

PIRSA

Annual Report on PIRSA's Service Delivery on the Cost Recovery Agreement for the Oyster Sector

2019-20



Government of South Australia
Department of Primary Industries
and Regions

Annual Report on PIRSA's Service Delivery on the Cost Recovery Agreement for the Oyster Sector 2019-20

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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.	Commenced the review of the <i>Aquaculture (Zones-Lower Eyre Peninsula) Policy 2013</i> to accommodate future expansion of aquaculture sectors, including the Oyster Sector. Established the Lower Eyre Peninsula Review Advisory Committee to make recommendations for the review of the <i>Aquaculture (Zones-Lower Eyre Peninsula) Policy 2013</i> , with two meetings held during this period. Drafted a Statement of Intent outlining proposed amendments to the zone policy, including consideration of the needs and expectations of the Oyster Sector, as presented to the Committee in April 2020.
3.	Finalised the Draft Aquaculture (Standard Lease and Licence Conditions) Policy 2020 and supporting Policy Report for approval, and commenced implementation. The policy development process included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two month public consultation period • Two public briefings (Adelaide and Port Lincoln) to assist submissions • Three aquaculture sector briefings, including with the Oyster Sector, to assist submissions • Review of submissions and amendments to the Draft Policy and Policy Report
4.	Continued consultation with stakeholders, including the aquaculture industry, fishing industry, local council, and the Department for Environment and Water (DEW), for development of the draft Aquaculture (Zones – Ceduna) Policy 2015.
5.	Ongoing liaison and consultation with relevant government departments, prescribed bodies and relevant stakeholders in relation to zone policy development.
6.	Provided advice to stakeholders/members of the public in relation to existing aquaculture zone allocations (i.e. area, biomass, etc).
7.	Provided input to a range of State and Commonwealth Government environmental and conservation initiatives, to ensure aquaculture zone development objectives and aspirations were adequately taken into account and factored in to broader conservation policy development.
8.	Provided advice to the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) on proposed port facilities in Spencer Gulf and Kangaroo Island.
9.	Provided formal response to DIT regarding a mandated referral to PIRSA for aquaculture developments outside of aquaculture zones and land-based aquaculture developments under the proposed Phase 2 of the Planning and Design Code. The referral is an important mechanism for PIRSA to minimise the regulatory burden on the aquaculture industry created by the planning approvals process.
10.	Reviewed and provided a submission to DIT on the draft Phase 2 and 3 of the Planning and Design Code, which replaces all development plans for the State, to streamline development approvals for future marine-based aquaculture development outside of aquaculture zones, as well as land-based aquaculture development, and to mitigate impacts from other forms of development on the aquaculture industry.

11.	Held an aquaculture development scenario testing workshop with DIT, DEW, Environment Protection Authority (EPA), council planners, and aquaculture industry representatives, including the Oyster Sector, to assist industry understand DIT's new planning system and to provide feedback.
12.	Provided input to DIT's review of referral fees under the <i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016</i> , in regard to PIRSA's provision of advice to the relevant planning authority for aquaculture development applications.
13.	Reviewed and provided a response to the EPA on their Dredge Guidelines to mitigate potential impacts to the aquaculture industry.
14.	Undertook a two month public call for lease tenure applications within the <i>Aquaculture (Zones – Lower Eyre Peninsula) Policy 2013</i> , <i>Aquaculture (Zones – Tumby Bay) Policy 2015</i> , <i>Aquaculture (Zones – Coffin Bay) Policy 2008</i> , and <i>Aquaculture (Zones – Streaky Bay) Policy 2011</i> to be submitted to the Aquaculture Tenure Allocation Board (ATAB) for consideration, which included lease tenure for the Oyster Sector.
15.	Facilitated and provided support to an ATAB meeting for consideration of lease tenure applications for the <i>Aquaculture (Zones – Lower Eyre Peninsula) Policy 2013</i> , <i>Aquaculture (Zones – Tumby Bay) Policy 2015</i> , <i>Aquaculture (Zones – Coffin Bay) Policy 2008</i> , and <i>Aquaculture (Zones – Streaky Bay) Policy 2011</i> public call. Draft internal procedures for ATAB meetings to assess applications for lease tenure were also tabled.
16.	Commenced 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> .
17.	Commenced review of current and future provisions for the rehabilitation of aquaculture leases.
18.	Facilitated the preparation of an industry led application to address workplace wellness for the seafood sector in South Australia.
19.	Ongoing liaison and consultation with DIT to streamline the process for aquaculture lease holders to surrender/remove associated lands title leases.
20.	Provided a referral response to the State Commission Assessment Panel (SCAP) in regard to an oyster tourism platform development application in Smoky Bay.
21.	Provided a referral response to the SCAP in regard to a razorfish aquaculture development application in Streaky Bay, including consideration of potential impacts to neighbouring oyster aquaculture sites.
22.	Provided a referral response to the SCAP in regard to an oyster tourism platform development application in Coffin Bay.
23.	Amended the <i>Aquaculture (Zones – Eastern Spencer Gulf) Policy 2005</i> via Gazette notice to designate the Point Pearce (east) and Point Pearce (west) intertidal aquaculture zones as non-public call areas, to facilitate the submission of applications to ATAB at any time.

Aquaculture Leasing and Licensing

	Deliverables																								
1.	Ongoing maintenance of internal licence audit functions, including auditing procedures (i.e. flowcharts, checklists and manuals) and performance relating to Oyster licences.																								
2.	Completed database maintenance and updates as required.																								
3.	Completed update to electronic Production Return and Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP) reporting including design and testing of each new report																								
4.	Reviewed renewal and transfer applications to ensure correct information is received at the time of application.																								
5.	Updated licence/lease records as required.																								
6.	Maintenance of systems and procedures to support day to day administration of leasing and licensing activities related to the Oyster Sector.																								
7.	Conducted audits of internal processes and functions including application checklists.																								
8.	Records management of leasing and licensing documentation.																								
9.	<p>Processing of Oyster applications (see table below).</p> <table> <tr> <th>Oyster: Application Type</th><th>Number</th></tr> <tr> <td>New lease*</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr> <td>New marine licence*</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lease movement*</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lease renewal</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lease transfer</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr> <td>Licence transfer</td><td>32</td></tr> <tr> <td>Specified person</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lease division</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr> <td>Licence division</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lease amalgamation</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr> <td>Licence variation*</td><td>3</td></tr> </table> <p>*Environmental assessment and inter-agency referral conducted</p>	Oyster: Application Type	Number	New lease*	6	New marine licence*	6	Lease movement*	17	Lease renewal	3	Lease transfer	26	Licence transfer	32	Specified person	4	Lease division	4	Licence division	5	Lease amalgamation	11	Licence variation*	3
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10.	Processed annual production returns from the Oyster Sector. This included follow-up on unreturned production returns to ensure licence holders meet their obligations under the regulations, collation and analysis of information.																								

11.	Finalised PIRSA internal guidelines for determining lease performance criteria and terms for aquaculture leases and licences, including determination of terms for applications to extend the term of aquaculture productions leases up to 30 years.
12.	Assisted lease holders with the process to surrender/remove associated lands title leases through DIT and ASIC.
13.	Processed requests for information from licence holders via front counter, phone or e-mail.
14.	Liaised with government stakeholders to verify the credentials of lease/licence holders for application processing as required.
15.	Provided information in relation to a dispute associated with two Oyster leases for a Freedom of Information request.
16.	Established a process for assessing and considering tourism based infrastructure on aquaculture leases, in consultation with DIT and the EPA.

Legislation

	Deliverables
1.	Finalisation of proposed amendments to the Act to enable the extension of the term of aquaculture production leases from 20 to 30 years, and to enhance notification requirements to persons with a registered interest on leases prior to a lease being cancelled. These Act amendments were included in amendments made under the Treasurer's Statutes Amendment and Repeal (Simplify) Act 2019. Input into implementation matters.
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 Act to promote efficient and transparent government administration.
3.	Provided input into the finalisation of the draft Aquaculture (Standard Lease and Licence Conditions) Policy 2020 for approval, including a review of over 300 lease and licence conditions with the Office of Parliamentary Council (OPC) and the Crown Solicitor's Office to ensure these remain modern and reflective of the aquaculture industry's practice.
4.	Review of 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.

Compliance Operations

	Deliverables
1.	<p>Site surveillance inspections 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"> • Routine site inspections undertaken by Fisheries Officers. • Reports made to PIRSA subsequent to compliance inspections outline any compliance issues with a site and include photographs and site waypoints. • Follow up inspections required for sites that have identified compliance issues. • These inspections were carried out within a reasonable timeframe, with due consideration of the risks to other users of the waters or resource. • Inspections 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. <p>All sites in Franklin Harbor were inspected, with the majority of sites deemed to be in good working order and compliant overall. Fisheries Officers liaised with a grower in relation to a site having infrastructure located outside the formal site boundaries.</p> <p>All sites were checked in Denial Bay, Smoky Bay, St. Peters Island, Haslam, Southbank and Streaky Bay. The majority of sites were found to be in good working condition with some sites requiring work to be carried out to ensure compliance in relation to navigation markers. Bay representatives were contacted in advance to notify of the pending inspections. Follow up inspections, commenced late June 2020 indicated a good response by growers to address the non-compliant issues.</p>
2.	<p>Sites were inspected at Wallaroo and Point Pearce to determine where site rehabilitation requirements had been met. Some sites required further work to be carried out with follow up enquiries being conducted.</p>
3.	<p>Final clean-up of an area within the Perlubie (south bank) aquaculture zone, which had previously been impacted by storms and severely damaged was completed on a voluntary basis by several local growers. This followed extensive inspections by Fisheries Officers over several years and ongoing liaison with impacted growers.</p>
4.	<p>Fisheries Officers continued to collect Pacific Oyster samples as part of the POMS monitoring program from the Ceduna and Coffin Bay areas. Fisheries Officers addressed a number of queries to PIRSA requiring clarification around biosecurity related rules and preventative measures including translocation risks. The West Regional Manager continued to reiterate biosecurity and POMS prevention measures via ABC Radio. Feral oysters were collected from various locations on York Peninsula as part of the POMS surveillance program. Signage was maintained within the Port River system.</p>
5.	<p>Communication and monitoring activities were undertaken by PIRSA and related SA government agencies to ensure compliance by Oyster 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 were developed and implemented by all agencies concerned.</p>

Aquaculture Systems

	Deliverables
1.	Accurate and efficient systems maintained and enhanced to provide for effective and efficient management and administration of the Oyster 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 Oyster Sector, relevant government Agencies and general public).
3.	Safeguarded licence holder details by adhering to broader government guidelines (e.g. records management requirements for public service document standards and freedom of information requests).
4.	Included in management of the PIIMS database was assessing reporting functionalities, liaison with the PIRSA IT group, testing updates to the database, reporting of functional issues and troubleshooting with system users.
5.	Included in management of the Public Register system was rollout of updates, reporting of functional issues to the PIRSA IT group, testing when updates occur and troubleshooting with system users both internally and externally.
6.	Included in the management of ArcGIS was the rollout of update software, appropriate training for use of the program, recognition, requests and testing for software fixes, liaison with the PIRSA spatial group, reporting spatial information and troubleshooting with system users.
7.	Management of the Microsoft Access Database included alignment of databases annually to reflect data requirements of Environmental Monitoring Reports.
8.	Management and maintenance of an electronic lodgement system for environmental monitoring program and production return data for the Oyster Sector.
9.	Development of an electronic reporting system to retrieve data directly from PIIMS in regards to electronic Environmental Monitoring Reports.
10.	Management of records management systems (e.g. Objective) included testing of various functionalities, liaison with the PIRSA IT group and requests for further updates to systems and software.
11.	Ongoing maintenance and troubleshooting of the electronic lodgement system (my PIRSA) for environmental monitoring program and production return data.

Aquatic Animal Health

	Deliverables
1.	Six Pacific Oyster related mortality events were reported to PIRSA and investigated. Samples submitted to the laboratory and tested to rule out disease. No significant or notifiable diseases detected.
2.	Eleven farmed and wild shellfish mortality events were also reported to PIRSA and investigated. Samples submitted to the laboratory and tested to rule out disease. No significant or notifiable diseases detected. Subclinical <i>Perkinsus</i> spp. was detected in a wild abalone mortality event, but did not appear to be the cause of mortalities. Further details are below (Deliverable 3). <i>Perkinsus</i> spp. is a notifiable disease, which is endemic in South Australia.
3.	In 2019, <i>Karenia mikimotoi</i> was monitored in the Boston Bay and Louth Bay area. In August 2019, high mortalities (sea cucumbers and abalone) were reported and investigated at Hardwicke Bay. Based on high algae counts in water samples and histopathology results, the likely cause of the mortality was attributed to a harmful algae bloom (<i>Karenia mikimotoi</i>). Oceanographers suggested the two blooms may be linked. Incidental subclinical <i>Perkinsus</i> spp. was detected in 7/20 abalone tested (PCR).
4.	Coordination of State-wide early detection surveillance for Ostried herpesvirus-1 (OsHV-1)/Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS). In 2019/20, ~3000 Pacific Oysters (farmed and feral) were processed. In total, 736 samples were tested, all of which were negative for OsHV-1/POMS.
5.	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.
6.	Livestock translocation: no applications to PIRSA.
7.	<p>Provided advice to various government agencies, including the EPA and DPTI, and organisations/companies, including Flinders Ports and Maritime Constructions, to mitigate potential aquatic animal health risks posed by marine developments/activities. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flinders Ports proposed to dredge the Outer Harbour Channel at the Port of Adelaide. There was a risk in moving dredge material from Outer Harbor, where the POMS virus is present, to the dump site in Gulf St Vincent. Flinders Ports did a detailed technical POMS risk assessment, which was reviewed by PIRSA. PIRSA developed proposed conditions for the EPA dredge licence to reduce the risk of spreading POMS. Further management of key POMS risks were developed by BMT, EPA, DPTI and Flinders Ports, and reviewed by PIRSA. • PIRSA provided advice to other companies involved in marine developments to reduce the risk of spreading POMS in adjacent areas to the Port. • PIRSA provided advice on biofouling and ballast water management to various companies and vessel operators at their request.
8.	Communications and awareness: SAOGA newsletter article, SAOGA AGM, factsheets to licence holders on POMS.
9.	The South Australian POMS management plan was implemented. The aims are to contain POMS to the Port Adelaide River System and implement prevention and preparedness activities in the commercial farming regions.

10.	Completed the project “Improving early detection surveillance and emergency disease response to Ostreid herpesvirus using a hydrodynamic dispersion model” (Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC): 2018-090). In this project, we defined the disease management areas (biosecurity zones) for the South Australian Pacific Oyster industry. This work was presented at the Australasian Aquatic Animal Health and Biosecurity on Aquatic Animal Health and Biosecurity conference.
11.	PIRSA met with oyster hatcheries to discuss PIRSA’s high level import protocols that were developed with industry in order for hatcheries to translocate oysters from Tasmania to South Australia.
12.	As a discrete, externally funded project (ends 2019/20), PIRSA has offered assistance to the Pacific Oyster hatcheries with implementation of national biosecurity guidelines. This included assistance with developing their farm biosecurity plan and assistance with implementing it, including auditing. One of the five Oyster hatcheries is now considered biosecure. Three of the four remaining Oyster hatcheries have engaged with PIRSA and are developing their farm biosecurity plans and standard operating procedures.
13.	Conducted Emergency Disease Response training and updated PIRSA Emergency Response Plans as required with PIRSA Biosecurity SA.
14.	Meetings attended, reviewed documents, contributed to national policy developments and represented South Australia on the national Sub-Committee on Aquatic Animal Health (SCAAH).
15.	Chaired the National Aquatic Veterinary Medicines Working Group (under SCAAH), to facilitate progress of veterinary medicine permits with the Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicine Authority (APVMA), and progress of the national strategic plan for aquatic animal health (including objective 4: Improving availability of appropriate veterinary medicines).
16.	Reviewed and updated the notice <i>Prohibition of Entry into and Movement within South Australia of Aquaculture Stock Notice 2020</i> under the <i>Livestock Act 1997</i> .

Environmental Monitoring and Management

	Deliverables
1.	Developed, assessed and processed annual Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP) reports for 341 Oyster licences.
2.	Conducted Ecologically Sustainable Development risk assessments and management of EPA referral for 26 Oyster licence applications related to new (6), movement (17) and other licence condition variations (3).
3.	Prepared the Zoning In - South Australian Aquaculture Report 2017/18 and commenced drafting the 2018/19 report which contains a summary of production and management of aquaculture in South Australia, including EMP summary information for each aquaculture sector.
4.	Responded to environmental issues related to the Oyster Sector, including marine debris at South Bank and Pine Point and overstocking.
5.	Commenced process to resolve administrative coordinate discrepancies associated with 19 Oyster leases and corresponding licences at Kellidie Bay.
6.	Responded to industry opposition in relation to applications to move Oyster leases, including seeking SARDI advice in relation to environmental concerns.
7.	Ongoing maintenance of reporting databases for environmental compliance matters, escapes of stock, ecological interactions and marine debris.
8.	Assessed and processed over 45 Oyster strategies in association with transfer applications and new licence holders.
9.	Conducted bi-monthly meetings with the EPA to discuss and prioritise environmental issues and projects relating to the aquaculture industry.
10.	Liaised with Fisheries Officers for environmental issues related to the Oyster Sector, particularly in relation to marine debris, site audits and rehabilitation of old sites. This included provision of technical input regarding environmental compliance and development and operation of aquaculture sites.
11.	Reviewed and provided a submission on the EPA's Aquatic Ecosystem Condition Report for the West Coast, in relation to aquaculture activities.
12.	<p>Contribution to, support for and implementation of, numerous research projects to assess environmental and economic impacts relating to Oyster aquaculture and research into POMS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FRDC 2014-027: Pacific Oyster feeds and feeding in South Australian waters: towards ecosystem based management • FRDC 2016-005: eSA marine • FRDC 2016-808: Future Oysters CRC-P <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CRC-P Advanced surveillance ○ CRC-P species diversification including a pest and biosecurity risk assessment for Rock Oysters

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rapid diagnostic method for OsHV-1 ○ Efficacy of knockdown and POMS outbreak on Pacific Oyster populations and OsHV-1 viral load in the Port River ○ Role of non-C. gigas hosts for POMS ○ Infection model for assessing susceptibility to OsHV-1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FRDC 2018-090: Improving early detection surveillance and emergency disease response to Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS) using a hydrodynamic model for dispersion of OsHV-1 • FRDC 2019-039: South Australian Pacific Oyster selective breeding program: Building POMS resistance to reduce risk for the South Australian Oyster industry
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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, including FRDC Levy Contributions.
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 Oyster Sector for 2020/21 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 Minister so they were aware of current and emerging issues faced by PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture and the Oyster Sector.
11.	Consulted with the Deputy Chief Executive, Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Director Operations, PIRSA Fisheries Managers, and the Office of the Minister and other parties as needed.
12.	Provided assistance to oyster aquaculture lease and licence holders impacted from the Kangaroo Island bushfires as part of PIRSA's emergency response.
13.	Provided assistance to the Oyster Sector as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other Aquaculture Activities

	Deliverables
1.	2017/18 annual economic report, incorporating Oyster Sector data, finalised and published on PIRSA website.
2.	2018/19 annual economic report, incorporating Oyster Sector data, drafted.
3.	All aquaculture sector production data collated and entered, and forwarded to BDO EconSearch for compiling 2018/19 report.
4.	Collected, through annual fees, the Oyster industry's annual contribution to the FRDC.

