

# **Cost Recovery Implementation Statement for the Southern Zone Abalone Fishery**

1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024



**Government  
of South Australia**

Department of Primary  
Industries and Regions

# Cost Recovery Implementation Statement

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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.

Previous years Cost Recovery Implementation Statements, Reviews, Cost Recovery Policy and Cost Recovery Framework can be found at

[https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing/commercial\\_fishing/pirsa\\_services\\_to\\_fisheries\\_industry](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

*\* 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
<b>RESEARCH COSTS</b>					
297,836	Stock Assessment and Monitoring	88,003	Year 1 program – credit of \$28,087 deducted due to FIS not undertaken in 2022-23. See page 29 for detail.		
3,445	Economic Assessment	3,549	As per contracted services 2023-24		
286	Other Research	184	Contribution towards Threatened and Endangered Species		
<b>PIRSA RELATED COSTS *</b>					
17,500	Fisheries Management	18,340	Same level of service as previous year	20	0.10
1,615	Legislation	1,692	Same level of service as previous year	1.71	0.01
8,126	Licensing	8,520	Same level of service as previous year	8.57	0.04
2,685	Directorate	2,811	Same level of service as previous year	3.09	0.02
127,600	Compliance	80,220	Reduced from 100 to 60 days in 2023-24	60	0.30
5,931	Quota Monitoring	6,213	Same level of service as previous year	6.86	0.03
5,508	VMS	5,772	Same level of service as previous year	6	0.03
	Information Services	3,807	Logbook Program – Entry, validation, management and reporting of data		
<b>OTHER COSTS</b>					
12,345	FRDC	10,555	Funding based on 0.25% of rolling three year average GVP		
<b>482,877</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$229,666</b>			

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

<b>Licence Fees 2023-24 (\$)</b>	
SZ Base Fee	\$8,425
SZ Unit Fee	\$142
Total of licences	6
<b>Licence Fees 2022-23 (\$)</b>	
SZ Base Fee	\$16,830
SZ Unit Fee	\$303
Total of licences	6

## Program Daily Charge Out Rate 2023-24

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

**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>Ensure the Abalone resource is harvested sustainably.</p> <p>Optimum economic utilisation and equitable distribution of the Abalone resource.</p>	<p>Maintain Greenlip and Blacklip Abalone stocks above ecologically sustainable levels.</p> <p>Implement fine spatial scale management framework.</p> <p>Ensure sufficient data and information is available to implement Harvest Strategy and fine scale spatial management.</p> <p>Maximise catches for both species within ecologically sustainable limits.</p> <p>Implement improvements to integrity of quota management system.</p> <p>Explore suitable economic and social indicators to inform decision-making processes.</p>	<p>Manage fishery in accordance with Management Plan and fine scale spatial management framework.</p> <p>Set TACC annually, in accordance with the Harvest Strategy.</p> <p>Facilitate the development of a preliminary diver survey to inform the Harvest Strategy as required.</p> <p>Monitor and provide support where required of AVG outbreaks in Victoria if they occur.</p>	<p>Implement compliance program, informed by risk assessment.</p> <p>Provide compliance advice in the monitoring of fine spatial scale management framework.</p>	<p>Stock assessment and monitoring to underpin stock status and stock assessment reports.</p> <p>Support the review of Harvest Strategy.</p> <p>Provide scientific advice, in the monitoring of fine spatial scale management framework.</p> <p>Support implementation of fishery Management Plan.</p>	<p>Provide ongoing support for licensing, quota and transfer queries.</p>



Long term objectives	Outcomes	Fisheries Management	Compliance	Assessment and Research	Leasing and Licensing
Minimise impacts on the ecosystem.	Disease risk management.	Undertake aquatic animal health risk assessment. Provide management advice on fish kills, as required.	Provide support with investigation of fish kills, as required.	Provide scientific advice on aquatic animal health risks and support with investigation of fish kills.	
Cost effective and participative management of the fishery.	Support co-management of the fishery.	Maintain regular communication with industry representatives and be accessible to all licence holders. Provide management advice, where necessary, throughout the licensing year. Progress co-management arrangements consistent with the Co-management Policy.	Maintain regular communication with industry representatives. Provide compliance advice, where necessary, throughout the licensing year.	Maintain regular communication with industry representatives. Provide scientific advice to inform decision-making process of new Harvest Strategy.	Maintain regular communication with industry representatives. Provide licensing advice, where necessary, throughout the licensing year.

# Fisheries Management Program

## 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 for the Southern Zone Abalone Fishery 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 Southern Zone Abalone Fishery (regulations, closure notices, licence conditions, Ministerial exemptions etc).
2. Provide advice to the Minister or his/her delegate on setting total allowable commercial catch and effort levels for the Southern Zone Abalone Fishery.
3. Prepare policies to support fisheries management.
4. Prepare submissions to enable regular assessment of the Southern Zone Abalone Fishery under the EPBC Act (1999).
5. Prepare annual report to the Australian Government on EPBC Act (1999) requirements for the Abalone fisheries.
6. Prepare regular fisheries status reports.
7. Develop and maintain day-to-day productive working relationships and outcomes through cooperative management and collaboration with stakeholders.
8. 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 plans 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 Southern Zone Abalone Fishery.

### 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	20	0.10	18,340

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

	<b>Deliverables</b>	<b>Due date</b>
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.	Implement <i>Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Abalone fisheries</i> under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 2007</i>	Ongoing
6.	Coordinate consultation with fishery stakeholders through established co-management processes. For TACC setting; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TACC Meeting</li> </ul>	Ongoing  July 2023
7.	Participate in industry liaison in the field to strengthen fishery management knowledge and understanding and develop rapport with licence holders and divers.	Ongoing
8.	Participate in industry development initiatives related to fisheries management as required	Ongoing
9.	Attend to general correspondence and enquiries relevant to the SZAF.	Ongoing
10.	Provide advice to Minister in relation to the management of fisheries and Ministerial correspondence.	Ongoing
11.	Communicate on fisheries management issues to key stakeholder groups and the broader community.	Ongoing

# Legislative Services Program

## Program Manager:

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## Program summary

PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture provides legal and legislative services to the Executive Director and all other members of the Division, in particular the policy and licensing group, on a daily basis. Among other things these services include strategic/ governance advice and problem-solving, review of draft documentation and correspondence and the provision of general advice and statutory interpretation, in consultation with the Crown Solicitor's Office where necessary, regarding legislative compliance and any legal issues relating to proposed actions and the implementation or administration of abalone 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 and legislative 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	1.71	0.01	1,692

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

## Anticipated outcomes

	Deliverables	Due date
1.	Co-ordinate and review 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 and review of 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, introduction of closures).	Ongoing
6.	Support compliance for statutory interpretation, problem solving and correspondence advice (per above).	Ongoing

# Leasing and Licensing

## Program Manager:

Todd Sutton, Manager, Leasing and Licensing

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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	8.57	0.04	8,520
Quota Monitoring	6.86	0.03	6,213

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

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



	<b>Services to support fisheries management</b>	
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	3.09	0.02	2,811

**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 on the cost recovery agreement to the Executive Officer.	September

# Fisheries Compliance Operations Program

## Program Manager:

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## State Coordinator:

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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 Abalone (SZA) Fishery. The objective of the compliance activities (outputs) is to minimise the risks to aquatic resource sustainability, 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 Southern Zone Abalone Industry. These outputs are aimed at educating fishers, deterring opportunistic and financially motivated crimes, enforce the rules and regulations and reducing overall compliance risks to resource sustainability.

## Legislative and regulatory framework

*Fisheries Management Act 2007*

*Fisheries Management (Abalone Fisheries) Regulations 2017*

*Fisheries Management (Fish Processors) Regulations 2017*

*Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017 Schedule 2*

*Fisheries Management (Demerit Points) Regulations 2009*

*Fisheries Management (Vessel Monitoring Scheme) Regulations 2017*

*Abalone Fisheries Management Plan*

## 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.
- additional pressures or influences on fishers or the fishery.
- intelligence holdings.
- trends or change behaviors 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.

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

Compliance Outputs	Days	FTE	Cost (\$)
Education Awareness	30	0.15	40,110
Effective Deterrence, Monitoring and Surveillance	24	0.20	32,088
Enforcement	6	0.05	8,022
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>0.30</b>	<b>80,220</b>

**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.
- Vessel Monitoring System (VMS).

## **Delivery outputs**

The coordination of compliance outputs is guided by an industry specific compliance plan which was developed in consultation with the Southern Zone Abalone Industry. The plan ensures compliance effort is intelligence driven, efficient, as well as 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 Abalone. 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.
- 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 start of each season.
- Ensure all interested parties understand their respective obligations and the compliance focus for the coming season.
- Develop and maintain Industry communication and relationship programs to facilitate discussion of topics such as compliance inspection outcomes and issues impacting the Southern Zone Abalone fishery.
- Ongoing one on one education during inspections.

### **Effective deterrence, monitoring and surveillance**

- Ensure all aspects of the Quota Management System are monitored such as prior reporting and chain of custody requirements in catch disposal records (CDR) including auditing.
- 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 of incorrect, incomplete reporting

## **Enforcement**

- Investigate reports of non-compliance and where appropriate take action.
- Issue cautions, expiations and court enforced actions.
- Communicate enforcement outcomes in formal reporting.
- Service of suspension notices.

## **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 informs 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 Abalone Fishery.

1. Quota Management System (QMS) Integrity.
2. Take Undersize Abalone.
3. Pest and Disease Incursion.
4. Illegal Unreported Unregulated Take (included in the Recreational Fishery Plan)

## **Deliverables**

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

# Stock Assessment and Monitoring Program

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## SARDI Contact Person:

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## 1. Project details

### 1.1 Title

South Australian Abalone Fishery (Southern Zone)

### 1.2 Timeframe

Commencement Date: 1 July 2023

Completion Date: 30 June 2024

### 1.3 Summary

This is the seventh Project Scope developed specifically for the Southern Zone (SZ) of the South Australian Abalone Fishery. Recent Project Scopes for this Zone were for multiple years and rationalised work programs and reporting frameworks across years. Consequently, not all activities are undertaken in the SZ in all years. This scope of work for 2023/24 includes further changes to that work program and reporting cycle and specifically addresses strategic research priorities for the fishery, which include: ongoing application of the Harvest Strategy; surveys of key fishing areas; fine-scale management and fine-scale fishery assessments.

The primary outputs from the research program are:

- (1) An Advice Note for Blacklip Abalone (BL) and Greenlip Abalone (GL) in the SZ (due 30/06/2024);
- (2) the completion of fishery-independent surveys on BL in the Middle Point and Port MacDonnell Spatial Assessment Units (costs for these surveys recovered in the 2022/23 SLA); and
- (3) 'year-to-date' catch and effort summaries for GL and BL in the form of PowerPoint presentations provided to PIRSA and industry at port meetings to inform TACC discussions.



## **2. Project description**

### **2.1 Background**

There are four primary components to the research provided by SARDI Aquatic Sciences to PIRSA in support of the SZ abalone fishery. These are:

- (1) Analyse commercial catch-effort and catch length-frequency data on both species across the fishery;
- (2) collect, collate and analyse biological data on both species across the fishery;
- (3) fishery-independent surveys of the abundance of both species at sites located across the fishery; and
- (4) provision of assessment and status reports and Advice Notes that assess relevant fishery-dependent and fishery-independent data, assess fishery performance against performance indicators defined in the Management Plan and detail resource status.

### **2.2 Need**

This project addresses the need for scientific information to support sustainable utilisation of abalone in the South Australian Abalone Fishery and application of the Harvest Strategy identified in the Management Plan for the fishery.

### **2.3 Objectives**

- 2.3.1 Provide PIRSA with an Advice Note for BL and GL in the SZ;
- 2.3.2 Undertake fishery-independent surveys of the abundance of BL in the Middle Point and Port MacDonnell Spatial Assessment Units (SAUs) in 2023/24;
- 2.3.3 Provide PIRSA with scientific advice to support the sustainable management of the SZ of the South Australian Abalone Fishery, including TACC setting in accordance with the Management Plan;
- 2.3.4 Assist PIRSA and industry with ongoing finer-scale, spatial management of the fishery;
- 2.3.5 Assist PIRSA with implementation of the Abalone Fishery Management Plan, including application of the Harvest Strategy; and
- 2.3.6 Provide PIRSA and industry with 'year-to-date', catch and effort data summaries to support TACC setting.

### **2.4 Methods**

- 2.4.1 Analyse commercial catch-effort, catch length-frequency and VMS/logger data on both species across the fishery;
- 2.4.2 Collect, collate, store and analyse biological information for BL representative of the key populations;
- 2.4.3 Collect, collate, store and analyse the time-series of abundance for BL in the Middle Point and Port MacDonnell SAUs, including survey improvements. Next surveys for Rivoli Bay, Number 2 Rocks and Gerloffs Bay planned for 2024/25;
- 2.4.4 Apply the Harvest Strategy to determine zonal status for BL using the methods described in the Management Plan; and
- 2.4.5 Document and interpret the research findings.

### 3. Deliverables

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

Funding Source	Deliverable	Due Date
This SLA	Stock assessment presentation, including year-to-date data, to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture, and Industry delivered as required	30 September 2023
This SLA	Fishery-independent surveys at Middle Point and Port MacDonnell completed (funds recovered in 2022/23 SLA)	30 June 2024
This SLA	Advice Note for Southern Zone abalone stock status, including application of the Harvest Strategy	30 June 2024
PIRSA	Assist with implementation of Abalone Management Plan including application of Harvest Strategy	30 June 2024
PIRSA/FRDC	Project completion: Accelerating Greenlip Abalone stock recovery in South Australia using release of hatchery-reared juveniles (Phase 1 - genetics risk assessment and preliminary cost-benefit analysis)(FRDC project 2020/116; Principal investigator: Dr Stephen Mayfield).	31 December 2023
FRDC	Project completion: The impact and implication of <i>Perkinsus olensi</i> on Australian abalone fisheries (FRDC project 2020/004; Principal Investigator: Dr Ben Stobart)	31 December 2023
FRDC	Project completion: 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).	1 December 2023
FRDC	Project continuation: Best practice and policy in abalone stock enhancement, restocking and translocation (FRDC project 2019/110; Principal Investigator: Dr Lachlan Strain)	30 June 2024
FRDC	Project continuation: Indicators for density and biomass of exploitable abalone - developing and applying a new approach (FRDC Project 2020/065; Principal Investigator: Dr Keith Sainsbury).	30 June 2024
FRDC	Project continuation: Drawing strength from each other: simulation testing of Australia's abalone harvest strategies (FRDC project 2019/118; Principal Investigator: Dr Cathy Dichmont).	30 June 2024
FRDC	Contribute to Status of Key Australian Fish Stocks Report	30 June 2024

#### 3.1 Service Provided:

3.1.1 *Collect, collate, store and analyse data on the size composition of the commercial catch*

- Obtain data on the size composition of the commercial BL catch, ensuring licence holders are aware of the need for representative sampling of the major populations.
- 3.1.2 *Collect, collate, store and analyse VMS/logger data*
- receive and store VMS/depth logger fine-scale data, and conduct analyses.
- 3.1.3 *Analyse abalone population biological data*
- Validate, store and analyse biological data across the fishery.
- 3.1.4 *Collect, collate, store and analyse abundance-survey data for GL and BL at sites across the fishery*
- Maintain and develop the time series of the abundance and size composition of BL and GL in the SZ. Surveys (Middle Point and Port MacDonnell; funds recovered in 2022/23 SLA) are to be undertaken in 2023/24. Rivoli Bay, Number 2 Rocks and Gerloffs Bay are planned to be surveyed again in 2024/25.
- 3.1.5 *Management and quality assurance of research data*
- Provide effective storage and management of research data.
- 3.1.6 *Apply Harvest Strategy*
- Apply the Harvest Strategy to BL using the approach detailed in the Management Plan.
- 3.1.7 *Analysis and interpretation*
- Interpret the results of the research program in reports, Advice Notes and presentations. Determine stock status for each species.
- 3.1.7 *Catch/effort/survey summaries*
- Provide presentations summarising year-to-date information for both species across the fishery at TACC and other relevant meetings.
- 3.1.8 *Fishing strategies*
- Assist PIRSA and industry with the fine-scale management of the fishery;
  - Assist PIRSA with implementation of the Abalone Fishery Management Plan; and
  - Assist PIRSA and industry with the identification of management options for the fishery.
- 3.1.9 *Project management*
- Ongoing supervision of projects.
  - New project development and implementation.
  - Management of deliverables including quality control.
  - Liaise with PIRSA, industry, State and Commonwealth agencies on matters relevant to the fishery.
  - Participate in industry development initiatives.
  - Work with PIRSA and stakeholders to identify research priorities and to develop and implement new projects, including the review of the Harvest Strategy.

- Collaborate on proposed/existing projects.
- Update relevant chapter in status report for SA fisheries.

### 3.2 Outcomes:

The principal outcome will be scientific advice to support sustainable management of the SZ abalone fishery.

### 3.3. Outputs and extension:

There are two principal output and extension elements:

- (1) an Advice Note on stock status will be provided for the SZ by 30 June 2024;
- (2) year-to-date', catch and effort data summaries (PowerPoint presentations) for GL and BL will be provided to PIRSA and at 'port' meetings to support TACC setting.

## 4. Funding arrangements

### 4.1 Project costing policy

This Research Project Scope and Costing has been costed at a Discounted rate.

### 4.2 Project cost

Financial Year	Total Funded by Licence Holders \$ (GST N/A)	Total SARDI In-kind \$ (GST N/A)	Total Project Cost \$ (GST N/A)
2023/24	\$116,090	\$24,067	<b>\$140,157</b>
<b>TOTAL PROJECT</b>	<b>\$116,090</b>	<b>\$24,067</b>	<b>\$140,157</b>

### 4.3 Milestone and payment schedule

Date	Milestone	Payment (\$) GST	Ex GST
31 December 2023	Payment 1 of 2023/24 SLA	\$58,045	
31 May 2024	Payment 2 of 2023/24 SLA	\$58,045	
30 June 2024	Southern Zone Advice Note		
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$116,090</b>	
<b>GST</b>		<b>NO GST</b>	
<b>TOTAL COST</b>		<b>\$116,090</b>	

## 5. Project staff

Staff	2023/24 FTE
Principal Scientist	0.05
Research Officer	0.35
Research Scientist	0.10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.50</b>

## 6. Project cost summary

Cost	Detail	2023/24 Total (\$) Ex GST
Salaries (FTE)		0.50
Salaries (\$)		63,707
<b>Operating (\$)</b>		
Payment to industry for surveys (\$)		
Fieldwork (\$)		0
Laboratory (\$)		
Travel (\$)		11,700
Office and communication (\$)		400
Capital equipment (\$)		
SARDI overhead (\$)		40,283
SARDI inkind (\$)		24,067
<b>Total Cost (\$)</b>		<b>140,157</b>
<b>Revenue – PRICE</b>		
PIRSA F&A Licence holders (\$)	83%	116,090
<b>Total Revenue (\$)</b>		<b>116,090</b>
<b>SARDI Investment (\$)</b>	17%	<b>24,067</b>

A discounted 2023-24 program is reflected in the costing summary on page 6 from \$116,090 to \$88,003 (credit of \$28,087) passed on from 2022-23 as the Fishery-independent surveys at Number 2 Rocks were not completed; Discontinuation of Fishery-independent surveys at Nene Valley – with 50% of funds returned and 50% funds allocated to improving surveys in other SAUs.

### Breakdown explanations:

*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

the fact that the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA) has been the most widely cited journal in the field of medicine for over a century.

The *JAMA* is a peer-reviewed journal that publishes research, clinical practice, and commentary on a wide range of medical topics. It is published weekly by the American Medical Association (AMA).

The *JAMA* is known for its high standards of scientific rigor and its commitment to providing the most up-to-date and accurate information to the medical community.

The *JAMA* is also known for its commitment to diversity and inclusion, and for its efforts to address the needs of underserved populations.

The *JAMA* is a valuable resource for medical professionals, researchers, and patients alike. It provides a comprehensive overview of the latest research and clinical practice in the field of medicine.

The *JAMA* is also known for its commitment to transparency and accountability. It provides detailed information about its editorial process and its funding sources.

The *JAMA* is a leading voice in the medical community, and its commitment to excellence and integrity is a source of pride for all who are associated with it.

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The *JAMA* is a journal that is truly a gem in the field of medicine. It is a journal that is worth reading and that is worth being a part of.

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