

# PIRSA

## **Annual Report on PIRSA's Service Delivery on the Cost Recovery Agreement for the Tuna 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 Tuna 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 future wild-caught tuna quota increases. 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 Tuna 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"> <li>• Two month public consultation period</li> <li>• Two public briefings (Adelaide and Port Lincoln) to assist submissions</li> <li>• Three aquaculture sector briefings, including with the Tuna Sector, to assist submissions</li> <li>• Review of submissions and amendments to the Draft Policy and Policy Report</li> </ul>
4.	Ongoing liaison and consultation with relevant government departments, prescribed bodies and relevant stakeholders in relation to zone policy development.
5.	Provided advice to stakeholders/members of the public in relation to existing aquaculture zone allocations (i.e. area, biomass, etc).
6.	Provided input to a range of State and Commonwealth Government environmental and conservation initiatives, to ensure aquaculture zone development objectives and aspirations were taken into account and factored in to broader policy development.
7.	Provided advice to the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) on proposed port facilities in Spencer Gulf and Kangaroo Island.
8.	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.
9.	Held an aquaculture development scenario testing workshop with DIT, Department for Environment and Water (DEW), Environment Protection Authority (EPA), council planners, and aquaculture industry representatives, including the Tuna Sector, to assist industry understand DIT's new planning system and to provide feedback.
10.	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.

11.	Reviewed and provided a response to the EPA on their Dredge Guidelines to mitigate potential impacts to the aquaculture industry.
12.	Attended the annual meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) in Cape Town, South Africa, as an observer of the Australian delegation to support the South Australian Tuna Sector.
13.	Undertook a two month public call for lease tenure applications within the <i>Aquaculture (Zones – Lower Eyre Peninsula) Policy 2013</i> to be submitted to the Aquaculture Tenure Allocation Board (ATAB) for consideration, which included lease tenure for the Tuna Sector.
14.	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> public call. Draft internal procedures for ATAB meetings to assess applications for lease tenure were also tabled.
15.	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> .
16.	Commenced review of current and future provisions for the rehabilitation of aquaculture leases.
17.	Facilitated the preparation of an industry led application to address workplace wellness for the seafood sector in South Australia.

# Aquaculture Leasing and Licensing

	Deliverables																		
1.	Ongoing maintenance of internal licence audit functions, including auditing procedures (flowcharts, checklists and manuals) and performance relating to tuna 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.	Commenced a review of 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 Tuna Sector.																		
7.	Conducted audits of internal processes and functions including application checklists.																		
8.	Records management of leasing and licensing documentation.																		
9.	<p>Processing of tuna applications (see table below).</p> <table> <tr> <th>Tuna: Application Type</th><th>Number Completed</th></tr> <tr> <td>Licence variation* (species addition)</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lease movement*</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lease renewal</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lease amalgamation</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr> <td>Licence amalgamation</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr> <td>Licence Transfer</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lease Transfer</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lease Surrender</td><td>1</td></tr> </table> <p>*Environmental assessment and interagency referral conducted</p>	Tuna: Application Type	Number Completed	Licence variation* (species addition)	3	Lease movement*	3	Lease renewal	12	Lease amalgamation	2	Licence amalgamation	2	Licence Transfer	3	Lease Transfer	3	Lease Surrender	1
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10.	Processed annual production returns from the Tuna Sector. This included following-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 production leases up to 30 years.																		
12.	Processed requests for information from licence holders via front counter, phone or e-mail.																		
13.	Liaised with government stakeholders to verify the credentials of lease/licence holders for application processing as required.																		

14.	Issued outstanding and annual invoices (including quarterly reminders) relating to licence renewals, transfers and/or surrenders for 13 Tuna licences.
15.	Reconciled receipt of annual lease and licence fees, application fees and liaised with Shared Services SA as required.
16.	Continuing to deliver outcomes of 90 Day project to streamline application processes.
17.	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 <i>Aquaculture Act 2001</i> 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.	Reviewed 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 of several leases 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"> <li>• Routine site inspections undertaken by Fisheries Officers.</li> <li>• Reports made to PIRSA subsequent to compliance inspections outline any compliance issues with a site and include photographs and site waypoints.</li> <li>• Follow up inspections were required for sites that have identified compliance issues.</li> <li>• These inspections were carried out within a reasonable timeframe, with due consideration of the risks to other users of the waters or resource.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
2.	<p>Fisheries Officers, in conjunction with SAPOL Officers, conducted extensive monitoring of Port Lincoln based launch sites for the month of June. A number of sea based patrols were conducted over high theft likelihood periods (Saturday / Sunday nights) with nil suspicious boating activity in and around the sites detected. This followed a three week period in which a high number of mortality (Tuna located in cages with evidence of gaff marks) were reported. The Regional Manager West continued to liaise with growers in relation to each incident. A media release was lodged with nil information from the general public resulting. Covert and overt surveillance of feed and dive vessels was conducted. Inquiries were made with transport companies. Social media was monitored. No potential outlets for sale of illegally caught farmed Tuna were identified. Further compliance activities to be undertaken next season.</p>
3.	<p>Rehabilitated sites in Boston Bay and the Port Lincoln Aquaculture (outer zone) were inspected to determine compliance with associated requirements.</p>
4.	<p>The Tuna (Tourism) site at Victor Harbour was inspected to ascertain compliance with lease / licence requirements. Theft of Tuna from the venture remains a significant risk following conviction of a person for theft of Tuna from the venture.</p>
5.	<p>Communication and monitoring activities are undertaken by PIRSA and related SA government agencies to ensure compliance by Tuna 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 are 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 Tuna 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 Tuna 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 is 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 is 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 is 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 includes 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 Tuna 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) may include testing of various functionalities, liaison with the PIRSA IT group and requests for further updates to systems and software.
11.	Investigated the option to amend Tuna lease and licence certificates and the information on the public register to reflect an alternative coordinate system as requested by ASBTIA.

# Aquatic Animal Health

	Deliverables
1.	Twelve finfish related mortality events reported to PIRSA and investigated. Samples submitted to the laboratory and tested to rule out disease. No significant or notifiable diseases detected.
2.	Harmful algae bloom ( <i>Karenia mikimotoi</i> ) was investigated and monitored in the Boston Bay and Louth Bay area, and Hardwicke Bay. No fish mortalities were attributed to this bloom; however, high mortalities (sea cucumbers and abalone) were reported and investigated at Hardwicke Bay in August 2019. 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> ).
3.	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.
4.	Assessed and processed two veterinary prescriptions to support Ministerial approvals for off-label use of veterinary medicines to maintain fish health and welfare. Liaise with industry veterinarian, EPA, adjacent mussel industry and other government departments during assessment.
5.	Assisted with progress of permit and registration for veterinary medicines with Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) through meetings, workshops and communications with APVMA, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, FRDC, National Aquaculture Council, aquaculture industry sectors, EPA, PIRSA rural chemicals, veterinarians and researchers.
6.	Assessment and advice to the PIRSA Fisheries policy group on finfish stock release applications to ensure the risks of introduction and spread of disease in State waters are minimised.
7.	Commenced the project (Department of the Agriculture, Water, and the Environment /FRDC: 2019-088) "Development of a national sector-specific biosecurity plan guideline and template for the sea-cage finfish (non-salmonid) industry of Australia." This included a workshop between industry and government representatives, including from other jurisdictions
8.	Presented at the Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Industry Association (ASBTIA) and FRDC Workshop in Port Lincoln on biosecurity, hydrodynamic forecasting and algae blooms.
9.	Conducted Emergency Disease Response training and updated PIRSA Emergency Response Plans as required with PIRSA Biosecurity SA.
10.	Provided advice and review of documentation in relation to disease risks posed by aquatic pests (including a compliance case), biofouling and ballast water management.
11.	Communications sent to all fish processors reminding them of the disease risks and current legislative restrictions for processing and distribution of fish waste for bait and berley, including the duty to prevent the introduction and spread of notifiable diseases.
12.	Meetings attended, reviewed documents, contributed to national policy developments and represented South Australia on the national Sub-Committee on Aquatic Animal Health (SCAAH).
13.	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).
14.	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 11 Tuna licences. Analysis included viewing against EMP data against the Regulations, biomass held on site, and mapping of the co-ordinates of sea-cages to determine if fallowing occurred on site and position of sea-cages relative to the lease boundaries.
2.	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.
3.	Conducted Ecologically Sustainable Development assessments and management of EPA referral for Tuna applications (3 movements, 3 variations – algae addition) (see Aquaculture Leasing and Licencing section*).
4.	Reviewed the draft report for the 2015/16 to 2018/19 (4-year) Regional Environmental Monitoring Program for the Tuna Sector in Lower Spencer Gulf.
5.	Developed and implemented the 2019/20 to 2023/24 (4-year) Regional Environmental Monitoring Program for the Tuna Sector in Lower Spencer Gulf (in conjunction with EPA, SARDI and industry) that included specific research to monitor impacts of aquaculture nutrients on seagrass. This included a number of workshops between PIRSA, SARDI, industry and the EPA to discuss the design of the program. As part of this, SARDI modelled nutrient outputs to determine suitable sites for sampling.
6.	Responded to environmental issues related to the Tuna Sector, including marine debris and pollution.
7.	Ongoing maintenance of reporting databases for environmental compliance matters, marine debris and chemical use.
8.	Conducted bi-monthly meetings with the EPA to discuss and prioritise environmental issues and projects relating to aquaculture industry.
9.	Liaised with Fisheries Officers for environmental issues related to the Tuna Sector.
10.	Provided data to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment regarding the SA Tuna Farm register (Tuna site locations and company names/contacts) on three occasions.

# 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.
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 Tuna 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 Tuna 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 the Tuna Sector as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Other Aquaculture Activities

	Deliverables
1.	2018/19 annual economic report, incorporating Tuna Sector data, drafted.
2.	2017/18 annual economic report, incorporating Tuna Sector data, finalised and published on PIRSA website.
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 Tuna industry's annual contribution to the FRDC.
5.	Managed the 2018/19 fund transfer to the FRDC as prescribed in the ASBTIA Industry Partnership Agreement.

