. | PIRSA |

* Dates above are indicative only and may vary due to unforeseen circumstances that may arise throughout any year. **

Summary Table

| 2022-23 (\$) | PROGRAM AREA | 2023-24 (\$) | COMMENTS | DAYS | FTE |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|---|------|------|
| RESEARCH COSTS | | | | | |
| 883,218 | Stock Assessment and Monitoring | 807,371 | 1 year research project scope | | |
| 24,235 | Economic Assessment | 24,962 | As per contracted services 2023-24 | | |
| 8,623 | Other research | 5,537 | Contribution towards Threatened and Endangered Species | | |
| PIRSA RELATED COSTS | | | | | |
| 78,750 | Fisheries Management | 82,530 | Same level of service as previous year | 90 | 0.45 |
| 14,130 | Legislation | 14,805 | Same level of service as previous year | 15 | 0.08 |
| 66,360 | Licensing | 69,580 | Same level of service as previous year | 70 | 0.35 |
| 24,360 | Directorate | 25,508 | Same level of service as previous year | 28 | 0.14 |
| 1,495,472 | Compliance | 1,566,964 | Same level of service as previous year | 1172 | 5.86 |
| 179,055 | Quota Monitoring | 187,542 | Same level of service as previous year | 207 | 1.04 |
| | Information Services | 64,219 | Logbook Program – Entry, validation, management and reporting of data | | |
| OTHER COSTS | | | | | |
| 237,978 | FRDC | 200,537 | Funding based on 0.25% of rolling three year average | | |
| 97,182 | E-Catch (eScales) | 82,749 | Co-Management Services requested for 2023-24 | | |
| 72,057 | E-Quota Monitoring System Operating | 202,527 | Co-Management Services requested for 2023-24 | | |
| 315,000 | Co-Management Services | 315,000 | Co-Management Services requested for 2023-24 | | |
| 3,496,420 | TOTAL | 3,649,831 | | | |

* The indexation rate of 4.8 % confirmed by the Department of Treasury and Finance has been applied to the 2023/24 PIRSA program cost

| Licence Fees 2023-24 (\$) | |
|---|-------|
| Base Fee | 7,952 |
| Quota Unit Fee | 185 |
| Giant Crab Quota Fee | 26 |
| By-catch Fee | 5.80 |
| Licence Fees 2022-23 (\$) | |
| Base Fee (50% fee relief applied) | 3,817 |
| Quota Unit Fee (50% fee relief applied) | 88.50 |
| Giant Crab Quota Fee | 24.50 |
| By-catch Fee | 6.60 |

Program Daily Charge Out Rate 2023-24

| | DAILY RATE (\$) | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|------------|----------------------|------------|
| | Compliance | Directorate | Legislation | Licensing | Fisheries Management | Quota |
| Total Employee Expenses | 692 | 640 | 764 | 521 | 618 | 453 |
| Total Operating Expenses | 350 | 127 | 64 | 145 | 166 | 151 |
| Deprecation and Capital Costs | 56 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Other Expenses* | 239 | 145 | 159 | 328 | 133 | 304 |
| TOTAL DAILY RATE | 1,337 | 911 | 987 | 994 | 917 | 906 |

Please Note: All dollar values have been rounded to the nearest dollar figure.

* Other expenses includes ICT, finance, human resources, WHS, accommodation, insurance and other costs incurred corporately in providing services to divisions, apportioned across PIRSA using a range of cost drivers such as number of logons, headcount, volume data and other workload indicators, in accordance with PIRSA's cost recovery policy.

Fishery Management Objectives

| Long term objectives | Outcomes | Fisheries Management | Compliance | Assessment and Research | Leasing and Licensing |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| <p>Southern Rock Lobster stocks in South Australia are sustainable.</p> <p>Southern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery businesses operate efficiently and are viable.</p> | <p>Maintain stock at sustainable levels.</p> <p>Ensure sufficient data and information is available to undertake TACC setting using the Harvest Strategy.</p> <p>Maintain Integrity in the quota system.</p> <p>Management arrangements support the objectives of the fishery.</p> <p>Support strategic research activities for the SZRLF.</p> | <p>Support FRDC project relating to catch rate standardisation and alternative pot design.</p> <p>Support strategic research activities for the SZRLF in consultation with the RLFMAC.</p> <p>Ongoing support with eCatch reporting requirements.</p> <p>Consider, if recommended by RLFMAC, September fishing (with new quota entitlements) requiring legislation amendments (quota period).</p> <p>Support implementation of on-going quota carry-over</p> <p>Support industry initiatives to access new and emerging markets</p> | <p>Implement compliance program, informed by risk assessment.</p> <p>Ongoing support with eCatch reporting requirements.</p> | <p>Lead Stock Assessment and monitoring to underpin stock status and stock assessment reports.</p> <p>Provide scientific advice to inform decision-making process of Harvest Strategy.</p> <p>Conduct puerulus monitoring program.</p> <p>Undertake fishery-independent monitoring survey.</p> <p>Lead FRDC project relating to catch rate standardisation and alternative pot design.</p> <p>Support strategic research activities for the SZRLF in consultation with the RLFMAC.</p> <p>Provide any additional advice to inform consideration of September fishing.</p> | <p>Provide ongoing support for licensing, quota and transfer queries.</p> <p>Ongoing support with eCatch reporting requirements.</p> |

| Long term objectives | Outcomes | Fisheries Management | Compliance | Assessment and Research | Leasing and Licensing |
|--|---|--|------------|---|-----------------------|
| | | | | Provide advice on-going quota carry-over if appropriate. | |
| South Australian Rock Lobster Fishery minimises impacts on the ecosystem | Continue to undertake and monitor current fisheries dependent and independent monitoring. | Support continuation of current fisheries dependent and independent monitoring. Consider implementation of outcomes of FRDC Research project 2017-082 <i>Ensuring monitoring and management of bycatch in Southern Rock Lobster fisheries is best practice</i> in consultation with the RLFMAC. | | Monitor TEPS interactions through logbooks. Support continuation of current fisheries dependent and independent monitoring. Consider implementation of outcomes of FRDC Research project 2017-082 <i>Ensuring monitoring and management of bycatch in Southern Rock Lobster fisheries is best practice</i> in consultation with the RLFMAC. | |

| Long term objectives | Outcomes | Fisheries Management | Compliance | Assessment and Research | Leasing and Licensing |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| <p>Economic and social benefits of the South Australian Rock Lobster Fishery are equitably distributed</p> <p>Management of the fishery is cost effective and participatory</p> | Support co-management of the fishery. | <p>Support the co-management and consultative processes.</p> <p>Participate in the co-management and consultative processes.</p> <p>Regular communication with industry and attendance at meetings (eg RLFMAC, SEPFA-led port meetings), as required.</p> | <p>Implement compliance program, informed by risk assessment.</p> <p>Industry liaison and attendance at meetings, as required.</p> | <p>Participate in the RLFMAC as an observer.</p> <p>Provide scientific advice in support of co-management of the fishery.</p> <p>Industry liaison and attendance at meetings, as required.</p> | <p>Provide licensing advice related to electronic reporting.</p> <p>Provide technical advice on implementation of further development of electronic reporting.</p> |

Fisheries Management Program Manager:

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Program summary

The Fisheries Management Unit of PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture undertakes activities such as day-to-day management, long-term planning and policy development for South Australian commercial, recreational and Aboriginal traditional fisheries.

The Fisheries Management unit has the following core functions:

- Administer the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* and regulations.
- Day-to-day management of fisheries resources, to ensure catch and effort levels are commensurate with resource sustainability.
- Develop and implement Management Plans, including Harvest Strategy development and ESD risk assessment, in accordance with the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*.
- Provide advice to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development and the Chief Executive on matters relating to fisheries.
- Represent the Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture on committees and other forums on matters related to the administration of the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*.
- Develop over-arching policy frameworks to support fisheries management.
- Build and maintain relationships with key stakeholders, with a particular focus on the commercial and recreational fishing sectors.
- Progress Australian Government recommendations under EPBC Act (1999) assessment.

Objectives

To provide day-to-day fisheries management services to the Rock Lobster Fishery (Southern Zone) to government and industry, as well as advice and facilitation of fisheries policy and management issues, through the Fisheries Management Program.

Program strategies and supporting actions and initiatives

Anticipated outcomes

1. Prepare day-to-day necessary legislative instruments and/or advice required for the management of the Rock Lobster Fishery (Southern Zone) (regulations, catch limits, closure notices, licence conditions, Ministerial exemptions etc).
2. Prepare policies to support fisheries management.
3. Prepare regular fisheries status reports.

4. Develop and maintain day-to-day productive working relationships and outcomes through cooperative management and collaboration with stakeholders.
5. Deliver quality and timely responses to correspondence.
6. Further the development of co-management arrangements.

Performance indicators

1. Strong industry and government involvement in co-management relationship and adherence to formally agreed co-management arrangements.
2. Implement Management Plan. Management Plan to include Harvest Strategies that protect sustainability of the fishery based on ESD risk assessment processes.
3. Australian Government recommendations met in relation to EPBC assessment.
4. Setting of TACC for Rock Lobster Fishery (Southern Zone).

Program effort allocation

The table below includes an abbreviated suite of core activities and initiatives used to manage risks and reflect the anticipated split of effort and associated costs.

| Activity | Days | FTE | Cost (\$) |
|----------------------|------|------|-----------|
| Fisheries Management | 90 | 0.45 | 82,530 |

Please Note: All dollar values have been rounded to the nearest dollar figure.

| | Deliverables | Due date |
|-----|---|--|
| 1. | Participate in inter- and intra-departmental meetings and workshops on issues relevant to fisheries management. | Ongoing |
| 2. | Liaise 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. | Ongoing |
| 3. | Liaise within PIRSA, with other government agencies and with industry representatives in implementing decisions relevant to fisheries management. | Ongoing |
| 4. | Conduct 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. | Ongoing |
| 5. | Deliver a coordinated consultation process with fishery stakeholders through established co-management processes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TACC setting • Confirm September fishing arrangements if appropriate • implementation of quota carry-over and over-catch provisions | September 2023 |
| 6. | Participate in industry liaison in the field to strengthen fishery management knowledge and understanding and develop rapport with licence holders. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-season port visit • Mid-season port visits | Usually Sept/Oct 2023 March 2024 – as required |
| 7. | Support industry development initiatives related to fisheries management for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry responses to address market disruptions • Access and develop new and emerging markets. | As required |
| 8. | Attending to general correspondence and enquiries relevant to fisheries. | Ongoing |
| 9. | Provide advice to the Minister in relation to the management of fisheries and Ministerial correspondence. | Ongoing |
| 10. | Communicate on fisheries management issues to key stakeholder groups and the broader community. | Ongoing |

Legal Services Program

Program Manager:

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Program summary

PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture Directorate provides legal services to the Executive Director and all other members of the Division, in particular the policy group, on a daily basis. Among other things these services include strategic advice and problem solving, review of draft documentation and correspondence, statutory interpretation and the provision of general advice and statutory interpretation, in consultation with the Crown Solicitor's Office where necessary, regarding any legal issues relating to proposed actions and the implementation or administration of Rock Lobster fisheries management and regulatory arrangements through existing legislative frameworks and licence conditions. Consideration is also given to the impacts and effects of other related legislation if and when required.

Objectives

To provide legal services supporting the implementation of necessary, appropriate and effective statutory and administrative changes to government administration of all fishery sectors, as well as strategic advice and facilitation of related policy development, legislative and regulatory issues, through the Legal Services Program.

Program strategies and supporting actions and initiatives

Program effort allocation

The table below includes an abbreviated suite of core activities and initiatives used to manage risks and reflect the anticipated split of effort and associated costs.

| Activity | Days | FTE | Cost (\$) |
|-------------|------|------|-----------|
| Legislation | 15 | 0.08 | 14,805 |

Please Note: All dollar values have been rounded to the nearest dollar figure.

Anticipated outcomes

| | Deliverables | Due date |
|----|--|----------|
| 1. | Co-ordinate 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 require the drafting of Cabinet submissions and supporting documentation, including the preparation of drafting instructions, for consideration by Cabinet. This service includes co-ordinating 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 are accurately described, drafted and scrutinised before being implemented. | Ongoing |
| 2. | Review licensing arrangements required on an as needs basis to lawfully implement approved fishery management policy and measures within the limitations of the Act. The service includes working with the Licensing program (part of Leasing and Licensing) and policy program to ensure licence conditions are effective and where necessary to implement efficient administrative systems and finalise forms and instruments that are legally sound. | Ongoing |
| 3. | Problem solve and review policy developments together with the provision and co-ordination of legal advisory services in liaison with the Crown Solicitor's office relating to and 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. | Ongoing |
| 4. | Coordinate applications for Ministerial exemptions under Part 10 Division 1 and Permits under Part 7 Division 2 of the Act and review draft notices. | Ongoing |
| 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, to implement new fisheries management arrangements (for example the 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, implementation of closures). | Ongoing |
| 6. | Support compliance for statutory interpretation, problem solving and correspondence advice (per above). | Ongoing |

Leasing and Licensing

Program Manager:

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Program summary

The Fisheries Leasing and Licensing unit of PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture is responsible for the management of licensing and quota monitoring services.

This business unit provides a range of services related to the timely processing and management of information leading to the issue of licences and other reporting services.

The unit administers a licensing call centre for licence inquiries and other administrative services. The success of these functions is based on maintaining the Primary Industries Information Management System (PIIMS) database.

Objectives

To provide leasing and licensing services to government and industry through the Leasing and Licensing Program.

Program strategies and supporting actions and initiatives

Anticipated outcomes

1. Issue licences to licence holders in an accurate and timely manner.
2. Provide accurate and timely information related to licences.
3. Provide reports as required.

Program effort allocation

The table below includes an abbreviated suite of core activities and initiatives used to manage risks and reflect the anticipated split of effort and associated costs.

| Activity | Days | FTE | Cost (\$) |
|-----------------------|------|------|-----------|
| Leasing and Licensing | 70 | 0.35 | 69,580 |
| Quota Monitoring | 207 | 1.04 | 187,542 |

Please Note: All dollar values have been rounded to the nearest dollar figure.

| | Deliverables | Due date |
|-----|--|----------|
| | Services to directly support the fishery | |
| 1. | Issue and maintain fishery licences. | Ongoing |
| 2. | Database management for licence and licence holder information. | Ongoing |
| 3. | Quota monitoring and management including issuing of commercial tags and applying for overcatch and undercatch adjustments. | Ongoing |
| 4. | Monitor and support eBusiness systems. | Ongoing |
| 5. | Collect licence fees and associated payments. | Ongoing |
| 6. | Compose and send quarterly instalment notices. | Ongoing |
| 7. | Record and track unpaid invoices. | Ongoing |
| 8. | Compose and send late payment instalment notices for un-paid quarterly instalments. | Ongoing |
| 9. | Draft and issue notices to fishers. | Ongoing |
| 10. | 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. | Ongoing |
| 11. | Regularly update information about licence holders. | Ongoing |
| 12. | Research and prepare documents for public record. | Ongoing |
| 13. | Liaise with government stakeholders to verify the credentials of fishers. | Ongoing |
| 14. | Liaise with PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture, SARDI Aquatic Sciences, Crown Solicitors and other state and local agencies on matters relevant to the fishery. | Ongoing |
| 15. | Draft and update licence conditions over the duration of the licensing year as determined by the Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture. | Ongoing |
| 16. | Provide information to licence holders relating to the requirements pursuant to licence administration. | Ongoing |
| 17. | Manage calls from fishers regarding late payment notices, fees and general enquiries about their licences. | Ongoing |
| 18. | Provide support regarding an increased frequency of last-minute administrative enquiries from fishers. e.g., master changes, boat variations | Ongoing |

| | | |
|----|---|---------|
| | and quota transfers, as well as provide advice and support to fishers on licence information to complete the required forms. | |
| | Services to support fisheries management | |
| 1. | Participate in inter and intra departmental meetings and workshops on issues relevant to the fishing industry. | Ongoing |
| 2. | Liaise with relevant staff within PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture in implementing decisions relevant to the fishery. | Ongoing |
| 3. | Interrogate the PIIMS database to extract information for other stakeholders to use in preparing reports. | Ongoing |
| 4. | Prepare reports requested by internal and external customers including maintenance of a public register of licence holders. | Ongoing |
| 5. | Liaise with information technology providers to maintain PIIMS and administer licensing requests. | Ongoing |
| 6. | Generate quota management reports to update stakeholders on varying Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) returns and end of season quota holdings. | Ongoing |

Directorate Program

Program Manager:

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Program summary

Business Services, within the Directorate Unit of PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture, provides a range of services to support fisheries management. These include coordinating the cost recovery process and establishing agreements with service providers; coordinating program provider reports; administering external contracts and agreements; and providing audit, financial and human resource functions.

Objectives

To provide support services to government and industry, as well as advice and facilitation of corporate related policy and management issues, through the Directorate Program that incorporates the Fisheries and Aquaculture Business Services unit.

Program strategies and supporting actions and initiatives

Program effort allocation

The table below includes an abbreviated suite of core activities and initiatives used to manage risks and reflect the anticipated split of effort and associated costs.

| Activity | Days | FTE | Cost (\$) |
|-------------|------|------|-----------|
| Directorate | 28 | 0.14 | 25,508 |

Please Note: All dollar values have been rounded to the nearest dollar figure.

Anticipated outcomes

| | Deliverables | Due date |
|-----|--|-----------|
| 1. | Coordinate and facilitate cost recovery processes and program agreements, including liaising with program providers, managers and financial services as required. | Ongoing |
| 2. | Meet with industry on matters relating to cost recovery, licence setting and related policy issues. | Ongoing |
| 3. | Develop and review cost recovery policy, processes and program agreements. | Ongoing |
| 4. | Manage major service providers' contractual agreements, and co-management services contractual agreements with industry associations. | Ongoing |
| 5. | Project manage and administer 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. | Ongoing |
| 6. | Provide advice on procurement and invoicing requirements. | Ongoing |
| 7. | Consult 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. | Ongoing |
| 8. | Ongoing review, development and documentation of the cost recovery model, framework, processes and roles. | Ongoing |
| 9. | Meet agreed timeframes on management and administration of external contractual services. | Ongoing |
| 10. | Appropriate management of industry funds and services. | Ongoing |
| 11. | Provide an Annual Report on PIRSA's service delivery of the Cost Recovery agreement to industry Executive Officer | September |

Fisheries Compliance Operations Program

Program Manager:

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Program summary

PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture teams coordinate compliance activities (outputs) to build awareness and behavioural outcomes that have a long-term beneficial impact in the Southern Zone Rock Lobster (SZRL) Fishery. The objective of the compliance activities (outputs) is to minimise the risks to aquatic resource sustainability as well as ensuring appropriate resource allocation and access rights and ultimately commercial economic viability.

The coordination of the compliance outputs is guided by an industry specific compliance plan which was developed in consultation with the SZRL industry. These outputs are aimed at educating fishers, deterring opportunistic and financially motivated crimes, enforcing the rules and regulations and reducing overall compliance risks to resource sustainability.

Legislative and regulatory framework

Fisheries Management Act 2007

Fisheries Management (Rock Lobster Fisheries) Regulations 2017

Fisheries Management (Fish Processors) Regulations 2017

Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017

Fisheries Management (Demerit Points) Regulations 2017

Fisheries Management (Marine Scalefish Fisheries) Regulations 2017

Fisheries Management (Miscellaneous Fishery) Regulations 2015

Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Southern Zone Rock lobster Fishery

Program effort, funding and resources

The level of effort required to deliver the compliance program in accordance with the dedicated plan is reviewed annually taking into account:

- previous effort required to deliver established programs developed over last 10 years.
- the identified risks to the fishery and any associated changes.

- shifts or changes to the fishery management.
- changes to fishing practices including market influences
- additional pressures or influences on fishers or the fishery.
- intelligence holdings.
- trends or changes in behaviour that required monitoring and/or investigation.
- cost effectiveness and identified efficiencies.
- any other relevant information required to deliver an effective compliance program to monitor and enforce the rules and regulations for each fishery.

PIRSA has continually reviewed the SZRL fishery compliance program, gaining efficiencies through data driven and targeted operations and re-directing compliance effort where necessary to address current and emerging issues and risks. The ongoing educational and awareness focus has been expanded in recent years to assist fishers with self-managing their electronic reports in eCatch.

The following table includes the number of days predicted to reflect the anticipated split of effort and associated costs to deliver the compliance outputs for 2023-24.

| Compliance Outputs | Days | FTE | Cost (\$) |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------------|
| Education Awareness | 400 | 2.00 | 534,800 |
| Effective Deterrence, Monitoring and Surveillance | 592 | 2.96 | 791,504 |
| Enforcement | 180 | 0.90 | 240,660 |
| TOTAL OFFICER DAYS | 1,172 | 5.86 | 1,566,964 |

Please Note; to comply with Work Health and Safety obligations and evidentiary requirements, operational activities are generally required to be undertaken by a minimum of two (2) officers at any time.

IT systems, technology and data

Fisheries and Aquaculture Compliance Operations are supported by a number of electronic systems which continue to be refined to allow optimum delivery of information in a reliable and timely way. Some of the key systems that assist to drive the compliance outputs include:

- IBase and Analyst Notebooks (Intelligence system).
- FACT (Fisheries and Aquaculture Information Collection Tool).
- Timewise (Effort Reporting Tool).
- Evidence.com (Video Evidence Collection Tool).
- PIIMS (Primary Industries Information Management System – Quota and Licence Information).
- eCatch.

- eBrief (prosecutions system).
- Commercial Fishing Application.

Delivery outputs

The coordination of compliance outputs is guided by an industry specific compliance plan which was developed in consultation with the SZRL industry. The plan ensures compliance effort is intelligence driven, efficient, cost effective and outcome focused. The compliance plan comprises three core outputs (Education and Awareness, Effective Deterrence and Appropriate Enforcement) and is optimised towards increasing voluntary compliance and maximising effective deterrence.

Analysis of intelligence and information holdings is regularly conducted to identify the major risks to the sustainable harvest of Rock lobster. The combination of strategies, actions, and initiatives are critical to focus the primary compliance effort to manage the risks and achieve targeted outcomes. The details are identified herein.

Intelligence

- Information collection.
- Analysis and testing of information voracity.
- Provide recommendations for targeted operations.
- Response to emerging trends and changes to the fishery.
- Develop strategic assessments.

Education and awareness

- Conduct pre-season education meetings and participate in industry days.
- Provide electronic distribution of educational material to fishers and licence holders at the commencement of the fishing season.
- Ensure all interested parties understand their respective obligations and the compliance focus for the coming season.
- Develop and maintain Industry communication & relationship programs to facilitate discussion of topics such as compliance inspection outcomes and issues impacting the SZRL fishery.
- Ongoing one on one education during inspections.

Effective deterrence, monitoring and surveillance

- Ensure all aspects of the Quota Management System are monitored and analysed.
- Ensure integrity of eCatch data sent from the field and deducted from quota.
- Ensure all aspects of commercial fishing activities are monitored such as inspections of catch at sea, when landed, in transit and at change of ownership in fish processing premises.

- Conduct intelligence driven operations that give rise to appropriate enforcement action.
- Respond to reported incidents/issue.
- Communicate activities in formal reporting.
- Follow up incorrect / incomplete reporting.

Enforcement

- Investigate reports of non-compliance and where appropriate take action.
- Issue expiations and caution notices.
- Prepare briefs of evidence for the Crown Solicitors Office to consider court enforced actions.
- Communicate enforcement outcomes in formal reporting.
- Service of licence suspensions.

Risk assessment and management (work priorities)

PIRSA use information obtained from intelligence, monitoring, surveillance and enforcement processes to assess compliance and sustainability risks to the fishery. This subsequently drives work priorities for service delivery. The priorities are prone to change during the fishing season however the following are currently relevant to the Southern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery.

1. Quota Management System (QMS) Integrity.
2. Take Female Rock Lobster with Eggs.
3. Take Undersize Rock Lobster
4. Illegal Unreported Unregulated Take (included in the Recreational Fishing Plan)

Deliverables

In line with the annual performance report, the compliance deliverables will be presented separately.

Stock Assessment and Monitoring Program

Rock Lobster Fishery (Southern Zone)

1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

Fisheries and Aquaculture Contact Person:

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SARDI Contact Person:

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1. Project details

1.1 Title

South Australian Rock Lobster Fishery

1.2 Subcontractor/Collaborator

Not Applicable

1.3 Timeframe

Commencement Date: 1 July 2023

Completion Date: 30 June 2024

1.4 Summary

This scope of work will provide PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture with the scientific information required to underpin the ecologically sustainable management of the rock lobster fishery in South Australia. The core stock assessment and monitoring program for rock lobster is comprised of three key components:

- (1) Project 1 – Annual report on performance indicators;
- (2) Project 2 – Puerulus monitoring; and
- (3) Project 3 – Fishery Independent Monitoring Survey (FIMS) – Southern Zone only.

The key deliverables of the 2023/24 Southern Rock Lobster stock assessment and monitoring program are tabulated below; additional work related to the core program is also identified:

2. Project description

2.1 Background

Southern rock lobster (*Jasus edwardsii*) are distributed around southern mainland Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand. In Australia, the northerly limits of distribution are Geraldton in Western Australia and Coffs Harbour in New South Wales but the bulk of the population can be found in South Australia, Victoria, and Tasmania where they occur in depths from 1 to 200 m. In South Australia, the fishery is divided into two zones, Northern and Southern. Lobsters are caught using pots that are set overnight and hauled at first light with the majority of commercial catch exported live, mainly to China.

2.2 Need

Annual stock assessment and status reports are required as part of the ongoing management of the South Australian southern rock lobster resource. The broad statutory framework for the sustainable management of this resource is provided by the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* with specific policies, objectives and strategies to be employed for the sustainable management of the Northern and Southern zones described in the Management Plans for both fisheries (PIRSA 2013, 2014).

2.3 Objectives

2.3.1 Annual report on performance indicators

To undertake monitoring required to underpin the annual stock assessment and status reports for the Northern and Southern Zone fisheries. The annual stock assessments will report against the key biological performance indicators identified in the Management Plan for both fisheries.

2.3.2 Puerulus monitoring

To monitor annual levels of puerulus settlement and to link settlement patterns to pre-recruit abundance and model estimates of recruitment as a potential indicator of future fishery performance.

2.3.3 Fishery Independent Monitoring Survey (FIMS);

To undertake a fishery independent monitoring survey in the Southern Zone. Data to be incorporated into annual stock assessments to provide information independent of the commercial fishery and to support finer scale assessment. The objective is to provide a measure of relative abundance not altered by changing fishing patterns.

2.4 Methods

2.4.1 Annual report on performance indicators

- Analyse logbook and other fishery-independent and fishery-independent data and provide mid-season, annual and other reports and presentations as required by PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture for the Northern and Southern zone rock lobster fisheries
- Mid and end-of-season presentations to Research Sub-Committee (SC), Management Advisory Committee (MAC) and Port Meetings
- Annual Status and Stock Assessment Reports (including qR and LenMod model outputs)
- FIMS and September Fishing Advice Notes (including additional Advice Notes as required)

- Routine data extraction from SARL on request
- Ongoing support for F&A, Industry and MAC/RSC initiatives
- Promote and manage a voluntary catch sampling program.

2.4.2 Puerulus monitoring

Service Collectors

- Provide regular monthly servicing of collectors at various sites located across the range of the fishery.
- Repair collectors and collect biological samples.

2.4.3 Fishery Independent Monitoring Survey (FIMS)

- Surveys be undertaken at the beginning (September) and middle (January) of each fishing season along predetermined transects within the SZ fishery.

3. Deliverables

The key deliverables of the 2023/24 Southern Zone Rock Lobster assessment and monitoring program are tabulated below; additional work related to the core program is also identified:

| Funding Source | Deliverable | Due Date |
|----------------|---|------------------|
| This SLA | End-of-season (2022/23) SZ and NZ presentations provided to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture and the RLFMAC | 31 July 2023 |
| This SLA | Status report for SZ and NZ (2022/23 season) delivered | 31 October 2023 |
| This SLA | SZ September FIMS completed | 31 October 2023 |
| This SLA | SZ September Fishing Advice Note delivered | 31 October 2023 |
| This SLA | SZ September FIMS Advice Note delivered | 31 December 2023 |
| This SLA | SZ January FIMS completed | 28 February 2024 |
| This SLA | SZ January FIMS Advice Note delivered | 30 April 2024 |
| This SLA | Stock Assessment report for Southern Zone and Northern Zone (2022/23 season) delivered | 30 June 2024 |
| FRDC | Project completion : Improving Southern Rock Lobster on-vessel handling practices, data collection and industry tools for lobster quality assessment (FRDC project 2019/028; Principal Investigator: Dr Quinn Fitzgibbon) | 30 June 2024 |
| 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). | 31 December 2023 |
| FRDC | Project completion: Assessing the efficiency of alternative pot designs for the Southern Rock Lobster (<i>Jasus edwardsii</i>) Fishery (FRDC project 2016/258; Principal Investigator: Dr Lachlan McLeay). | 31 December 2023 |
| FRDC | Project commencement: Assessing the efficiency of alternative bait options for the Southern Rock Lobster (<i>Jasus edwardsii</i>) fishery. Principal Investigator: Dr Lachlan McLeay). | 31 December 2023 |

3.1 Service Provided:

- Derive indices of catch rate, pre-recruit index, length frequency, biomass, recruitment and egg production. The latter are obtained from stock assessment models.
- Develop and apply stock assessment models for alternative Harvest Strategy evaluation as required.
- Interpret the performance indicators and report on status of fisheries.

As well as reporting on the performance indicators for the fishery, the project also entails the following deliverables:

- Monitoring the physical environment.
- Maintaining temperature loggers and uploading data into SARL database.
- Liaising with fishers through annual port meetings.
- Understanding the broad range of factors effecting the industry that are not necessarily quantifiable through the collection of logbook or other data, but is important to the understanding of the fishery dynamics (e.g. high grading).
- Providing feedback on the voluntary data collection.
- Identifying areas of weakness or uncertainty in the assessment of the stocks and developing means by which uncertainty can be minimised and quantified.
- Developing project proposals to create research opportunities in regard to aspects of the lobster fishery and/or biology that are of strategic interest, including projects of interest beyond SA.
- Contributing to the development and/or update of a Strategic Research Plan for the SA lobster fisheries.
- Advising the Fisheries Management Committee on a range of issues, for example, the need for changes in levels of total catch, effort, size limits, and advice regarding the extent of ecological interactions and their minimisation.
- Provide outputs for the development of alternative Harvest Strategies.

3.2 Outcomes:

- Publish annual Status and Stock Assessment Reports for both the Northern and Southern zone rock lobster fisheries.
- End-of season Northern and Southern zone rock lobster fishery presentations
- Supervision of project, management of deliverables and milestones.
- Provision of verbal and written advice to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture as requested. Provision of advice during review of Harvest Strategies during Management Plan reviews when required.

- For the FIMS in the Southern Zone fishery, an Advice Note detailing catch from each survey pot and overall SZ survey catch rate to be provided after both September and January surveys
- A SZ September fishing Advice Note

3.3. Outputs and extension:

- Status and Stock Assessment Reports for both the Northern and Southern zone rock lobster fisheries will be provided to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture and all rock lobster licence holders. Reports will also be posted on the PIRSA website.
- Port meetings in both Northern and Southern Zones.
- Mid and Final-season presentations to both the South Australian Research Sub-Committee (RSC), the Rock Lobster Fishery Management Advisory Committee (RLFMAC) and PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture.
- Advice Notes to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture.
- Routine data-extraction requests from the South Australian Rock Lobster database.
- Representation at both RSC and RLFMAC meetings.

4. Funding arrangements

4.1 Project costing policy

This one-year research program Scope and Costing has been costed at a Discounted rate.

4.2 Project cost

| Project | Total Funded | Total In-kind | Total Project Cost |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| STOCK ASSESSMENT | \$1,026,730 | \$197,353 | \$1,224,083 |
| SZ FIMS | \$124,938 | \$4,814 | \$129,752 |
| SUBTOTAL | \$1,151,668 | \$202,167 | \$1,353,835 |
| GST | No GST | No GST | No GST |
| TOTAL | \$1,151,668 | \$202,167 | \$1,353,835 |

4.3 Milestone and payment schedule

| Date | Milestone | Payment (\$) Ex GST |
|-----------------|---|---------------------|
| 31 July 2023 | End-of-season (2022/23) SZ and NZ presentations to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture and the RLFMAC | |
| 31 October 2023 | Status report for Southern Zone and Northern Zone 2022/23 season | |

| | | |
|-------------------|--|--------------------|
| 31 December 2023 | SZ September survey Advice Note | |
| 31 December 2023 | First Half Payment 2032/24 SLA | \$575,834 |
| 30 April 2024 | SZ January survey Advice Note | |
| 31 May 2024 | Second Half Payment 2023/24 SLA | \$575,834 |
| 30 June 2024 | Stock Assessment report for Southern Zone and Northern Zone 2022/23 season | |
| SUBTOTAL | | \$1,151,668 |
| GST | | NO GST |
| TOTAL COST | | \$1,151,668 |

5. Project staff

| Staff | FTE 2023/24 |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Principal Scientist | 1.30 |
| Research Scientist | 0.60 |
| Research Officers | 2.30 |
| TOTAL | 4.20 |

6. Project cost summary

| Cost | Detail | 2023/24 Total (\$) Ex GST |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| Salaries (FTE) | | 4.20 |
| Salaries (\$) | | 602,346 |
| Operating | | |
| Payment to industry for surveys (\$) | | 88,000 |
| Fieldwork (\$) | | 104,000 |
| Laboratory (\$) | | |
| Travel (\$) | | 4,000 |
| Office & communication (\$) | | 11,000 |
| Capital equipment (\$) | | |
| SARDI overhead (\$) | | 342,322 |
| SARDI inkind (\$) | | 202,167 |
| Total Cost (\$) | | 1,353,835 |
| | | |
| Revenue – PRICE | | |
| Licence holders (\$) | 80.6% | 1,099,843 |
| PIRSA F&A (\$) | 4.5% | 51,825 |
| Total Revenue (\$) | 85.1% | 1,151,668 |
| | | |
| SARDI Investment (\$) | 14.9% | 202,167 |

Explanation of costs above:

Payment to industry for surveys - Direct costs of using industry vessels and staff to undertake surveys

Fieldwork - Fieldwork costs including vessels, travel and OHS requirements

Laboratory - Costs for processing samples

Travel - Costs for attending meetings with industry, PIRSA F&A and stakeholders

Office and communication - Stationery, communications and publications

SARDI Overhead - Indirect costs that cannot be directly attributed to a specific business activity, product, or service

SARDI in kind – SARDI investment through supporting costs for specific equipment, capital depreciation, infrastructure and research facilities

