

PIRSA

Annual Report on PIRSA's Service Delivery on the Cost Recovery Agreement for the Mussel 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 Mussel 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 Mussel 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 Mussel Sector.
3.	Conducted further consultation on the draft Aquaculture (Standard Lease and Licence Conditions) Policy 2020, finalised the Draft Policy and supporting Policy Report for approval, and sought concurrence from the Minister responsible for administering Specially Protected Areas for the Draft Policy.
4.	Ongoing liaison and consultation with relevant government departments, prescribed bodies and relevant stakeholders in relation to zone policy development.
5.	Provided advice to stakeholders/members of the public in relation to existing aquaculture zone allocations (i.e. area, biomass, etc).
6.	Provided input to a range of State and Commonwealth Government environmental and conservation initiatives, to ensure aquaculture zone development objectives and aspirations were adequately taken into account and factored into broader conservation policy development.
7.	<p>Provided advice to the Attorney General's Department (AGD) on the following proposed developments to mitigate potential impacts to aquaculture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
8.	Provided ongoing advice to the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) regarding mandated referrals 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.
9.	Provided ongoing advice to 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.
10.	Undertook process to reappoint three ATAB members under the <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i> .
11.	Provided formal comment on Regional Landscape Plans to Landscape Boards in regard to promoting aquaculture development.

12.	Drafted amendments to the <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i> through the <i>Aquaculture (Tourism Development) Amendment Bill 2021</i> to streamline the assessment and approval process for aquaculture related tourism developments.
13.	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> , and <i>Aquaculture (Zones – Tumby Bay) Policy 2015</i> public call process. Draft internal procedures for ATAB meetings to consider applications for lease tenure were also tabled.
14.	Continued process to draft and make variation regulations to amend the <i>Aquaculture Regulations 2016</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> .
15.	Continued review of current and future provisions for the rehabilitation of aquaculture leases.
16.	Provided a submission to a Commonwealth inquiry by the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Water Resources into the Australian aquaculture sector.
17.	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.
18.	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.
19.	Continued to attend and provide input to the government agency National Aquaculture Committee on behalf of South Australia.
20.	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.
21.	Meetings and advice to SA Water regarding a proposed desalination plant for the lower Eyre Peninsula

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 Mussel Sector licences.								
2.	Completed database maintenance and updates as required.								
3.	Completed update to electronic Production Return and Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP) reporting including design and testing of each new report.								
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 Mussel Sector.								
7.	<p>Processing of Mussel Sector applications (see table below).</p> <table> <tr> <th>Mussel: Application Type</th><th>Number</th></tr> <tr> <td>Lease renewal</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>New licence</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr> <td>New lease</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	Mussel: Application Type	Number	Lease renewal	1	New licence	2	New lease	2
Mussel: Application Type	Number								
Lease renewal	1								
New licence	2								
New lease	2								
8.	Processed annual production returns for 32 licences within the Mussel Sector. This included follow-up of unreturned or incorrectly completed production returns to ensure licence holders meet their obligations under the regulations, and to provide effective collation and analysis of information.								
9.	Processed requests for information from licence holders via front counter, phone or e-mail, including support for advice on online reporting systems.								
10.	Liaised with government stakeholders to verify the credentials of lease/licence holders for application processing as required.								
11.	Issued invoices relating to annual fees (including quarterly reminders) for 32 Mussel leases and licences.								
12.	Reconciled receipt of annual lease and licence fees and liaised with Shared Services SA 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 <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i> (and other relevant legislation) to promote efficient and transparent government administration.
3.	Provided input into the finalisation of the draft Aquaculture (Standard Lease and Licence Conditions) Policy 2020 for approval, in conjunction with Office of Parliamentary Council (OPC).
4.	Reviewed aquaculture related notices issued under the <i>Livestock Act 1997</i> and related Ministerial delegations for same.
5.	Updating of 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 inspections were undertaken by Fisheries Officers to ensure lease and licence holder compliance with the <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i>, associated Acts and regulations, policies and specific lease and licence conditions. Surveillance activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports made to PIRSA subsequent to compliance inspections outline any compliance issues with a site and include photographs and site waypoints. • Follow up inspections as 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 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>Fisheries Officers monitored sites located in Boston Bay and Louth Bay and observed good overall compliance with navigational marking requirements and (good) working order requirements.</p>
2.	<p>Fisheries Officers liaised with the grower following reports of loose site infrastructure. The grower was prompt to follow up and retrieve the debris.</p>
3.	<p>The Regional Manager and Senior Fisheries Officer West Region were provided a very informative tour of the upgraded EP Seafoods processing facility at Port Lincoln.</p>
4.	<p>Numerous inquiries about use of mussel waste product as berley were received and followed up by Fisheries Officers.</p>
4.	<p>Communication and monitoring activities are undertaken by PIRSA and related SA government agencies to ensure compliance by Mussel lease and/or licence holders with legislation (Act, other Acts, Regulations and policies) and conditions of leases and/or licences.</p>
5.	<p>Procedures and processes required for response to notifiable events (e.g. entanglements, high mortalities) in an efficient and timely manner were developed and implemented by all agencies concerned.</p>

Aquaculture Systems

	Deliverables
1.	Accurate and efficient systems maintained and enhanced to provide for effective and efficient management and administration of the Mussel 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 Mussel 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 occurred 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 Mussel 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.	Six invertebrate (including mollusc) related mortality events were reported to PIRSA and were investigated. This included both aquaculture and wild fish kills. Samples were submitted to the laboratory and tested to rule out disease.
2.	Maintained passive surveillance systems, including summarise relevant pathology reports from the State Vetlab, summarise fish kill and aquaculture mortality investigations to demonstrate South Australia's disease freedom for trade and market access purposes.
3.	Livestock translocations: meetings, advice and documents (including import protocols and farm biosecurity guidelines) provided to interstate trade partners interested in the movement of mollusc aquaculture livestock.
4.	Provided advice to various government agencies, including the EPA, SA Water and DPTI, and organisations/companies, to mitigate potential aquatic animal health risks posed by marine developments/activities. PIRSA also provided advice on biofouling and ballast water management to various companies and vessel operators.
5.	Implementation of mitigation strategies in two related mollusc sectors as identified in risk assessments. This is to facilitate effective disease management (disease prevention, preparedness, response and recovery strategies).
6.	Provided advice to other government agencies, including the EPA, SA Health, DEM, with regards to heavy metal levels of aquatic species (including mussels and other molluscs) in the Port Pirie area to support trade and market access for industry.
7.	Conducted Emergency Disease Response training and updated PIRSA Emergency Response Plans as required with PIRSA Biosecurity.
8.	Meetings attended, reviewed documents, contributed to national policy developments and represented South Australia on the national Sub-Committee on Aquatic Animal Health (SCAAH).
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.	Attended 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).
11.	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.
12.	Coordinated with SASQAP to ensure risks to the Mussel Sector were mitigated with veterinary medicine use in adjacent sectors.
13.	Provided technical aquatic animal health advice and initial risk assessments (e.g. rock oysters, bait/berley).

14.	Presentation of risk assessment results for Rock Oyster aquaculture potential to the Mussel Sector.
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Environmental Monitoring and Management

	Deliverables
1.	Developed, processed and assessed results of annual Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP) reports for 32 Mussel licences.
2.	Developed periodic EMP under regulation 23 of the <i>Aquaculture Regulations 2016</i> and analysed results, including benthic video and associated reports, from Mussel Sector licences actively farmed during the preceding reporting year.
3.	Commenced drafting the 2021 Zoning in - 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.	Progressed the draft sector-based strategy for the Mussel Sector, including ensuring alignment with State plans and strategies relating to aquaculture development.
5.	Ongoing maintenance of reporting databases for environmental compliance matters, ecological interactions and marine debris.
6.	Conducted regular meetings with the EPA to discuss and prioritise environmental issues and projects relating to the aquaculture industry.
7.	Liaised with Fisheries Officers for environmental issues related to the Mussel Sector, particularly in relation to site audits. This included a provision of technical input regarding environmental compliance and development and operation of aquaculture sites.
8.	Contribution to, support for and implementation of, numerous research projects to assess environmental and economic impacts relating to Mussel aquaculture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FRDC 2014-027: Pacific Oyster feeds and feeding in South Australian waters: towards ecosystem based management (noting mussel feeding habits are included) • FRDC 2016-808: Future Oysters CRC-P, which included investigation into the risks of rock oysters as an alternate farming species
9.	Incorporated results of a finalised SARDI report (CRC-P species diversification including a pest and biosecurity risk assessment for Rock Oysters) into the assessment of two Expression of Interests to farm Rock Oyster species.
10.	Reviewed approval procedure for in-water cleaning companies provided by Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

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 Mussel 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 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 Mussel Sector.
11.	Consulted with the Deputy Chief Executive, Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Director Operations, PIRSA Fisheries Managers, and the Office of the Minister and other parties as needed.
12.	Provided assistance to the Mussel Sector as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
13.	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 Mussel Sector data, published on PIRSA website.
2.	All aquaculture sector production data collated, entered and information forwarded to BDO EconSearch for compiling the 2019/20 report.
3.	2019/20 annual economic report, incorporating Mussel Sector data, drafted.
4.	Attended the Urrbrae Agricultural High School Show Day to promote aquaculture related careers.
5.	Provided Executive Officer support for the South Australian Seafood Advisory Forum.

