

# **Annual Report on PIRSA's Service Delivery on the Cost Recovery Agreement for the Marine Scalefish Fishery**

**2021-22**



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

# Annual Report on PIRSA's Service Delivery on the Cost Recovery Agreement for the Marine Scalefish Fishery 2021-22

Information current as of 30 June 2022

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## Summary of Outcomes for 2021-22

### Assessment and Research - Marine Scalefish Fishery

Funding Source	Deliverables	Date Completed /Delivered
SLA	Stock status report for primary, secondary and tertiary Marine Scalefish species, including stock assessment for Garfish delivered.	Expected delivery date is October 2022
SLA	Stock status and assessment presentations to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture, Industry, the Marine Fishers Association, Snapper MAC and the Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council delivered as required	June 2022
SLA	Delivered South Australian Charter Boat Fishery assessment report.	May 2022
SLA	Delivered Blue Crab Fishery assessment report.	July 2022
FRDC	Project completion: Informing structural reform of South Australia's Marine Scalefish fishery (FRDC project 2017/014).	September 2022
FRDC	Project continuation: Fisheries biology of Western Australian salmon: improving our understanding of population dynamics in South Australia to enable quantitative stock assessments and improved fisheries management (FRDC project 2018/035)	June 2022
FRDC	Project completion: Developing a positive cultural attitude towards the capture and release of sharks and rays (FRDC project 2018/055).	Revised completion date is August 2023
FRDC	Project EOI/Proposal: Re-opening shared-access fisheries – development and application of decision matrices and 'toolkits' (FRDC project 2021/016). (Note: this is a proposal, not a funded program).	July 2021
FRDC	Project continuation: Quantifying post-release survival and movement of Snapper ( <i>Chrysophrys auratus</i> ): informing strategies to engage the fishing community in practices to enhance the sustainability of an important multi-sector fishery (FRDC project 2019/044).	June 2022
FRDC	Project continuation: Cost-effective, non-destructive solutions to developing a pre-recruit index for Snapper (FRDC project 2019/046).	June 2022

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).	June 2022
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# Policy and Management Program - Marine Scalefish Fishery

	Deliverables
1.	<p>Participated in inter- and intra-departmental meetings and workshops on issues relevant to fisheries management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinated several meetings across the Fisheries and Aquaculture Division to progress key issues, including the implementation of reforms that came into effect on 1 July 2021 and evaluation of proposals for further red tape reduction in the fishery.</li> </ul>
2.	<p>Liaised 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liaised with SARDI regarding the evaluation and monitoring of key stocks in the MSF.</li> <li>Submitted a proposal to AFMA regarding the management of School Shark and Gummy Shark in South Australia.</li> <li>Engaged with the Department of Climate Change, Energy and the Environment (DCCEE) regarding reporting against current export approval under the <i>EPBC Act 1999</i> and the national Shark Assessment Report and review of Australia's National Plan of Action for Conservation and Management of Sharks. Provided Annual Report against the (then) current export approval conditions.</li> <li>Provided the QLD Department of Agriculture and Fisheries with an overview of snapper management arrangements.</li> </ul>
3.	<p>Liaised within PIRSA, with other government agencies and with industry representatives in implementing decisions relevant to fisheries management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engaged with other parts of PIRSA and SARDI to evaluate and/or progress 21 proposals to reduce red tape in the MSF.</li> <li>Administered determinations under the <i>Fisheries Management (Marine Scalefish Fishery) Regulations 2017</i> to enable the possession of snapper in closed areas and coordinated relevant updates to app and Fishwatch reports.</li> <li>Undertook a review of and implemented changes to licence conditions in relation to the catch and disposal requirements for King George whiting taken in the West Coast Fishing Zone.</li> <li>Administered section 115 Ministerial exemption for the take of Wrasse above its legal maximum size.</li> <li>Amendments to the <i>Fisheries Management (Marine Scalefish Fishery) Regulations 2017</i> to: enable the carry-over of uncaught quota: make provision</li> </ul>

	<p>for the addition of quota units to implement potential outcomes of reviews in relation to exceptional circumstances.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administered section 79 notice to implement the spatial cuttlefish closure within the waters of the northern Spencer Gulf.</li> <li>• Commenced a review of the <i>Management Plan for the South Australian Marine Scalefish Fishery</i>.</li> <li>• Prepared information to support internal and external reviews undertaken related to decisions undertaken under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 2007</i>.</li> <li>• Invited industry representatives to presentation on implementation of the Undercatch/Overcatch Policy Paper.</li> </ul>
4.	<p>Conducted 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of the catch and disposal requirements for King George whiting taken in the West Coast Fishing Zone.</li> <li>• Review of various regulations and licence conditions in relation to 21 proposals for red tape reduction in the fishery.</li> <li>• Review of interactions with key species and stocks to inform an update of the EPBC Act Annual Report and new application for export approval.</li> <li>• Review of the draft Economic and Social Indicators for the South Australian Marine Scalefish Fishery 2019/20 report and related new dashboard.</li> <li>• Evaluated results of the SARDI stock status report for primary, secondary and tertiary Marine Scalefish species, including stock assessment for King George Whiting.</li> <li>• Reviewed report on annual TEPS interaction reports across all commercial fisheries.</li> </ul>
5.	<p>Coordinated consultation with fishery stakeholders through established co-management processes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinated and administered recruitment of members to the newly established Marine Scalefish Fishery Management Advisory Committee (MSFMAC).</li> <li>• Provided expert Fisheries Management and Executive Support to the MSFMAC including two MSFMAC meetings and two MSFMAC Science Subcommittee meetings with key recommendations provided in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Recommendations for management arrangements for the recreational and charter fishing of snapper in the South East Fishing Zone;</li> <li>○ Recommendations for 2022-23 catch limits for the priority species;</li> <li>○ Consultation response to PIRSA on proposed changes to the Charter Boat Fishery.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Sought comments from the MFA and/or Red Tape Reduction Working Group on proposals to reduce red tape, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2 stakeholder workshops regarding potential for gear transferability</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1 industry working group meeting regarding School/Gummy Shark management</li> <li>• Consulted with MFA regarding proposed management changes to the Charter Boat Fishery.</li> <li>• Supported review of compliance arrangements for the MSF with the MFA.</li> <li>• Maintained regular contact with the MFA, including fortnightly calls or meetings between the Executive Officer, MFA, and the PIRSA Fisheries Manager, and several calls/meetings with the Manager, Fisheries Reform, and the Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture.</li> <li>• Liaised with net fishers regarding various issues including the assessment and management of yellowfin whiting in Gulf St Vincent.</li> </ul>
6.	<p>Participated in industry liaison in the field and on vessels to strengthen fishery management knowledge and understanding and develop rapport with licence holders and divers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertook a multi-day west coast field trip to liaise directly with west coast fishers.</li> <li>• Attended the MFA Annual General Meeting and other MFA meetings on request.</li> <li>• Met with fishers in the Cape Jervis region.</li> <li>• There was intention for further industry liaison in the field, including on vessels, however covid-19 restrictions, and limited capacity related to the implementation of MSF reforms prevented this from occurring.</li> </ul>
7.	<p>Participated in industry development initiatives related to fisheries management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviewed or supported industry projects / funding proposals, including the provision of various data requests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Eyre Peninsula Ocean Jackets Fishing Cluster Project (Regional Growth Fund);</li> <li>○ Biological, Commercial and Socio-Economic Outcomes of Management Reform in the SA Marine Scalefish fishery - Lessons for multi-species ITQ Fisheries (FRDC).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
9.	<p>Responded to correspondence and enquiries relevant to the Marine Scalefish Fishery, particularly in relation to the reform of the fishery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 100 items of correspondence received and responded to by the Minister and/or the Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture, in relation to the MSF.</li> </ul>
10.	<p>Provided advice to the Minister in relation to various management issues, in particular in relation to the implementation of the reform, internal and external reviews of quota allocation decisions, red tape reduction proposals, establishment of the MSFMAC, review of Management Plan and general Ministerial correspondence related to the MSF.</p>



11.	<p>Communicated on fisheries management issues to key stakeholder groups and the broader community including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided 15 'Notice to Fishers' to licence holders in the MSF.</li> <li>• Supported updates to the MSF User Guide.</li> <li>• Various correspondence to stakeholder groups, including the recreational, charter, rock lobster, Aboriginal traditional, and conservation sectors regarding the establishment of the MSFMAC and membership recruitment.</li> <li>• Supported updates to the PIRSA website.</li> </ul>
12.	<p>Supported MAC processes including commencing review of management plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinated and administered recruitment of members to the newly established Marine Scalefish Fishery Management Advisory Committee (MSFMAC).</li> <li>• Provided expert Fisheries Management and Executive Support to the MSFMAC including two MSFMAC meetings and two MSFMAC Science Subcommittee meetings with key recommendations provided in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Recommendations for management arrangements for the recreational and charter fishing of snapper in the South East Fishing Zone;</li> <li>○ Recommendations for 2022-23 catch limits for the priority species;</li> <li>○ Consultation response to PIRSA on proposed changes to the Charter Boat Fishery</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# Legislation Program

	Deliverables
1.	Oversight and advice provided to review project coordinator for the introduction, amendment or revocation of fisheries legislation in line with fisheries management/policy decisions i.e., Act or regulation amendments, the introduction of new regulations and drafting of other legislative and administrative instruments such as delegation, ministerial permit or exemption instruments as required under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 2007</i> (the Act). New variation regulations or amendments required the drafting of Cabinet submissions and supporting documentation, including the preparation of drafting instructions, for consideration by Cabinet. This service included co-ordinating, and oversight of the cabinet process involving liaison with the Office of Parliamentary Counsel and the Crown Solicitor's Office and inter agency consultation to ensure that proposed regulatory arrangements are accurately described, drafted and scrutinised before being implemented. Input into fees amendment submissions, settling of notices, supporting briefings, minutes and parliamentary reports.
2.	Input into review of policy documentation and arrangements and responses to industry correspondence, as necessary.
3.	Oversight of applications process and review of applications for proposed Ministerial exemptions under Part 10 and Permits under Part 7 of the Act.
4.	Provided additional legal services to support, on an as needs basis, the lawful decision-making of 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 the fishery in any particular year (where required).

# Leasing and Licensing Program

	Deliverables
1.	<p>Issued annual fee invoicing packs for all licences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reported licence and quota unit information for cost recovery to assist in calculating new financial year annual fees</li> <li>• Entered new rates into the Primary Industries Information Management System (PIIMS)</li> <li>• Prepared Notice to Fishers for annual fee invoicing pack</li> <li>• Generated and audited invoices to ensure correct annual fee amount was raised</li> <li>• Issued and posted updated invoices each quarter</li> </ul>
2.	<p>Monitored payment plans for 14 licence holders that requested alternate payment arrangements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of 14 individual payment plans</li> </ul> <p>Liaised with Shared Services SA to allocate payments against invoices</p>
3.	<p>Surrendered licences as part of the Marine Scalefish Fishery reform voluntary licence surrender program were processed.</p>
4.	<p>Processed financial invoice adjustments for all surrendered licences to credit any fees not payable beyond date of surrender application.</p>
5.	<p>Implemented online quota trading system for licence holders to temporarily sell quota</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designed and built quota trading system to include payment option, this option was not activated for this season.</li> <li>• Conducted testing of system and provided demonstrations to working group</li> <li>• Updated system based on feedback and implemented by start of quota season</li> <li>• Administered amendments to the <i>Fisheries Management (General Fees) Notice 2022</i> to enable free quota trading for another 12 months.</li> </ul>
6.	<p>Issued and printed new licence and entitlements extracts for all active licences.</p>
7.	<p>Generated final quota balance statements and posted to all Vongole quota holders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calculated any quota adjustments required to be entered into PIIMS.</li> </ul> <p>Generated and posted updated registration and entitlements certificates.</p>
8.	<p>Generated 12 monthly quota status reports for industry on catch status and CDRs received.</p>

9.	System maintenance including auditing user access and system testing after any system update:  73 quota balance statements requested via the online system.
10.	Regularly provided copies of CDR documentation to compliance for quota audit checks.
11.	Processed 661 licensing and quota applications and liaised with government stakeholders to verify the credentials of fishers as required. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 63 vary boat applications</li> <li>• 23 licence transfer applications</li> <li>• 17 vary master applications</li> <li>• 547 quota transfer applications</li> <li>• 11 add/remove third party interest applications</li> </ul>
12.	Generated reports on licensing and catch information for compliance or fishery management purposes as requested.
13.	Sent 8 Notice to Fishers to all Marine Scalefish licence holders.
14.	Issued and posted out renewed Certificate of Consent for replacement masters on 38 licences.
15.	Provided support via phone or email to any requests from licence holders.
16.	Regular filing and archiving of licensing and quota documentation.

## Directorate Program

	Deliverables
1.	Reconciled and prepared financial documentation to ensure accuracy.
2.	Worked with SARDI to prepare project scopes before and after cost recovery meetings with industry.
3.	Developed and prepared draft cost recovery implementation statements and the annual report for industry.
4.	Coordinated cost recovery meetings with industry to discuss cost recovery programs for the following financial year, including agenda preparation, drafting of minutes and liaising with industry executive officer to finalise minutes and cost recovery implementation statement.
5.	Followed up action items from cost recovery meetings, responding to cost recovery related correspondence.
6.	Published cost recovery documentation and reports on PIRSA's web site.
7.	Prepared a Cabinet submission and relevant documentation for the Minister to be briefed on the cost recovery process. Liaised with Parliamentary Council to prepare fee regulations for commercial licence fees.
8.	Ongoing review of PIRSA's cost recovery policy, costing models and processes to achieve continuous improvement and transparency.
9.	Coordinated co-management services request for the Marine Fishers Association and prepared standard goods and services agreement for execution.

# Compliance Program

	Deliverables
	<p>The coordination of compliance outputs is guided by a fishery specific compliance plan which was initially developed in consultation with the Marine Scalefish (MSF) Fishery and is reviewed annually.</p> <p>The plan ensures compliance effort is intelligence driven, efficient, cost effective and outcome focused. The plan comprises three core outputs (Education and Awareness, Effective Deterrence and Enforcement) and is optimised towards increasing voluntary compliance and maximising effective deterrence.</p> <p>Analysis of intelligence and information holdings is regularly conducted to identify the major Compliance risks to the sustainability of the Marine Scalefish Fishery (MSF). The combination of strategies, actions, and initiatives are critical to focus the primary compliance effort to manage the risks and achieve targeted outcomes.</p> <p>The Marine Scalefish Fishery (MSF) Compliance Reports are produced and forwarded to the Executive Officer, Marine Fishers Association.</p>

