

Annual Report on PIRSA's Service Delivery on the Cost Recovery Agreement for the Vongole Fishery

2021-22

Annual Report on PIRSA's Service Delivery on the Cost Recovery Agreement for the Vongole Fishery 2020-21

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Contents

Summary of Outcomes for 2021-224

Assessment and Research – Vongole4

Policy and Management Program - Vongole.....5

Legislation Program7

Leasing and Licensing Program.....8

Directorate Program..... 10

Compliance Program 11

Summary of Outcomes for 2021-22

Assessment and Research – Vongole

Funding Source	Deliverables	Date Completed /Delivered
Coffin Bay		
SLA	Completed surveys for Vongole Biomass in Coffin Bay completed (brought forward from 2022/23 SLA)	November 2021
SLA	Delivered assessment report on harvestable biomass and status	May 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
West Coast		
SLA	Completed surveys for Vongole Biomass in Streaky Bay, Venus Bay and Smoky Bay	October 2021
SLA	Delivered assessment report on harvestable biomass and status	May 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

Policy and Management Program - Vongole

	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"> Coordinated frequent and regular meetings across the Fisheries and Aquaculture Division to coordinate the management of the Vongole Fishery.
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> <p>Numerous meetings were held in relation to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> co-ordination of Fishery Independent Surveys (FIS) SARDI advice on FIS results concerning “harvestable biomass surveys” Setting the Total Allowable Commercial Catch in Coffin Bay at 50 tonnes for the 2022/23 quota period Application of the compliance program in the fishery.
3.	<p>Liaised within PIRSA, with other government agencies and with industry representatives in implementing decisions relevant to fisheries management.</p> <p>Meetings were held with Vongole licence holders in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The draft Cost Recovery Impact Statement (CRIS), which included the quota unit fee in the West Coast and Coffin Bay Zones The SARDI harvestable biomass estimate in Coffin Bay The setting of the TACCs for the respective zones of the fishery for the 2022/23 quota period Establishment of the South Australian Vongole Fishermen’s Association (SAVFA) Commence the review and development of a new harvest strategy for the Vongole Fishery.
4.	<p>Coordinated consultation with fishery stakeholders through established co-management processes. Co-ordinated a PIRSA meeting of licence holders and stakeholders in the Vongole Fishery to:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Present the SARDI Advice Note on the harvestable biomass estimate in Coffin Bay ○ Seek advice on the setting of the TACCs in the respective zones of the fishery (Coffin Bay, West Coast and Port River) for the 2022/23 season.
5.	<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> <p>Fisheries Manager visited licence holders in the field and Port Lincoln to build rapport and provide licence holders the opportunity to present issues.</p>
6.	<p>Participated in industry development initiatives related to fisheries management.</p> <p>Supported the review of the Fishery Independent Survey (FIS) program in Coffin Bay, which resulted in additional sites identified by commercial industry as commercial fishing grounds being surveyed.</p>
7.	<p>Attended to general correspondence and enquiries relevant to the Vongole Fishery.</p>
8.	<p>Provided advice to the Minister in relation to the management of fisheries and Ministerial correspondence. Advice provided included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Setting the TACCs for the zones of the fishery (Coffin Bay, West Coast and Port River) ○ SARDI Advice Note on harvestable biomass estimate in Coffin Bay ○ Costs associated with management of the Vongole Fishery.
9.	<p>Communicated on fisheries management issues to key stakeholder groups and the broader community, which included advice on the setting of the TACC for the 2022/23 quota period, cost recovery issues and Fishery Independent Surveys in Coffin Bay.</p>

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 12 licences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported licence and quota unit information for cost recovery to assist in calculating new financial year annual fees • Entered new rates into the Primary Industries Information Management System (PIIMS) • Prepared Notice to Fishers for annual fee invoicing pack • Generated and audited invoices to ensure correct annual fee amount was raised • Issued and posted updated invoices each quarter
2.	Processed financial invoice adjustments for all surrendered licences to credit any fees not payable beyond date of surrender application
3.	Issued and printed new licence and entitlements extracts for all active licences.
4.	<p>Generated final quota balance statements and posted to all Vongole quota holders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculated any quota adjustments required to be entered into PIIMS. <p>Generated and posted updated registration and entitlements certificates.</p>
5.	<p>Data entry of 277 Vongole CDRs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data entry check of each CDR entered. <p>Manual filing and archiving of all 277 CDR documents.</p>
6.	Issuing of 2 Vongole CDR books into PIIMS and packing and posting to licence holders.
7.	Generated 12 monthly quota status reports for industry on catch status and CDRs received.
8.	<p>System maintenance including auditing user access and system testing after any system update:</p> <p>73 quota balance statements requested via the online system.</p>
9.	Regularly provided copies of CDR documentation to compliance for quota audit checks.

10.	<p>Processed 19 licensing and quota applications and liaised with government stakeholders to verify the credentials of fishers as required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 vary boat applications • 2 licence transfer applications • 16 quota transfer applications
11.	Generated reports on licensing and catch information for compliance or fishery management purposes as requested.
12.	Provided support via phone or email to any requests from licence holders.
13.	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.

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) and Vongole Fishery. An updated specific compliance plan is being developed for the Vongole Fishery and will 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 Vongole Fishery. 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 Vongole Fishery Compliance Report is produced and forwarded to the Chairperson/Public Officer, Vongole Fishers Association of South Australia.</p>