

Cost Recovery Implementation Statement for the Marine Scalefish Fishery

1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

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

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 (Marine Scalefish Fishery)

2022-23 (\$)	PROGRAM AREA	2023-24 (\$)	COMMENTS	DAYS	FTE
RESEARCH COSTS					
809,644	Stock Assessment and Monitoring	741,316	1 year research project scope		
27,377	Economic Assessment	28,199	As per contracted services 2023-24		
15,197	Other Research	9,758	Contribution towards Threatened and Endangered Species		
PIRSA RELATED COSTS					
192,500	Fisheries Management	201,740	Same level of service as previous year	220	1.10
9,420	Legislation	9,870	Same level of service as previous year	10	0.05
85,320	Licensing	89,460	Same level of service as previous year	90	0.45
13,920	Directorate	14,576	Same level of service as previous year	16	0.08
1,233,892	Compliance	1,292,879	Same level of service as previous year	967	4.84
41,160	Vessel	43,134	Same level of service as previous year	6	0.03
	Information Services	192,912	Logbook Program – Entry, validation, management and reporting of data		
OTHER COSTS					
49,533	FRDC	48,577	Funding based on 0.25% of rolling three year average GVP		
171,886	Co-Management Services	155,000	Co-management services requested for 2023-24		
2,649,849	*TOTAL	2,827,421			

Licence Fees 2023-24 (\$)	
Base Fee	5,940
Base Fee (with GSV, or Spender Gulf or West Coast Snapper quota)	2,970
Net Fee	5,432
Licence Fees 2022-23 (\$)	
Base Fee	2,800
Net Fee	5,037

* Note: true costs are reflected above, noting 50% reduction to the base fee applicable to licences with GSV, or Spencer Gulf or West Coast due to the snapper management arrangements from 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2026.

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

Program Daily Charge Out Rate 2023-24

		DAILY RATE (\$)					
		Compliance	Vessel	Quota	Directorate	Legislation	Fisheries Management
Total Employee Expenses	692	2,568	453	640	764	521	618
Total Operating Expenses	350	2,972	151	127	64	145	166
Deprecation and Capital Costs	56	1,027	0	0	0	0	0
Total Other Expenses*	239	621	304	145	159	328	133
TOTAL DAILY RATE	1,337	7,189	906	911	987	994	917

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 (Marine Scalefish Fishery)

Management Plan Goals	Outcomes	Fisheries Management	Compliance	Assessment and Research	Leasing and Licensing
Ensure MSF resources are harvested within ecologically sustainable limits.	<p>Implement Management Plan.</p> <p>Monitor the biological performance of the fishery and ensure the collection of fishery and biological data.</p>	<p>Lead implementation of current Management Plan.</p> <p>Lead development of replacement management plan.</p> <p>Lead update of Harvest Strategies as appropriate.</p> <p>Provide executive support to the Marine Scalefish Fishery Management Advisory Committee (MSFMAC) and research sub-committee</p> <p>Consider annual stock assessment and stock status report with the Marine Fishers Association /SARDI and address any performance indicators (Harvest Strategy) as needed.</p>	<p>Implement and review fishery compliance plan, informed by risk assessment.</p> <p>Support development of new Management Plan.</p> <p>Support implementation of Snapper management changes</p>	<p>Support implementation of Management Plan.</p> <p>Support development of new Management Plan.</p> <p>Support review Harvest Strategies as necessary.</p> <p>Progress and finalise FRDC projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries biology of Western Australian Salmon • Post release survival and movement of Snapper • Pre-recruit index of Snapper • Developing a positive cultural attitude towards capture and release of sharks and rays <p>Market sampling of key species to feed into fishery assessment</p>	<p>Support implementation of new Management Plan.</p> <p>Implement changes to licensing systems and update licences as required.</p>

Management Plan Goals	Outcomes	Fisheries Management	Compliance	Assessment and Research	Leasing and Licensing
				reports as per schedule in the Harvest Strategy. Fishery assessment report with stock assessment for King George Whiting as per schedule in the Harvest Strategy. Provide advice on management arrangements for snapper stocks where required,	
Minimise impacts on the ecosystem	Address recommendations and conditions from EPBC Act accreditation.	Address conditions and recommendations of export approval under the EPBC Act as required.		TEPS annual report.	
Optimum utilisation and equitable distribution of Marine Scalefish Fishery resources.	Manage catch of each sector within allocated shares.	Review any breaches of allocations consistent with Management Plan and implement management arrangements as necessary		Status reports include assessment of catches against allocation triggers.	
	Improve economic efficiencies and financial returns within the constraints of sustainability imperatives	Lead on the progression and implementation of red tape reduction proposals provided by the RTRWG and MFA			
Cost-effective and participative	Support industry body to participate and function within the co-management	Support MFA in the development and implementation of a	Implement and review fishery compliance	Industry liaison, attendance of meetings with MFA and provision	Provide ongoing support for licensing queries.

Management Plan Goals	Outcomes	Fisheries Management	Compliance	Assessment and Research	Leasing and Licensing
management of the fishery.	framework of the fishery and support the industry representative body investigate ways to improve their co-management responsibilities.	<p>consultative model within the MSF.</p> <p>Develop and implement communication protocol, with annual review.</p> <p>Regular communication with industry and Executive Officer, MFA and attendance of meetings, as required.</p> <p>Executive support for the MSFMAC and other co-management meetings when required</p> <p>Assist the fishery in supporting the participation of licence holders in any implementation of government policy.</p>	<p>plan, informed by risk assessment.</p> <p>Attend meetings with MFA and provide compliance advice, as required.</p> <p>Lead updates to MSF operator user guide as required.</p> <p>Input and expertise into the internal reference group, to ensure the reform package is consistent with the legislative requirements of the <i>Fisheries Management Act 2007</i> projects and support of implementation</p>	<p>of research advice, as required.</p> <p>Administer and participate in MAC meetings, and other co-management meetings when required</p> <p>Input and expertise into the Commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery Reform Advisory Committee.</p>	<p>Support and coordination of FISHWATCH number and commercial app.</p> <p>Support updates to MSF operator user guide, as required.</p> <p>Input and expertise into the internal reference group, to ensure the reform package is consistent with the legislative requirements of the <i>Fisheries Management Act 2007</i> projects and support of implementation.</p>

Fisheries Management Program

Program Manager:

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Program summary

The Fisheries Management Unit of PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture undertakes activities such as day-to-day management, long-term planning and policy development for South Australian commercial, recreational and Aboriginal traditional fisheries.

The Fisheries Management unit has the following core functions:

- Administer the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* and regulations.
- Day-to-day management of fisheries resources, to ensure catch and effort levels are commensurate with resource sustainability.
- Develop and implement Management Plans, including Harvest Strategy development and ESD risk assessment, in accordance with the *Fisheries Management Act 2007*.
- Provide advice to the 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 the Marine Scalefish Fishery to government and industry, as well as advice and facilitation of fisheries policy and management issues, through the Fisheries Policy and 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, performance against sector allocations, 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 the 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. Prepare day-to-day necessary legislative instruments and/or advice required for the management of the Marine Scalefish Fishery (regulations, catch limits, closure notices, licence conditions, Ministerial exemptions etc.).
2. Prepare policies to support fisheries management.
3. Develop and maintain day-to-day productive working relationships and outcomes through cooperative management and collaboration with stakeholders.
4. Deliver quality and timely responses to correspondence.
5. 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. Industry representative body investigate ways to improve their co-management responsibilities, consistent with the Co-Management Policy.
3. Review current management plan and develop replacement Management Plan . Management Plan to include Harvest Strategies that protect sustainability of the fishery based on ESD risk assessment processes.
4. Australian Government recommendations and conditions met in relation to EPBC Act 1999 assessment.

5. Setting of TACCs for Marine Scalefish primary species.
6. Red-tape reduction measures considered and implemented where appropriate.

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	220	1.10	201,740

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

	Deliverables	Due date
1.	Participate in inter and intra-departmental meetings and workshops on issues relevant to fisheries management.	Ongoing
2.	Liaise within the Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, with SARDI Aquatic Sciences, other parts of PIRSA, other State and Commonwealth agencies and local government on matters relevant to fisheries management.	Ongoing
3.	Liaise within PIRSA, with other government agencies and with industry representatives in implementing decisions relevant to fisheries management.	Ongoing
4.	Coordinate consultation with fishery stakeholders through established co-management processes	Ongoing
5.	Work with industry to develop a strategic workplan for the year	July 2023
6.	Provide executive support to the MSFMAC and Research Sub-Committee and lead the development and/ or coordination of MSFMAC papers	Ongoing
7.	Progress development of a replacement management plan for the Marine Scalefish Fishery	30 June 2024
8.	Review and prepare draft harvest strategies for Marine Scalefish Fishery priority species	30 June 2024
9.	Set total allowable commercial catches (TACCs) for the four priority species in the fishery	May 2024
10.	Apply the tiered management framework for the Marine Scalefish Fishery	Ongoing
11.	Conduct regular assessment or review of existing management arrangements for fisheries management, including statistical information on fisheries, and interactions with threatened, endangered and protected species.	Ongoing

12.	Lead on the review and implementation of approved red tape reduction initiatives	Ongoing
13.	Participate in industry liaison in the field and on vessels to strengthen fishery management knowledge and understanding and develop rapport with licence holders.	Ongoing
14.	Participate in industry initiatives related to fisheries management, such as utilising lesser known species and evaluating the socioeconomic impacts	Ongoing
15.	Attend to general correspondence and enquiries relevant to the Marine Scalefish Fishery.	Ongoing
16.	Lead on the processing of Ministerial exemptions and permits related to the Marine Scalefish Fishery	Ongoing
17.	Provide advice to Minister in relation to the management of fisheries and Ministerial correspondence.	Ongoing
18.	Communicate on fisheries management issues to key stakeholder groups and the broader community.	Ongoing

Legal Services Program

Program Manager:

Lambertus Lopez, Manager, Legal and Legislative Programs

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Program summary

PIRSA Fisheries and 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 Marine Scalefish Fishery 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	10	0.05	9,870

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

Anticipated outcomes

	Deliverables	Due date
1.	Co-ordinate and review the introduction, amendment or revocation of Fisheries legislation in line with Fisheries Policy decisions i.e. Act or regulation amendments, the introduction of new regulations and drafting of other legislative and administrative instruments such as delegations, licences, permits, closures or exemption instruments as required under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 2007</i> (the Act). New regulations or amendments require the drafting of Cabinet submissions and supporting documentation, including the preparation of drafting instructions, for consideration by Cabinet. This service includes co-ordinating and review of the cabinet process and working with the Office of Parliamentary Counsel and the Crown Solicitor's Office and other government agencies to ensure that proposed regulatory arrangements are accurately described, drafted and scrutinised before being implemented.	Ongoing
2.	Review licensing arrangements required on an as needs basis to lawfully implement approved fishery management policy and measures within the limitations of the Act. The service includes working with the Licensing program (part of Leasing and Licensing) and policy program to ensure licence conditions are effective and where necessary to implement efficient administrative systems and finalise forms and instruments that are legally sound.	Ongoing
3.	Problem solve and review policy developments together with the provision and co-ordination of legal advisory services in liaison with the Crown Solicitor's office relating to and the lawful implementation and administration of the Act, regulations and fisheries management policies, interaction with other Acts, and the defence of those policies and arrangements raised in litigation or industry correspondence.	Ongoing
4.	Coordinate applications for Ministerial exemptions under Part 10 Division 1 and Permits under Part 7 Division 2 of the Act and review draft notices.	Ongoing
5.	Additional legal services to support and review, on an as needs basis, the legislative compliance of decision-making documentation created for the Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture and the Director Operations and other delegates of the Minister under the Act to safeguard the ongoing sustainability of a fishery in any particular year (where required), depending on positive or negative scientific indicators, to implement new fisheries management arrangements (for example the introduction or variation of a quota system, carry over of quota or reporting arrangements) or new administrative or compliance arrangements (for example, changes to licensing processes, conditions, introduction and variation of fishing closures).	Ongoing
6.	Support compliance for statutory interpretation, problem solving and correspondence advice (per above).	Ongoing

Leasing and Licensing

Program Manager:

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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.
4. Provide fee relief as a result of the Snapper closure.

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	90	0.45	89,460

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

	Deliverables	Due date
	Services to directly support the fishery	
1.	Issue and maintain fishery licences.	Ongoing
2.	Database management for licences and licence holder information.	Ongoing
3.	Manage changes to licences as part of the on-going MSF reform of management arrangements.	Ongoing
4.	Manage and maintain quota trading system and the ability to pay online.	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 and quota, application for licence transfers, boat and master 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	Ongoing

	and quota transfers, as well as provide advice and support to fishers on licence information, to complete the required forms.	
19.	Quota monitoring and management including applying over-catch and under-catch adjustments	Ongoing
	Services to support fisheries management	
1.	Participate in inter and intra departmental meetings and workshops on issues relevant to the fishing industry.	Ongoing
2.	Liaise with relevant staff within PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture in implementing decisions relevant to the fishery.	Ongoing
3.	Interrogate the PIIMS database to extract information for other stakeholders to use in preparing reports.	Ongoing
4.	Prepare reports requested by internal and external customers including maintenance of a public register of licence holders.	Ongoing
5.	Liaise with information technology providers to maintain PIIMS and administer licensing requests.	Ongoing
6.	Generate quota management reports to update stakeholders on varying Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) returns and end of season quota holdings.	Ongoing
7.	Provide administrative assistance to the MSF Reform process in relation to licence surrenders, licence holder history, and implementation of new quota entitlements.	Ongoing

Directorate Program

Program Manager:

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Program summary

Business Services, within the Directorate Unit of PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture, provides a range of services to support fisheries management. These include coordinating the cost recovery process and establishing agreements with service providers; coordinating program provider reports; administering external contracts and agreements; and providing audit, financial and human resource functions.

Objectives

To provide support services to government and industry, as well as advice and facilitation of corporate related policy and management issues, through the Directorate Program that incorporates the Fisheries and Aquaculture Business Services unit.

Program strategies and supporting actions and initiatives

Program effort allocation

The table below includes an abbreviated suite of core activities and initiatives used to manage risks and reflect the anticipated split of effort and associated costs.

Activity	Days	FTE	Cost (\$)
Directorate	16	0.08	14,576

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:

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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 Marine Scalefish Fishery. The objective of the compliance activities (outputs) is to minimise the risks to aquatic resource sustainability, resource allocation and access rights and ultimately commercial economic viability.

The coordination of the compliance outputs is guided by an industry specific compliance plan which was developed in consultation with the Marine Scalefish 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 (Marine Scalefish Fisheries) Regulations 2017

Fisheries Management (Fish Processors) Regulations 2017

Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017 Schedule 2

Fisheries Management (Demerit Points) Regulations 2017

Fisheries Management (Rock Lobster Fisheries) Regulations 2017

Marine Scalefish Management Fishery 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 Marine Scalefish 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:

Compliance Outputs	Days	FTE	Cost (\$)
Education Awareness	130	0.65	173,810
Effective Deterrence, Monitoring and Surveillance	557	2.79	744,709
Enforcement	280	1.40	374,360
TOTAL OFFICER DAYS	967	4.84	1,292,879
Offshore Patrol Vessel	6		43,134

Please Note; to comply with Work Health and Safety obligations and evidentiary requirements, operational activities are generally required to be undertaken by a minimum of two (2) officers at any time.

IT systems, technology and data

Fisheries and Aquaculture Compliance Operations are supported by a number of electronic systems which continue to be refined to allow optimum delivery of information in a reliable and timely way. Some of the key systems that assist to drive the compliance outputs include:

- IBase and Analyst Notebooks (Intelligence system).
- FACT (Fisheries and Aquaculture Information Collection Tool).
- Timewise (Effort Reporting Tool).
- Evidence.com (Video Evidence Collection Tool).
- PIIMS (Primary Industries Information Management System – Quota and Licence Information).
- eCatch.
- eBrief (prosecutions system).
- Commercial Fishing Application.

Delivery outputs

The coordination of compliance outputs was guided by an industry specific compliance plan which was developed in consultation with the Marine Scalefish Industry. The plan ensures compliance effort is

intelligence driven, efficient, and cost effective and outcome focused. Existing compliance risks, both funded and unfunded, remain within the fishery. Additional compliance risks will now also need to be addressed

The compliance plan will be updated to reflect compliance needed to address the additional management (ITQ's) and the additional zones (input control). This 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 existing major risks to the sustainable harvest of Marine Scalefish. The combination of strategies, actions, and initiatives have been, and remain, critical to focus compliance effort to manage the risks and achieve targeted outcomes.

Implementing the new management arrangements through significant education effort by Fisheries Officers on an individual basis with licence holders, registered masters and fish processors is an expected focus

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 all fishery participants
- Assist fishers install and use the commercial reporting App and provide educational material to licence holders.
- Ensure all interested parties understand their respective obligations.
- Develop Industry communication and relationship programs to facilitate discussion of topics such as the quota monitoring arrangements and issues impacting the Marine Scalefish fishery.
- Ongoing one on one education during inspections.

Effective deterrence, monitoring and surveillance

- Ensure all aspects of the Quota Management System are monitored such as prior reporting and chain of custody requirements in catch disposal records (CDR) including auditing.
- Ensure all aspects of commercial fishing activities are monitored such as inspections of catch at sea, when landed, in transit and at fish processing premises.
- Conduct intelligence driven operations that give rise to appropriate enforcement action.

- Ensure gear types being used within the fishery are compliant e.g. net lengths, net mesh sizes, hook numbers, crab pot dimensions, fish trap specifications.
- Monitor fishing activities during seasonal closures and within spatial closed areas.
- Respond to reported incidents/issues.
- Inspections of fish processors ensuring declarations are accurate.
- Communicate activities in formal reporting.
- Follow up of incorrect, incomplete reporting.
- Follow up missing electronic catch and disposal records
- Audit catch and disposal records against prior reports

Enforcement

- Investigate reports of non-compliance and where appropriate take action.
- Issue expiations, cautions and court enforced actions.
- Prepare briefs of evidence for the Crown Solicitors Office to consider 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 Marine Scalefish Fishery.

1. Quota Management System (QMS) Integrity
2. Fish in Closed Areas.
3. Using Illegal Gear.
4. Taking Undersize.
5. Collusion between Licenced & Unlicenced Sectors.
6. Exceed Trip Limit

Deliverables

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

Stock Assessment and Monitoring Program

Marine Scalefish Fishery

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1. Project details

1.1 Title

Marine Scalefish Fishery

1.2 Subcontractor/Collaborator

Not applicable

1.3 Timeframe

Commencement Date: 1 July 2023

Completion Date: 30 June 2024

1.4 Summary

This Project Scope outlines SARDI's research program for South Australia's Marine Scalefish Fishery for 2023/24. The primary objective of the program is to provide scientific information and stock assessment of the different Marine Scalefish Fishery species, to support their sustainable utilisation. It conforms to the research and reporting plan outlined in the Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery.

The Management Plan recognises that in this complex, multi-species fishery, there is a considerable range in the contribution of the different taxa to the overall economic value of the fishery. Consequently, the multiple taxa taken in the fishery are divided into different categories according to their importance (i.e. 'Tier 1', 'Tier 2', 'Tier 3' species) and for which the research requirements to underpin the sustainable management vary.

This Project Scope adopts a cascading approach in its assessment of stock status: (1) a fully integrated assessment of Southern Garfish; (2) a regional interrogation of commercial, catch effort and, where

available, the age-length data for Tier 1 and Tier 2 stocks/management units; and (3) regional and/or State-wide interrogation of the commercial catch and effort data for Tier 3 stocks/management units. Furthermore, (4) broad spatial and temporal patterns in fleet dynamics will be summarised; and (5) options for future research provided. The primary output from the research program is a fishery assessment report that delivers on all five components.

Funds are also recovered in the SLA for a Strategic Research Project that is still to be determined in conjunction with PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture and the Marine Fishers Association.

2. Project description

2.1 Background

There are four primary components to the research provided by SARDI Aquatic Sciences to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture in support of the Marine Scalefish Fishery. These are:

- (1) To undertake market sampling throughout the year for Tier 1 finfish species (King George Whiting, Southern Garfish, and Snapper from the South-East region), primarily at the SAFCOL fish market in Adelaide, but also seek opportunities to obtain samples directly from licence holders and in the regions to ensure samples are representative of the populations;
- (2) To undertake a fully integrated assessment of Southern Garfish; and
- (3) To provide a comprehensive fishery assessment report that includes: (1) Southern Garfish assessment; and provides (2) a regional interrogation of commercial, catch effort and, where available, the age-length data for Tier 1 and Tier 2 stocks/management units; (3) regional and/or State-wide interrogation of the commercial catch and effort data for Tier 3 stocks/management units; (4) broad spatial and temporal patterns in fleet dynamics; and (5) options for future 24; and
- (4) To undertake a Strategic Research Project (to be determined).

2.2 Need

This research program will ensure delivery of the scientific information required to support the sustainable utilisation of South Australia's Marine Scalefish Fishery. The information conforms to that specified in the Management Plan, allowing application of species-specific harvest strategies and assessment of performance of fisheries based on established fishery performance indicators and reference points. Furthermore, the program recognises the need for ongoing work to support assessment and management of the fishery.

2.3 Objectives

- 2.3.1 To provide to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture a fishery assessment report that determines the stock status of Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 marine scalefish species, stocks or management units;
 - 2.3.2 To undertake a Strategic Research Project (to be determined); and
- To develop options for future assessments and monitoring programs from 2023/24 in line with a reformed Marine Scalefish Fishery: and
- 2.3.3 Improve engagement and collaboration with industry through regular communication and updates on relevant research projects.

2.4 Methods

To undertake the assessment and reporting, SARDI will:

- 2.4.1 Continue market sampling for the Tier 1 finfish species, including the collection of region-specific age and length data; and
- 2.4.2 Undertake a fully integrated assessment for Southern Garfish that integrates the fishery and biological data, including outputs from the computer fishery model ('GarEst'). Stock

status will then be determined based on assessment of fishery and biological performance indicators and reference points specified in the Management Plan; and

- 2.4.3 Undertake a regional interrogation of commercial, catch effort and, where available, the age-length data for Tier 1 and Tier 2 stocks/management units; (2) regional and/or State-wide interrogation of the commercial catch and effort data for Tier 3 stocks/management units; (3) an analysis of the State-wide trends in total catch and effort by the marine scalefish fishing fleet by species, season and gear; and (4) develop options for future assessments and monitoring programs from 2023/24.

3. Deliverables

The key deliverables of the 2023/24 Marine Scalefish Fishery 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	Fishery assessment report for Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 MSF species, including stock assessment for Southern Garfish delivered.	30 April 2024
This SLA	Stock status and assessment presentations, and advice to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture, Industry, the Marine Fishers Association, MSFMAC and the Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council delivered as required	30 June 2024
Other SLA	Charter Boat data summary report delivered.	31 October 2023
Other SLA	Blue Crab Fishery assessment report delivered	30 June 2024
Previous SLA/PIRSA	Assist PIRSA with a review of the Management Plan and Harvest Strategy for the South Australian Commercial Marine Scalefish Fishery	30 June 2024
PIRSA	Active and ongoing engagement with MFA	30 June 2024
FRDC	Project completion: Fisheries biology of Western Australian salmon: improving our understanding of population dynamics in South Australia to enable quantitative stock assessments and improved fisheries management (FRDC project 2018/035; Principal Investigator: Dr Jason Earl).	31 December 2023
FRDC	Project completion: Developing a positive cultural attitude towards the capture and release of sharks and rays (FRDC project 2018/055; Principal Investigator: Dr Michael Drew).	31 December 2023
FRDC	Project completion: 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 (FRDC Project 2019/044; Principal Investigator: Dr Troy Rogers).	31 December 2023
FRDC	Project completion: Cost-effective, non-destructive solutions to developing a pre-recruit index for Snapper (FRDC project 2019/046; Principal Investigator: Dr Troy Rogers).	31 December 2023
FRDC	Project completion: Evaluation of a smart-phone application to collect recreational fishing catch estimates, including an assessment against an	31 December 2023

	independent probability based survey, using South Australia as a case study (FRDC project 2020/056; Principal Investigator: Dr Crystal Beckmann).	
FRDC	Project completion: Identifying biological stocks of Silver Trevally and Ocean Jackets for assessment and management (FRDC Project 2021/009; Principal Investigator: Dr John Stewart)	30 June 2024

3.1 Service Provided:

3.1.1 *Collect, collate, store and analyse data from market and industry sampling to generate size and age structures for the Tier 1 finfish species*

- Maintain a two-stage (fish length, fish age) sampling program for the Tier 1 finfish species that involves measurements from representative samples from fishery catches and collections of otoliths to determine ages of fish.
- Age fish from their otoliths using validated ageing protocols and established QA procedures.
- Generate age structures from otolith-based age estimates and length frequency distributions using age-length key statistical procedures.
- Interpret data on population structure in terms of population dynamics.

3.1.2 *Analyse, integrate and interpret fishery and biological data*

- Update and run GarEst with fishery and biological data to provide estimated model parameters for the Southern Garfish stocks/management units.
- Assess general performance indicators against reference points to indicate stock status.
- Summarise all data and findings on stock status in a comprehensive fishery assessment report.
- Summarise annual commercial fishery data for multiple taxa at the biological stock, regional or State-wide scale.
- Describe key patterns in State-wide fleet dynamics.
- Provide stock status, assessment presentations and advice to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture, Industry, the Marine Fishers Association and MSFMAC, as required.
- Provide project briefs (at the beginning) and progress updates to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture and the Marine Fishers Association, as required.

3.1.43 *Undertake a Strategic Research Project*

- Undertake a Strategic Research Project.

3.2 Outcomes:

The principal outcome will be fishery and biological information and scientific advice to support the sustainability of South Australia's Marine Scalefish Fishery.

3.3. Outputs and extension:

The key outputs and extensions are:

- A comprehensive annual report that delivers a stock assessment for the Southern Garfish, assesses the stock status for selected permitted species, describes key patterns in fleet dynamics and identifies future research priorities; and
- Presentations to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture, industry and stakeholders.

4. Funding arrangements

6.1 Project costing policy

This one-year research program Scope and Costing has been costed at a Discounted rate.

4.2 Project cost

Program Milestones	Industry Contribution (\$) 79.5%	PIRSA F&A Cash Contribution (\$) 20.5%	SARDI In-Kind (\$)	Total Program Cost (\$) No GST
Size and Age Structures	\$317,187	\$0	\$74,609	\$391,796
Stock assessment report (incl. fully integrated assessment of the Southern Garfish)	\$324,129	\$83,580	\$78,941	\$486,650
Strategic Project*	\$100,000	TBD	TBD	\$100,000
TOTAL	\$741,316	\$83,580	\$153,550	\$978,446

* The industry contribution is to support the development of the Strategic Research Project, typically used as a cash contribution to leverage a FRDC Projects, to be developed in collaboration with PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture and the Marine Fishers Association.

4.3 Milestone and payment schedule

Date	Milestone	Payment (\$) Ex GST
31 December 2023	First half payment 2023/24 SLA	\$412,448
33 April 2024	Stock assessment report (incl. fully integrated assessment of Southern Garfish)	
31 May 2024	Second half payment 2023/24 SLA	\$412,448
SUBTOTAL		\$824,896
GST		NO GST
TOTAL COST		\$824,896

5. Project staff

Staff	2022/23 FTE
Principal Scientists	0.80
Research Scientist	0.35
Senior Research Officers	0.49
Research Officer	0.90
Research Services Officer	0.65
TOTAL	3.19

6. Project cost summary

Cost	Detail	2022/23 Total (\$) Ex GST
Salaries (FTE)	3.19	
Salaries (\$)		\$430,223
Operating (\$)		
Strategic Project*		\$100,000
Fieldwork (\$)		
Laboratory (\$)		\$19,500
Travel (\$)		\$19,100
Office and communication (\$)		\$1,000
Capital equipment (\$)		
SARDI overhead (\$)		\$255,073
SARDI inkind (\$)		\$153,550
Total Cost (\$)		\$978,446
Revenue – PRICE		
Licence Holders		\$741,316
PIRSA F&A		\$83,580
Total Revenue (\$)	84%	\$824,896
PIRSA/SARDI Investment (\$)	16%	\$153,550

* The industry contribution is to support the development of the Strategic Research Project, typically used as a cash contribution to leverage a FRDC Projects, to be developed in collaboration with PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture and the Marine Fishers Association.

** Split of stock assessment cost for Garfish in 2023/24 based on allocation in the MSF Management Plan 2013

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

