

# **Cost Recovery Implementation Statement for the Gulf St Vincent Prawn Fishery**

**1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024**



**Government  
of South Australia**

Department of Primary  
Industries and Regions

# Cost Recovery Implementation Statement

Information current as of February 2023  
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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.

For further information relating to Cost Recovery Reviews, Policy and Framework, they 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  |
| June                        | Invoices sent for annual licence fees.   | PIRSA                          |

\* 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>        |                                 |                |  |      |      |
| 352,350                      | Stock Assessment and Monitoring | 296,904        | Year 1 of research project scope (reduced payment to industry for surveys as requested by industry 20.02.2023) |      |      |
| 9,764                        | Economic Assessment             | 10,057         | As per contracted services 2023-24   |      |      |
| 476                          | Other Research                  | 306            | Contribution towards Threatened and Endangered Species   |      |      |
| <b>PIRSA RELATED COSTS *</b> |                                 |                |  |      |      |
| 39,375                       | Fisheries Management            | 41,265         | Same level of service as previous year   | 45   | 0.23 |
| 942                          | Legislation                     | 987            | Same level of service as previous year   | 1    | 0.01 |
| 3,792                        | Licensing                       | 3,976          | Same level of service as previous year   | 4    | 0.02 |
| 25,520                       | Compliance                      | 26,740         | Same level of service as previous year   | 20   | 0.10 |
| 2,610                        | Directorate                     | 2,733          | Same level of service as previous year   | 3    | 0.02 |
|                              | Information Services            | 12,692         | Logbook Program – Entry, Validation, management and reporting of data  |      |      |
|                              |                                 |                |  |      |      |
| 6,719                        | FRDC                            | 6,086          | Funding based on 0.25% of rolling three year average GVP   |      |      |
| 97,000                       | Co-Management Services          | 75,000         | Co-Management Services requested for 2023-24   |      |      |
| <b>\$538,548</b>             | <b>TOTAL</b>                    | <b>476,746</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> |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Licence Fee                      | 47,675   |
| <i>Licence Fees 2022-23 (\$)</i> |          |
| Licence Fee                      | \$53,855 |

## Program Daily Charge Out Rate 2023-24

|                               | DAILY RATE (\$) |             |             |            |                      |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|------------|----------------------|
|                               | Compliance      | Directorate | Legislation | Licensing  | Fisheries Management |
| Total Employee Expenses       | 692             | 640         | 764         | 521        | 618                  |
| Total Operating Expenses      | 350             | 127         | 64          | 145        | 166                  |
| Deprecation and Capital Costs | 56              | 0           | 0           | 0          | 0                    |
| Total Other Expenses*         | 239             | 145         | 159         | 328        | 133                  |
| <b>TOTAL DAILY RATE</b>       | <b>1,337</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  | Fishery Policy and Management   | Compliance  | Assessment and Research  | Leasing and Licensing   |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| <p>Maintain ecologically sustainable stock levels.</p> <p>Ensure Optimum utilisation and equitable distribution.</p> | <p>Coordinate implementation and delivery of results from the November, March and May research survey.</p> <p>The delivery of management arrangements in the fishery consistent with the requirements of the Management Plan.</p> | <p>Manage the fishery in accordance with the Management Plan.</p> <p>Facilitate the setting of fishing nights for the season and implementing carry-over of unfished nights.</p> <p>Continue implementation and management of existing programs.</p> <p>Consider change of fishing season period as requested by GSVPMAC.</p> | <p>Implement compliance program, in accordance with risk assessment.</p> <p>Support implementation of Management Plan.</p> <p>Support and provide advice on the development of new management arrangements, where required.</p> <p>Assist industry with the accurate completion of CDR forms and research logbooks.</p> | <p>Conduct and report on fishery-independent survey.</p> <p>Report on standardised commercial CPUE in Advice Note annually in September.</p> <p>Produce annual stock assessment report to assess fishery performance and inform Harvest Strategy.</p> <p>Support implementation of Management Plan.</p> <p>Provide scientific advice as part of the Harvest Strategy review.</p> | <p>Support implementation of Management Plan.</p> <p>Support development of new management arrangements, where required.</p> <p>Support management of fishery through monitoring TACE and nights fished through the season.</p> |
| <p>Minimise impacts on the ecosystem.</p>  | <p>Maintain DAWE EPBC Act accreditation.</p>  | <p>Annual Reporting to maintain DAWE EPBC Act accreditation.</p> <p>Develop bycatch monitoring arrangements.</p>  |   |  |   |



| Long term objectives  | Outcomes  | Fishery Policy and Management   | Compliance   | Assessment and Research   | Leasing and Licensing                          |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| Cost-effective and participative management of the fishery. | Effective engagement with the industry, in accordance with agreed co-management arrangements. | <p>Maintain regular communication with industry representatives.</p> <p>Be accessible to licence holders.</p> <p>Support the industry led Gulf St Vincent Prawn Fishery Management Advisory Committee.</p> <p>Consider amendments to the period of the fishing season as recommended by the GSVPFMAC.</p> | Provide advice on compliance arrangements or requirements where necessary throughout the licensing year. | <p>Maintain regular communication with industry representatives and licence holders.</p> <p>Support the industry led Gulf St Vincent Prawn Fishery Management Advisory Committee.</p> | Provide ongoing support for licensing queries. |

# Fisheries Policy and Management Program

## Program Manager:

Steve Shanks Manager Commercial Fisheries

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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 Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture, 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 Gulf St Vincent Prawn 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

### Program delivery

1. Participate in inter- and intra-departmental meetings and workshops on issues relevant to fisheries management.
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.

3. Liaise within PIRSA, with other government agencies and with industry representatives in implementing decisions relevant to fisheries management.
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.
5. Coordinate consultation with fishery stakeholders through established co-management processes.
6. 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.
7. Participate in industry development initiatives related to fisheries management.
8. Attending to general correspondence and enquiries relevant to fisheries.
9. Provide advice to Minister in relation to the management of fisheries and Ministerial correspondence.
10. Communicate on fisheries management issues to key stakeholder groups and the broader community.

### **Anticipated outcomes**

1. Provision of clear instructions for complex legal drafting or compilation of drafts of simple legislative instruments in consultation with the legal manager as necessary for the management of the Gulf St Vincent Prawn Fishery (regulations, closure notices, licence conditions, Ministerial exemptions etc).
2. Facilitate consultation and implementation of the setting of fishing nights in the fishery.
3. Provide advice to the Minister or his/her delegate on setting total allowable commercial catch and/or effort levels for the Gulf St Vincent Prawn Fishery.
4. Prepare policies to support fisheries management.
5. Prepare submissions to enable regular assessment of the Gulf St Vincent Prawn Fishery under the EPBC Act (1999).
6. Prepare annual report to the Australian Government on EPBC Act (1999) requirements for the Gulf St Vincent Prawn fisheries.
7. Prepare regular fisheries status reports.
8. Develop and maintain day-to-day productive working relationships and outcomes through cooperative management and collaboration with stakeholders.
9. 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. Assist with the work of the Gulf St Vincent Prawn Fishery Management Advisory Committee.
3. Develop and implement Management Plan. Management Plans to include Harvest Strategies that protect sustainability of the fishery based on ESD risk assessment processes.
4. Australian Government recommendations met in relation to EPBC assessment.
5. Setting of fishing effort (fishing nights) for Gulf St Vincent Prawn 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 | 45   | 0.23 | 41,265    |

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

|    | Deliverables   | Due date     |
|----|--|--------------|
| 1. | Coordinate and facilitate the meeting of licence holders in the fishery to seek advice on the setting of fishing nights for the 2023/24 season of the GSVPF.   | October 2023 |
| 2. | Participate in inter and intra-departmental meetings and workshops on issues relevant to fisheries management.   | Ongoing      |
| 3. | Liaise within the Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, with SARDI Aquatic Sciences, other parts of PIRSA on the application, development and implementation of decisions relevant to fisheries management.                                | Ongoing      |
| 4. | Liaise with the Executive Officer of the Saint Vincent Gulf Prawn Boat Owners Association (SVGPBOA) and licence holders in the fishery on the application, development and implementation of decisions relevant to fisheries management. | Ongoing      |
| 5. | Attend to general correspondence and enquiries relevant to fisheries.  | Ongoing      |
| 6. | Provide advice to the Minister in relation to the management of fisheries and Ministerial correspondence.  | Ongoing      |
| 7. | Communicate on fisheries management issues to key stakeholder groups and the broader community.  | Ongoing      |
| 8. | Provide advice to and participate in the Gulf Saint Vincent Prawn Fishery Management Advisory Committee (GSVPFMAC) and Research Sub-Committee (RSC).   | Ongoing      |
| 9. | Lead consideration of amendments to the period of the fishing season as recommended by the GSVPFMAC.   | Dec 2023     |

# Legal Services Program

## Program Manager:

Lambertus Lopez, Manager, Legal and Legislative Programs

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## Program summary

PIRSA Fisheries & Aquaculture Directorate provides legal services to the Executive Director and all other members of the Division, in particular the policy group, on a daily basis. Among other things these services include strategic advice and problem solving, review of draft documentation and correspondence, statutory interpretation and the provision of general advice and statutory interpretation, in consultation with the Crown Solicitor's Office where necessary, regarding any legal issues relating to proposed actions and the implementation or administration of Gulf St Vincent Prawn 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 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 | 1.00 | 0.01 | 987       |

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

### Anticipated outcomes

|    | Deliverables  | Due date |
|----|---|----------|
| 1. | Co-ordinate 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> | Ongoing  |

|    |  |         |
|----|--|---------|
|    | (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 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.   |         |
| 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 variation of the fishing night system or carry over arrangements of such a system) 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 | 4    | 0.02 | 3,976     |

**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.  | Recording and tracking of fishing night entitlements.   | Ongoing  |
| 4.  | Apply undercatch adjustments to fishing night entitlements for unused nights in previous fishing periods.   | Ongoing  |
| 5.  | Collect licence fees and associated payments.   | Ongoing  |
| 6.  | Compose and send quarterly instalment notices.  | Ongoing  |
| 7.  | Record and track unpaid invoices.   | Ongoing  |
| 8.  | Compose and send late payment instalment notices for unpaid quarterly instalments.  | Ongoing  |
| 9.  | Draft and issue notices to fishers.   | Ongoing  |
| 10. | 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, application for licence transfers, boat changes, gear enquiries and fishing regulations. | Ongoing  |
| 11. | Regularly update information about licence holders.   | Ongoing  |
| 12. | Research and prepare documents for public record.   | Ongoing  |
| 13. | Liaise with government stakeholders to verify the credentials of fishers.   | Ongoing  |
| 14. | Liaise with PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture, SARDI Aquatic Sciences, Crown Solicitors and other state and local agencies on matters relevant to the fishery.  | Ongoing  |
| 15. | Draft and update licence conditions over the duration of the licensing year as determined by the Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture.   | Ongoing  |
| 16. | Provide information to licence holders relating to the requirements pursuant to licence administration.   | Ongoing  |
| 17. | Manage calls from fishers regarding late payment notices, fees and general enquiries about their licences.  | Ongoing  |
| 18. | 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 entitlement reports to update stakeholders on varying Total Allowable Commercial Effort (TACE) returns and end of season fishing night holdings. | Ongoing |

# Directorate Program

## Program Manager:

Randel Donovan, A/General Manager, Regulatory and Business Services

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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    | 0.02 | 2,733     |

**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 of the Cost Recovery agreement to industry Executive Officer  | September |

# Fisheries Compliance Operations Program

## Program Manager:

Gary Darter, A/ Regional Manager

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## State Coordinator:

Dale McKerlie, Fisheries Officer

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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 Gulf St Vincent Prawn 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 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 (Fish Processors) Regulations 2007*

*Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2007*

*Fisheries Management (Demerit Points) Regulations 2009*

*Fisheries Management (Prawn Fisheries) Regulations 2006*

*Gulf St. Vincent Prawn Fishery 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 behaviours 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.

PIRSA has continually reviewed the Gulf St. Vincent Prawn Fishery compliance program, gaining efficiencies through data driven and targeted operations and re-directing compliance effort where necessary to address current and emerging issues and risks.

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

*Table 1: GSVP Effort Allocation Against Compliance Outputs*

| Compliance Outputs                                | Days      | FTE         | Cost (\$)     |
|---|-----------|-------------|---------------|
| Education Awareness                               | 7         | 0.035       | 9,359         |
| Effective Deterrence, Monitoring and Surveillance | 12        | 0.06        | 16,044        |
| Enforcement                                       | 1         | 0.005       | 1,337         |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                                     | <b>20</b> | <b>0.10</b> | <b>26,740</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).
- Vessel Monitoring System (VMS).
- Commercial Fishing Application.

## **Delivery outputs**

The coordination of compliance outputs is guided by an industry specific compliance plan which was developed in consultation with the Gulf St. Vincent Prawn Industry. The plan ensures compliance effort is intelligence driven, efficient, and 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 Prawns. 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 education meetings with new entrants into the fishery and participate in industry days.
- Provide electronic distribution of educational material to fishers and licence holders.
- Ensure all interested parties understand their respective obligations.
- Develop Industry communication & relationship programs to facilitate discussion of topics such as compliance inspection outcomes, bycatch and other issues impacting the Gulf St. Vincent Prawn Fishery.
- Ongoing one on one education during inspections.

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

- Ensure all aspects of monitoring, such as prior reporting, that chain of custody requirements are met in keeping information provided, and auditing of declared fishing nights.
- Ensure all aspects of commercial fishing activities are monitored such as inspections of catch at sea, when landed, in transit and at 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 expiations and caution notices.
- Prepare briefs of evidence for the Crown Solicitors office to consider the commencement of 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 Gulf St. Vincent Prawn Fishery.

1. Failing to Prior Report Tradeable Fishing Nights.
2. Take Protected or Non Permitted Species.
3. Use Illegal Fishing Gear & Equipment.
4. Fish in Closed Areas or Outside Prescribed Areas and Times.
5. Interactions with Obstructions on the Sea Floor.

## **Deliverables**

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

# Stock Assessment and Monitoring Program

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## 1. Project details

### 1.1 Title

Saint Vincent Gulf Prawn Fishery

### 1.2 Subcontractor/Collaborator

Saint Vincent Gulf Prawn Boat Owners' Association Incorporated

### 1.3 Timeframe

Commencement Date:            1 July 2023

Completion Date:                30 June 2024

### 1.4 Summary

This is the research program scope for the Gulf St Vincent Prawn Fishery (GSVPPF) in 2023/24.

This Research Scope continues to reflect the reduced scope of work for the Gulf St Vincent (GSV) prawn fishery that commenced in 2014/15. This reflects (1) the outcomes from two independent reviews (Knuckey *et al.* 2011; Morgan and Cartwright 2013); and (2) the closure of the fishery in 2012/13 and 2013/14.

The primary outputs are an annual stock assessment report due 31 October (2023) to inform 2022/23 stock status and management in 2023/24, and gulf-wide fishery-independent surveys (FIS) conducted in November 2023, March 2024 and May 2024, to inform 2023/24 stock status and management in 2024/25.



## **2. Project description**

### **2.1 Background**

There are currently 10 licence holders in the GSV prawn fishery. Production from the fishery reached 273 t in 2008/09 (excluding survey catch) but declined to 223 t in 2009/10 and 125 t in 2011/12 before the fishery was closed in 2012/13. The number of stock assessment surveys required for the fishery was reduced from four to one (during May) from 2013/14. Following the review of the management plan, that took effect in July 2022, three surveys are now undertaken in each fishing season. A survey to inform fishing strategies is undertaken in November. Two stock assessment surveys are then undertaken in March and April/May of the following year. Comparison of survey results between years provides an effective measure of changes in relative biomass and stock status. Commercial catch/effort and fishery-independent data are integrated in stock assessment and stock status reports.

### **2.2 Need**

This project addresses the need for scientific information to support sustainable use of the GSV prawn resource.

### **2.3 Objectives**

- 2.3.1 Collect and analyse FIS data;
- 2.3.2 Analyse fisher logbook information; and
- 2.3.2 Provide a stock assessment report

### **2.4 Methods**

#### 2.4.1 FIS data:

- Surveys to be undertaken with industry using commercial vessels.
- FIS in November 2023, March 2024 and April/May 2024 (full surveys, 5 boats, 2 nights).
- Provide independent observers for each boat of the FIS to monitor prawn size and abundance.

### 3. Deliverables

The key deliverables of the 2023/24 GSVPF 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       | Advice Note on 2022/23 Standardised annual CPUE delivered  | 15 September 2023 |
| This SLA       | 2022/23 Stock Assessment Report delivered  | 31 October 2023   |
| This SLA       | Stock assessment presentations to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture and Industry delivered as required   | 31 October 2023   |
| This SLA       | November/December Fishery Independent Survey (FIS) completed   | 31 December 2023  |
| This SLA       | March Fishery Independent Survey (FIS) completed   | 31 March 2024     |
| This SLA       | April/May Fishery Independent Survey (FIS) completed   | 31 May 2024       |
| This SLA       | Advice Note on March and April/May 2024 FIS delivered  | 30 June 2024      |
| 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) | 31 December 2023  |

#### 3.1 Service Provided:

##### 3.1.1 *Analyse and report*

- Provide a stock assessment report summarising key data.
- Provide Advice Notes (commercial CPUE, FIS results)

##### 3.1.2 *Industry and Policy liaison*

- Participate and contribute to PIRSA/industry meetings where needed as the research representative.
- Participate in the Gulf St Vincent Prawn Fishery licence holders meetings.
- Respond to requests from PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture.

##### 3.1.3 *Reporting*

- Attend GSVPF industry meetings including preparation and follow up.
- Keep the industry informed of research projects relevant to the GSVPF through the GSVPF MAC.
- Update SA fisheries status report as required.

### 3.2 Outcomes:

- Stock assessment of the GSVPF.
- Advice on the survey results measures against the performance indicators and reference points in the Management Plan.
- Advice to support fishery management from stock assessment outputs.

### 3.3. Outputs and extension:

- Provide an Advice Note on the standardised annual (seasonal) commercial catch per unit effort (CPUE) by 15 September 2023.
- Provide an annual assessment report (2022/23 season) on the GSVPF to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture by 31 October 2023 that documents, analyses and interprets the available data and assesses the fishery against the performance indicators identified in the Management Plan.
- Provide provisional data summary for the November/December 2023 fisheries independent survey to inform November/December commercial fishing strategies
- Annual presentation to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture and the Management Committee of the SVGPBOA on the stock assessment of the GSVPF (2022/2023).
- Provide an Advice Note on the March and April/May 2024 fisheries independent surveys that summarise survey results by 30 June 2024.

## 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<br>\$ (GST N/A) | Total SARDI In-kind<br>\$ (GST N/A) | Total Project Cost<br>\$ (GST N/A) |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2022/23 (additional work*) | \$11,206  | \$2,359                             | \$13,565                           |
| 2023/24                    | \$285,698                                       | \$28,881                            | \$314,579                          |
| TOTAL PROJECT              | \$296,904                                       | \$31,240                            | \$328,144                          |

\*November 2022 survey; funds (\$11,206 for SARDI salary and operating costs) recovered in 2023/24.

### 4.3 Milestone and payment schedule

| Date              | Milestone   | Payment (\$) Ex GST |
|-------------------|---|---------------------|
| 15 September 2023 | Advice Note: 2022/23 Standardised annual CPUE results |                     |
| 31 October 2023   | 2022/23 Assessment Report                             |                     |
| 31 December 2023  | November/December FIS completed                       |                     |
| 31 December 2023  | First Half Payment 2023/24 SLA                        | \$142,849           |
| 31 December 2023  | 2022/23 (additional work*)                            | \$11,206            |
| 31 March 2024     | March FIS completed                                   |                     |
| 30 April 2024     | Advice Note: March 2024 survey results                |                     |
| 31 May 2024       | April/May FIS completed                               |                     |
| 31 May 2024       | Second Half Payment 2023/24 SLA                       | \$142,849           |
| 30 June 2024      | Advice Note March and April/May 2024 survey results   |                     |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b>   |   | <b>\$296,904</b>    |
| <b>GST</b>        |   | <b>NO GST</b>       |
| <b>TOTAL COST</b> |   | <b>\$296,904</b>    |

\*November 2022 survey; funds (\$11,206 for SARDI salary and operating costs) recovered in 2023/24.

### 5. Project staff

| Staff                     | 2023/24 FTE |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Senior Research Scientist | 0.21        |
| Research Scientist        | 0.05        |
| Principal Scientist       | 0.06        |
| Research Officer          | 0.28        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>              | <b>0.60</b> |

## 1. Project cost summary

| Cost   | Detail     | 2023/24<br>Total (\$) Ex GST |
|--|------------|------------------------------|
| Salaries (FTE)                                   |            | 0.60                         |
| Salaries (\$)                                    |            | 94,284                       |
| <b>Operating</b>                                 |            |                              |
| Payment to industry for surveys (\$)             |            | 135,000                      |
| November 2022 survey; funds recovered in 2023/24 |            | 11,206                       |
| Contractors                                      |            |                              |
| Fieldwork (\$)                                   |            | 7,500                        |
| Laboratory (\$)                                  |            |                              |
| Travel (\$)                                      |            |                              |
| Office & communication (\$)                      |            | 1,000                        |
| Capital equipment (\$)                           |            |                              |
| SARDI overhead (\$)                              |            | 47,914                       |
| SARDI inkind (\$)                                |            | 31,240                       |
| <b>Total Cost (\$)</b>                           |            | <b>328,144</b>               |
|  |            |                              |
| <b>Revenue – PRICE</b>                           |            |                              |
| PIRSA F&A (\$)                                   | <b>92%</b> | 296,904                      |
| <b>Total Revenue (\$)</b>                        |            | <b>296,904</b>               |
|  |            |                              |
| <b>SARDI Investment (\$)</b>                     | <b>8%</b>  | <b>31,240</b>                |

Explanation of costs above:

*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

