

# PIRSA

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

**2020-21**



**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 and Vongole Fishery 2020-21

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## Summary of Outcomes for 2020-21

### 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 King George Whiting, not completed. Reflects delays in presenting the draft report to Fisheries and Aquaculture and Industry. Expected to be completed in September 2021.	
SLA	Delivered 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.	July 2021
PIRSA	Delivered Snapper stock assessment report.	September 2020
FRDC	Completed FRDC project 2016/003: King George Whiting spawning dynamics in South Australia's southern gulfs.	August 2020
FRDC	Updated chapters for Status of Australian Fish Stocks 2020 (including Snapper, KGW, Southern Garfish, etc.).	March 2021
FRDC	Project application: Harvest strategy development for a reformed fishery not completed. Reflects decision to combine funds from 2020/21 & 2021/22 for a larger, more robust project. Expected to be completed by December 2021.	
FRDC	Project application submitted: Contemporise fisheries modelling in a multi-gear, multi-species and multi-user fishery. Application unsuccessful.	December 2020
FRDC	Continued FRDC project 2017/014: Informing structural reform of South Australia's Marine Scalefish fishery.	June 2021
FRDC	Continued FRDC project 2018/035: Fisheries biology of Western Australian Salmon: improving our understanding of population dynamics in South Australia to enable quantitative stock assessments and improved fisheries management.	June 2021

FRDC	Continued FRDC project 2018/055: Developing a positive cultural attitude towards the capture and release of sharks and rays.	June 2021
FRDC	Continued FRDC project 2019/044: 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.	June 2021
FRDC	Continued FRDC project 2019/046: Cost-effective, non-destructive solutions to developing a pre-recruit index for Snapper.	June 2021

## Assessment and Research – Vongole

Funding Source	Deliverables	Date Completed /Delivered
<b>Coffin Bay</b>		
SLA	Completed surveys for Vongole Biomass in Coffin Bay completed	October 2020
SLA	Delivered Advice Note on harvestable biomass and status	May 2021
SLA	Provided presentations of harvestable biomass and status to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture and industry.	June 2021
FRDC	Updated chapter for Status of Australian Fish Stocks 2020	March 2020
<b>West Coast</b>		
SLA	NIL	
FRDC	Updated chapter for Status of Australian Fish Stocks 2020	March 2020

# Policy and Management Program - Marine Scalefish Fishery

	Deliverables
1.	<p>Participate in inter and intra-departmental meetings and workshops on issues relevant to fisheries management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinated frequent and regular meetings across the Fisheries and Aquaculture Division to progress all key elements of the reform and wider MSF management issues.</li> </ul>
2.	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinated frequent and regular MSF reform meetings across the Fisheries and Aquaculture Division and SARDI to progress all key elements of the reform</li> <li>Two meetings with AFMA in regard to jurisdictional issues, including the Offshore Constitutional Settlement and the management of School and Gummy Shark</li> <li>A PIRSA working group drafted a decision-making framework as a tool for the new MSFMAC to support consideration of whether a species in a zone should move from a Tier 3 to Tier 2, or Tier 2 to Tier 1</li> </ul>
3.	<p>Liaise 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>Provided a wide range of information relevant to the work of the Independent Allocation Advisory Panel (IAAP) on quota species in the Marine Scalefish Fishery and subsequent Exceptional Circumstances process.</li> <li>Administered and completed a wide range of changes to regulations, licence conditions, policies and guidelines to implement the reform of the MSF on 1 July 2021, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Voluntary License Surrender Program</li> <li>The preparation for the allocation of individual transferable quota (ITQ)</li> <li>The establishment of four management zones</li> <li>The separation of the Sardine and Vongole Fisheries from the MSF</li> <li>The reduction of red tape in the fishery, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permit use of multiple gear types on single trip</li> <li>Removal of requirement to use replacement master in seven-day blocks</li> <li>Removal of requirement to attend longlines</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Removal of seasonal closures for southern garfish and snapper (in the South East)</li> <li>▪ Permit West Coast fishers to take less than 150 razorfish during a three-day period for bait</li> <li>▪ Addition of several permitted species to the fishery</li> <li>▪ Increased flexibility for Restricted Fish Processors who are also MSF licence holders.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinated an ESD Stakeholder workshop to facilitate the addition of permitted species to the MSF</li> <li>• Consultation with the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) and Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) on specific issues related to removing red tape in the fishery</li> <li>• Administered section 79 notices for the management of the Snapper fishery in the South East and netting arrangements in relation to Southern Garfish</li> <li>• Administered section 115 Ministerial Exemption for the take of razorfish on the West Coast</li> <li>• Administered 115 Ministerial Exemption for the take of Wrasse above its legal maximum size</li> <li>• Administered section 79 notices to implement a trial expansion of the cephalopod fishing exclusion zone around Point Lowly</li> </ul>
4.	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive review of management arrangements as part of the reform of the fishery</li> <li>• Undertook a review of interactions with key species and stocks to inform an update of the EPBC Act Annual Report</li> <li>• Undertook a review of the draft Economic and Social Indicators for the South Australian Marine Scalefish Fishery 2018/19 report</li> <li>• Undertook a review of the draft SARDI stock status report for primary, secondary and tertiary Marine Scalefish species, including stock assessment for King George Whiting</li> <li>• Undertook a review of the status of species proposed to be added to the MSF</li> <li>• Undertook a review of potential haul netting management arrangements and impacts on the stock status of southern garfish</li> </ul>
5.	<p>Coordinate consultation with fishery stakeholders through established co-management processes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinated industry consultations regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Proposed implementation of the MSF Reform</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The allocation of individual transferable quota (ITQ) units for priority species (King George whiting, snapper, southern garfish and southern calamari) to individual licence holders in the MSF</li> <li>• Provided policy and administrative support for the industry Red Tape Reduction Working Group</li> <li>• Provided policy and administrative support for the development of new compliance arrangements for the MSF, including work undertaken through the independently chaired industry / PIRSA Compliance Working Group</li> <li>• Provided expert Fisheries Management and Executive Support for two Snapper MAC meetings and related out of session work, which provided advice to the Minister on management arrangements and catch limits for the priority species: King George whiting, snapper, southern garfish and southern calamari</li> <li>• Considered stakeholder feedback and gained Ministerial approval for the establishment of the new Marine Scalefish Fishery Management Advisory Committee (MSFMAC)</li> <li>• Regular contact with the Marine Fishers Association, including monthly meetings with the fishery Program Leader and the Executive Officer, MFA, for much of the year</li> <li>• Frequent regular liaison with the Manager, Fisheries Reform, and the Executive Officer, MFA relating to the reform of the MSF</li> <li>• Consulted with the MFA regarding alternatives to regulated netting restrictions in and around Reevesby Island during public holidays</li> <li>• Consulted with industry groups regarding commercial netting and wider management arrangements relating to southern garfish</li> </ul>
6.	<p>Participate 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 extensive regional meeting consultations related to the MSF reform</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 MSF reform prevented this from occurring.</li> </ul>
7.	<p>Participate in industry development initiatives related to fisheries management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided fisheries management input for activities and communications relating to the Same Dish, New Fish campaign that was promoting lesser known species</li> <li>• Participated in a Cordon Bleu trainee chef workshop as part of MFA promotional campaign activities</li> </ul>
8.	<p>Responded to various 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>• <u>Well 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</u></li> </ul>
9.	Provided advice to the Minister in relation to various management issues, in particular in relation to the reform of the MSF and general Ministerial correspondence related to the MSF.
10.	<p>Communicated on fisheries management issues to key stakeholder groups and the broader community including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produced and distributed MSF Reform Stage 2 and Stage 3 information packages to all relevant licence holders</li> <li>• Provided 15 'notice to fishers' to licence holders in the MSF, including regular updates on the remaining Snapper TACC in the South East</li> <li>• Input into update of the MSF Operator User Guide</li> <li>• Various correspondence to stakeholder groups, including the recreational fishing sector.</li> </ul>

# Policy and Management Program - Vongole

	Deliverables
1.	<p>Participate in inter and intra-departmental meetings and workshops on issues relevant to fisheries management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinated frequent and regular meetings across the Fisheries and Aquaculture Division to coordinate the management of the Vongole Fishery.</li> </ul>
2.	<p>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.</p> <p>Numerous meetings were held in relation to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>the</u> co-ordination of Fishery Independent Surveys (FIS)</li> <li><u>SARDI</u> advice on FIS results concerning “harvestable biomass surveys”</li> <li><u>Changes</u> to Catch Disposal Record logbooks to record incorporate factory weight changes</li> <li><u>Meetings</u> with Fisheries Officers regarding the effectiveness of factory weight in maintaining the integrity of the quota monitoring system.</li> </ul>
3.	<p>Liaise 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"> <li>The implementation and ongoing effectiveness of factory weight</li> <li>The draft Cost Recovery Impact Statement (CRIS), which included the quota unit fee in the West Coast and Coffin Bay Zones</li> <li>The SARDI harvestable biomass estimate in Coffin Bay</li> <li>The setting of the TACC for 2021/22.</li> </ul>
4.	<p>Coordinate 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"> <li>Present the SARDI Advice Note on the harvestable biomass estimate in Coffin Bay</li> <li>Seek advice on the setting of the TACCs in the respective zones of the fishery (Coffin Bay, West Coast and Port River) for the 2021/22 season.</li> </ul>

5.	<p>Participate 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><u>Fisheries Manager visited licence holders in the field and in Port Lincoln to build rapport and provide licence holders the opportunity to present issues.</u></p>
6.	<p>Participate 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>Attend to general correspondence and enquiries relevant to the Vongole Fishery.</p>
8.	<p>Provide advice to the Minister in relation to the management of fisheries and Ministerial correspondence. Advice provided included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <u>Setting the TACCs for the zones of the fishery (Coffin Bay, West Coast and Port River)</u></li> <li>○ <u>Recording factory weight on Catch Disposal Record (CDR) forms (maintaining quota integrity)</u></li> <li>○ <u>SARDI Advice Note on harvestable biomass estimate in Coffin Bay.</u></li> </ul>
9.	<p>Communicate on fisheries management issues to key stakeholder groups and the broader community, which included advice on the setting of the TACC for the 2021/22 quota period</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); reviewed and coordinated crown input into co-management contract.

# 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> </ul> <p>Issued and posted updated invoices each quarter</p>
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 78 licences as part of the Marine Scalefish Fishery reform voluntary licence surrender program</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>Processed refunds to 14 licence holders of surrendered licences who had over-paid their annual fees.</p>
6.	<p>Implemented online quota trading system for licence holders to permanently sell quota</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designed and built quota trading system</li> <li>• Conducted testing of system and provided demonstrations to several working groups</li> <li>• Created video tutorials and posted to PIRSA website to guide licence holders</li> <li>• Updated system based on feedback and implemented by start of quota season</li> </ul>
7.	<p>Created and allocated 10 new MSF quotas in PIIMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entered TACC for each new quota</li> <li>• Allocated units to all 228 active MSF licences (2280 allocations)</li> <li>• Configured new PIIMS screens to allow entry of MSF CDRs</li> </ul>

8.	Designed MSF-CDR and Sales & Consignment form in collaboration with compliance and policy. Printed over 450 books to be made available to licence holders.
9.	Removed 35 licence conditions and added 18 new licence conditions to all 228 active licences.
10.	Issued and printed new licence and entitlements extracts for all active licences.
11.	Posted MSF reform packs to all licence holders containing new licence and entitlements, notice to fishers and MSF reform information package.
12.	<p>Separated the Vongole fishery from MSF licences involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of new registration type in PIIMS</li> <li>• Designed application forms for Vongole quota holders to apply for a Vongole specific licence. Posted out, collated returned forms and submitted to Executive Director for approval of grant of licences.</li> <li>• Creation of 12 new licences in PIIMS and transferral of all relevant data from existing MSF licences with Vongole quota</li> <li>• Update of Vongole CDR form to remove references to MSF fishery</li> </ul>
13.	Issued 12 new licences and printed licence and entitlements extracts for Vongole licence holders.
14.	Set up of the new Vongole Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) into PIIMS for the new quota season.
15.	<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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 4 entitlement over-catch adjustments made.</li> <li>○ 7 entitlement under-catch adjustments made.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Generated and posted updated registration and entitlements certificates.</p>
16.	<p>Data entry of 360 Vongole CDRs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data entry check of each CDR entered.</li> </ul> <p>Manual filing and archiving of all 360 CDR documents.</p>
17.	Issuing of 9 Vongole CDR books into PIIMS and packing and posting to licence holders.
18.	Generated 12 monthly quota status reports for industry on catch status and CDRs received.
19.	<p>System maintenance including auditing user access and system testing after any system update:</p> <p>210 quota balance statements requested via the online system.</p>

20.	Regularly provided copies of CDR documentation to compliance for quota audit checks.
21.	<p>Processed 80 licensing and quota applications and liaised with government stakeholders to verify the credentials of fishers as required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 33 vary boat applications</li> <li>• 12 licence transfer applications</li> <li>• 12 vary master applications</li> <li>• 19 quota transfer applications</li> </ul> <p>4 add/remove third party interest applications</p>
22.	Generated reports on licensing and catch information for compliance or fishery management purposes as requested.
23.	Send 17 Notice to Fishers to all Marine Scalefish licence holders.
24.	Issued and posted out renewed Certificate of Consent for replacement masters on 79 licences.
25.	Provided support via phone or email to any requests from licence holders.
26.	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.	Prepared and coordinated tender documentation to contract successful applicant for the delivery of Economic Analysis of fisheries and aquaculture activities within SA for 2021-24. Prepared standard goods and services agreements to engage contractors/or independent scientist as required for meetings etc.
6.	Followed up action items from cost recovery meetings, responding to cost recovery related correspondence.
7.	Published cost recovery documentation and reports on PIRSA's web site.
8.	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.
9.	Ongoing review of PIRSA's cost recovery policy, costing models and processes to achieve continuous improvement and transparency.
10.	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) and Vongole 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) and 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 Marine Scalefish Fishery (MSF) and Vongole Fishery Compliance Reports are produced annually and forwarded to the Executive Officer, Marine Fishers Association.</p>



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