

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

2021-22

# Annual Report on PIRSA's Service Delivery on the Cost Recovery Agreement for the Tuna Sector 2021-22

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# Resource Planning

	Deliverables
1.	Monitored aquaculture zone allocations through audit and review, notably with respect to availability of water enquiries from existing and potential aquaculture industry stakeholders.
2.	Continued the review of the <i>Aquaculture (Zones-Lower Eyre Peninsula) Policy 2013</i> to accommodate future expansion of aquaculture sectors, including future wild-caught tuna quota increases. The Lower Eyre Peninsula Review Advisory Committee continued to work with industry sectors and other government agencies to make recommendations for the review. The Statement of Intent outlining proposed amendments to the zone policy, including consideration of the needs and expectations of the Tuna Sector, was finalised and endorsed by the Committee. A draft <i>Aquaculture (Zones-Lower Eyre Peninsula) Policy 2022</i> and supporting report was developed based on the Statement of Intent, and preparations commenced for public consultation on the draft policy.
3.	Finalised the <i>Aquaculture (Standard Lease and Licence Conditions) Policy 2022</i> , which was approved on 16 February 2022, and commenced implementation of the Policy.
4.	Ongoing liaison and consultation with relevant government departments, prescribed bodies and relevant stakeholders in relation to zone policy development.
5.	Provided advice to stakeholders/members of the public in relation to existing aquaculture zone allocations (i.e. area, biomass, etc).
6.	Provided input to a range of State and Commonwealth Government environmental and conservation initiatives, to ensure aquaculture zone development objectives and aspirations were considered and factored into broader policy development.
7.	<p>Provided advice to the Attorney General's Department (AGD) on a number of proposed developments to mitigate potential impacts to aquaculture, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• T-Ports Grain Handling and Export Facility development application</li> <li>• Hawsons Iron Ore development application</li> <li>• Port Spencer Grain Export Facility Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) addendum</li> <li>• Whalers Way Orbital Launch Complex EIS</li> <li>• SA Water Eyre Peninsula desalination plant development application</li> </ul>
8.	Provided advice to the Department for Infrastructure and Transport regarding a proposed aquatic activity licence application for Southern Launch.
9.	Continued to provide advice to AGD regarding a mandated referral to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture for marine-based developments under the <i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) Regulations 2017</i> to mitigate potential impacts to aquaculture operators and aquaculture zones.
10.	Continued to provide advice to AGD regarding proposed amendments to the Planning and Design Code under the <i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016</i> to streamline the development assessment and approval process for future marine and land-based aquaculture developments.
11.	Finalised process to reappoint three ATAB members under the <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i> .

12.	Finalised procedures of the ATAB and PIRSA internal guidelines for ATAB appointments and the public call process for lease tenure applications.
13.	Provided formal comment on the State Landscape Strategy in regard to promoting aquaculture development.
14.	Led the development and passage of the <i>Aquaculture (Tourism Development) Amendment Act 2021</i> to amend the <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i> to streamline the assessment and approval process for aquaculture related tourism developments.
15.	Provided input to the Blue Economy CRC Marine Spatial Planning project to mitigate potential impacts to the aquaculture industry from other users of the marine resource.
16.	Provided input and support to the Marine Bioproducts CRC to support sector growth.
17.	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> .
18.	Continued review of current and future provisions for the rehabilitation of aquaculture leases.
19.	Provided advice to the Department for Energy and Mining on a proposed hydrogen plant at Port Bonython to mitigate potential impacts to aquaculture.
20.	Meetings and advice to SA Water regarding a proposed desalination plant for the lower Eyre Peninsula and potential impacts to aquaculture.
21.	Continued to attend and provide input to the National Aquaculture Committee on behalf of South Australia.

# Aquaculture Leasing and Licensing

	Deliverables																
1.	Ongoing maintenance of internal licence audit functions, including auditing procedures (flowcharts, checklists and manuals) and performance relating to tuna licences.																
2.	Completed database maintenance and updates as required.																
3.	Completed testing and amending electronic Production Return and Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP) reporting.																
4.	Commenced a review of renewal and transfer applications to ensure correct information is received at the time of application.																
5.	Updated licence/lease records as required.																
6.	Maintenance of systems and procedures to support day to day administration of leasing and licensing activities related to the Tuna Sector.																
7.	Conducted audits of internal processes and functions including application checklists.																
8.	Records management of leasing and licensing documentation.																
9.	<p>Processing of tuna applications (see table below).</p> <table> <tr> <th>Tuna: Application Type</th><th>Number Completed</th></tr> <tr> <td>Lease movement*</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr> <td>Licence variation</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lease renewal</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lease amalgamation</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr> <td>Licence amalgamation</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr> <td>Licence Transfer</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lease Transfer</td><td>0</td></tr> </table> <p>*Environmental assessment and interagency referral conducted</p>	Tuna: Application Type	Number Completed	Lease movement*	0	Licence variation	5	Lease renewal	6	Lease amalgamation	0	Licence amalgamation	0	Licence Transfer	0	Lease Transfer	0
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10.	Processed annual production returns from the Tuna Sector.																
11.	Processed requests for information from licence holders via front counter, phone or e-mail.																
12.	Liaised with government stakeholders to verify the credentials of lease/licence holders for application processing as required.																
13.	Issued outstanding and annual invoices (including quarterly reminders) relating to licence renewals, transfers and/or surrenders for 7 Tuna licences.																
14.	Reconciled receipt of annual lease and licence fees, application fees and liaised with Shared Services SA as required.																
15.	Continuing to deliver outcomes of 90 Day project to streamline application processes.																

16.	Conducted assessments for licence holders requesting financial alleviation due to experiencing cases of hardship.
17.	Reviewed all lease and licence application forms and amended where 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> to promote efficient and transparent government administration.
3.	Provided input into the finalisation of the draft <i>Aquaculture (Standard Lease and Licence Conditions) Policy 2020</i> for approval, in conjunction with Office of Parliamentary Council (OPC).
4.	Reviewed aquaculture related notices issued under the <i>Livestock Act 1997</i> and related Ministerial delegations for same.
5.	Updated Ministerial delegations including sub-delegations under the <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i> .
6.	Input into compliance / enforcement / litigation matters as required.
7.	Provided input into draft amendments to the <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i> through the <i>Aquaculture (Tourism Development) Amendment Bill 2021</i> to streamline the assessment and approval process for aquaculture related tourism developments.



# Compliance Operations

	Deliverables
1.	<p>Site surveillance inspections of several leases were undertaken by Fisheries Officers to ensure lease and licence holders comply with the Act, associated Acts, Regulations, policies and specific lease and licence conditions, and to investigate complaints from the public. Surveillance activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routine site inspections undertaken by Fisheries Officers.</li> <li>• Reports made to PIRSA subsequent to compliance inspections outline any compliance issues with a site and include photographs and site waypoints.</li> <li>• Follow up inspections were required for sites that have identified compliance issues.</li> <li>• Inspections were also undertaken on sites that have been or are due to be, rehabilitated by lease or licence holders or contractors of lease and/or licence holders on an as required basis.</li> </ul>
2.	<p>Reports of alleged SBT theft during 2022 were considerably reduced from previous seasons. Fisheries Officers scaled back related monitoring activities in line with the reduction.</p>
3.	<p>Fisheries Officers followed up reports of SBT related debris washing ashore around the Point Bollingbroke and Peake Bay area, including liaison with local landowners and SBT companies who promptly collected the debris.</p>
4.	<p>Fisheries Officers followed up outstanding EMP and Productions Reports with growers.</p>
5.	<p>Communication and monitoring activities are undertaken by PIRSA and related SA government agencies to ensure compliance by Tuna lease and/or licence holders with legislation (Act, other Acts, Regulations and policies) and conditions of leases and/or licences.</p>
6.	<p>Procedures and processes required for response to notifiable events (e.g., entanglements, high mortalities) in an efficient and timely manner are developed and implemented by all agencies concerned.</p>

# Aquaculture Systems

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

# Aquatic Animal Health

	Deliverables
1.	13 finfish related mortality events were reported to PIRSA and investigated. This included both aquaculture and wild fish kills. Samples were submitted to the laboratory and tested to rule out disease. No significant or notifiable diseases were detected.
2.	Maintained passive surveillance systems, including summarise relevant pathology reports from the State Vetlab, summarise fish kill and aquaculture mortality investigations to demonstrate South Australia's disease freedom for trade and market access purposes.
3.	Assessed and processed one veterinary prescription for the Tuna sector to support Ministerial approvals for off-label use of veterinary medicines to maintain fish health and welfare. Liaise with industry veterinarian, adjacent mussel industry and other government departments during assessment.
4.	Assisted with progress of minor use permit and registration for veterinary medicines with APVMA through meetings, workshops and communications with APVMA, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC), Seafood Industry Australia (SIA), aquaculture industry sectors, EPA, PIRSA rural chemicals, veterinarians and researchers.
5.	Assessment and advice to the PIRSA Fisheries Management Group on Finfish stock release applications to ensure the risks of introduction and spread of disease in the State are minimised.
6.	"Development of a national sector-specific biosecurity plan guideline and template for the sea-cage finfish (non-salmonid) industry of Australia" were published on the DAFF website. These guidelines were developed as part of FRDC project 2019-088 led by PIRSA.
7.	Progressed the project titled "Improving the availability of safe and effective veterinary medicines for Australia's seafood industry (FRDC 2020-094)". In this project, one of our primary aims is coordinate a national effort to facilitate the progress of priority aquatic veterinary medicines in the seafood industry through to permitting or registration with the APVMA.
8.	Conducted Emergency Disease Response training and updated PIRSA Emergency Response Plans as required with PIRSA Biosecurity.
9.	Provided advice and review of documentation in relation to disease risks posed by aquatic pests (including a compliance case), biofouling and ballast water management.
10.	Meetings attended, reviewed documents, contributed to national policy developments and represented South Australia on the national Sub-Committee on Aquatic Animal Health (SCAAH).
11.	Advice to the Chief Veterinary Officer (Biosecurity) as required, including for mortality / disease cases, state based emergency response preparedness and for national committees (e.g. Animal Health Committee, National Biosecurity Committee).
12.	Reviewed and commented on the Technical Issues Paper: Import of live sturgeon for aquaculture.

13.	Attended the Aquatic Veterinary Medicine Technical Advisory Group meetings (under SCAAH), to facilitate progress of veterinary medicine permits with the Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicine Authority (APVMA).
14.	Reviewed and updated a notice under the <i>Livestock Act 1997</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Notifiable Diseases</i></li> </ul>
15.	Attended numerous meetings between DAWE, PIRSA and ASBTIA re changed conditions for Scomber spp. Imports for use as tuna feed.

# Environmental Monitoring and Management

	Deliverables
1.	Developed, assessed and processed annual Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP) reports for 8 Tuna licences.
2.	Commenced drafting the 2022 South Australian Aquaculture Report which contains a summary of production and management of aquaculture in South Australia for 2020/21, including EMP summary information for each aquaculture sector.
3.	Conducted Ecologically Sustainable Development assessments and management of EPA referral for Tuna applications (7 variations – biomass, 1 complex species addition requiring liaising with Biosecurity SA and SARDI).
4.	Continued the 2019/20 to 2023/24 (4-year) Regional Environmental Monitoring Program for the Tuna Sector in Lower Spencer Gulf (in conjunction with EPA, SARDI and industry) that included specific research to monitor impacts of aquaculture nutrients on seagrass. Reviewed milestone reports and data from this EMP.
5.	Responded to industry requests/questions/mapping in regard to applications and management of leases and licences.
6.	Ongoing maintenance of reporting databases for environmental compliance matters, marine debris and chemical use.
7.	Reviewed adopt-a-beach results.
8.	Conducted regular meetings with the EPA to discuss and prioritise environmental issues and projects relating to aquaculture industry.
9.	Liaised with Fisheries Officers for environmental issues related to the Tuna Sector, particularly in relation to site audits. This included provision of technical input/mapping regarding environmental compliance and development and operation of aquaculture sites.
10.	Provided data to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment regarding the SA Tuna Farm register (Tuna site locations and company names/contacts) on two occasions.
11.	Reviewed and provided comment on a number of guidelines/proposals that may impact the Tuna sector (e.g. SA productivity Commission, EIS for the Whalers Way Orbital Launch Complex development, PIRSA/DEW marine mammal interaction procedure, National Environment Science Program seal research proposal, Offshore windfarms development application, the Blue economy CRC for Marine Planning, EPA dredge guidelines, SA Water Port Lincoln desalination plant proposal).
12.	Assessment and advice to the PIRSA Fisheries Management group on algae seedstock applications.
13.	Development of specific licence conditions and macroalgae management areas to mitigate biosecurity risks associated with growing algae on existing licensed sites, including liaising with SARDI and Biosecurity SA and notification to all licence holders permitted to farm algae of the new management arrangements for algae aquaculture.

# Program Management and Administration

	Deliverables
1.	Managed major service providers' contractual agreements, and any other contractual agreements with industry associations.
2.	Project managed and administered external contractual services and agreements – including liaising with PIRSA Accredited Purchasing Unit, preparing acquisition plans and selecting evaluation criteria, managing tender processes, drafting purchase recommendations and liaising with the Crown Solicitor's Office to develop contractual agreements.
3.	Provided advice on procurement and invoicing requirements.
4.	Met agreed timeframes on management and administration of external contractual services.
5.	Ensured appropriate management of industry funds and services.
6.	Coordinated and facilitated cost recovery processes and program agreements, including liaising with program providers, managers and financial services as required.
7.	Met with industry on matters relating to cost recovery, licence setting and related policy issues.
8.	Developed, reviewed and implemented cost recovery procedures and program agreements for the Tuna Sector for 2022/23 that are transparent, evidence-based and are developed in a consultative manner.
9.	Ongoing review, development and documentation of the cost recovery process and procedures in line with Australian Government Cost Recovery Guidelines.
10.	Provision of relevant, accurate and timely advice was provided to the Chief Executive of PIRSA and the Minister, so they were aware of current and emerging issues faced by PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture and the Tuna Sector.
11.	Consulted 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.
12.	Provided assistance to the Tuna Sector as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
13.	Provision of information to inform responses and decisions in relation to public and industry concerns raised with the Chief Executive of PIRSA and the Minister.

## Other Aquaculture Activities

	Deliverables
1.	All aquaculture sector production data collated and entered and forwarded to BDO EconSearch for compiling 2020/21 report.
2.	2020/21 annual economic report, incorporating Tuna Sector data, drafted, finalised and published on PIRSA website.
3.	Collected, through annual fees, the Tuna industry's annual contribution to the FRDC.
4.	Managed the 2020/21 fund transfer to the FRDC as prescribed in the ASBTIA Industry Partnership Agreement.
5.	Facilitated the establishment for, and provided executive officer support to, the South Australian Seafood Advisory Forum.