

Cost Recovery Implementation Statement for the Western Zone Abalone Fishery

1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024



**Government
of South Australia**

Department of Primary
Industries and Regions

Cost Recovery Implementation Statement

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Contents

Introduction	5
Summary Table.....	6
Program Daily Charge Out Rate 2023-24	7
Fishery Management Objectives.....	8
Fisheries Management Program	11
Program summary	11
Objectives	11
Program strategies and supporting actions and Initiatives.....	11
Anticipated outcomes	11
Performance indicators.....	12
Program effort allocation	12
Legal Services Program.....	15
Program summary	15
Objectives	15
Program strategies and supporting actions and initiatives.....	15
Program effort allocation	15
Anticipated outcomes	16
Leasing and Licensing	17
Program summary	17
Objectives	17
Program strategies and supporting actions and initiatives.....	17
Anticipated outcomes	17
Program effort allocation	17
Directorate Program.....	20
Program summary	20
Objectives	20
Program strategies and supporting actions and initiatives.....	20

Program effort allocation	20
Anticipated outcomes	21
Fisheries Compliance Operations Program	22
Program summary	22
Legislative and regulatory framework.....	22
Program effort, funding and resources	22
IT systems, technology and data.....	23
Delivery outputs	23
Intelligence	24
Education and awareness	24
Effective deterrence, monitoring and surveillance.....	24
Enforcement.....	25
Risk assessment and management (work priorities)	25
Stock Assessment and Monitoring Program	26
1. Project details	26
2. Project description	27
3. Deliverables.....	28
4. Funding arrangements.....	30
5. Project staff.....	31
6. Project cost summary	32

Introduction

Wild catch commercial fisheries in South Australia continue to be 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, can be found 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.

*** October, these discussions to commence when the Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) meeting is held.

Summary Table

2022-23 (\$)	PROGRAM AREA	2023-24 (\$)	COMMENTS	DAYS	FTE
RESEARCH COSTS					
595,065	Stock Assessment and Monitoring	496,937	1 year research project scope cost of \$541,408 for 2023-24 A refund of \$44,471 held by SARDI that was expected to be used for Hotspot surveys in 2021/22 has been applied to the SARDI program for 2023-24.		
13,246	Economic Assessment	13,644	As per contracted services 2023-24		
1,096	Other Research	704	Contribution towards Threatened and Endangered Species		
PIRSA RELATED COSTS					
51,625	Fisheries Management	54,103	Same level of service as previous year	59	0.30
6,190	Legislation	6,486	Same level of service as previous year	7	0.03
31,149	Licensing	32,660	Same level of service as previous year	33	0.16
10,291	Directorate	10,776	Same level of service as previous year	12	0.06
459,360	Compliance	481,320	Same level of service as previous year	360	1.8
22,737	Quota Monitoring	23,815	Same level of service as previous year	26	0.13
-	Information Services	16,753	Logbook Program – Entry, validation, management and reporting of data		
31,261	FRDC	27,811	Funding based on 0.25% of rolling three year average GVP		
138,501	Co-Management Services	154,000	Co Management Services requested for 2023-24		
1,360,521	TOTAL	1,319,009			

*Figures rounded to nearest day

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

Licence Fees 2023-24 (\$)	
WZ Base Fee	11,470
WZ Unit Fee	436
Total of Licences	22
Licence Fees 2022-23 (\$)	
WZ Base Fee	11,831
WZ Unit Fee	450
Total of Licences	22

Program Daily Charge Out Rate 2023-24

	DAILY RATE (\$)					
	Compliance	Quota	Directorate	Legislation	Licensing	Fisheries Management
Total Employee Expenses	692	453	640	764	521	618
Total Operating Expenses	350	151	127	64	145	166
Depreciation and Capital Costs	56	0	0	0	0	0
Total Other Expenses*	239	304	145	159	328	133
TOTAL DAILY RATE	1,337	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

Long term objectives	Outcomes	Fisheries Management	Compliance	Assessment and Research	Leasing and Licensing
<p>Ensure the Abalone resource is harvested sustainably.</p> <p>Optimum economic utilisation and equitable distribution of the Abalone resource.</p>	<p>Rebuild Greenlip and Blacklip Abalone stocks to ecologically sustainable levels.</p> <p>Implement Harvest Strategy and Management Plan</p> <p>Ensure sufficient data and information is available to implement revised Harvest Strategy.</p> <p>Maximise catches for both species within ecologically sustainable limits.</p> <p>Implement improvements to integrity of quota management system.</p>	<p>Manage fishery in accordance with Management Plan.</p> <p>Set TACC annually, in accordance with the revised Harvest Strategy.</p> <p>Support the investigation by industry of stock enhancement, including research and development requirements.</p> <p>Support consideration of long-term Roei Abalone management arrangements in consultation with industry.</p> <p>Assist in the transition of the fishery to a GPS and data logger system.</p> <p>In consultation with industry progress implementation of under and overs catch of quota into legislation</p>	<p>Implement compliance program, informed by risk assessment.</p> <p>Implement changes to quota monitoring system.</p> <p>Support implementation of fishery Management Plan.</p>	<p>Stock assessment and monitoring to underpin stock status and stock assessment reports.</p> <p>Enhance diver survey to inform Harvest Strategy decisions.</p> <p>Assist in the development of a FRDC proposal to enhance diver surveys to contribute to assessments of stock status.</p> <p>Facilitate the investigation of stock enhancement, including research and development requirements.</p> <p>Review and provide management advice on the development of the Roei Abalone Fishery.</p>	<p>Provide ongoing support for licensing, quota and transfer queries.</p> <p>Provide licensing advice, in the implementation of fine spatial scale management framework.</p> <p>Support implementation of fishery Management Plan.</p>

Long term objectives	Outcomes	Fisheries Management	Compliance	Assessment and Research	Leasing and Licensing
				Support implementation of fishery Management Plan.	
Minimise impacts on the ecosystem.	Disease risk management.	<p>Develop mitigation strategies to address outcomes of aquatic animal health risk assessment.</p> <p>Provide management advice on fish kills, and Perkinsus as required.</p>	Provide support with investigation of fish kills and Perkinsus, as required.	Provide scientific advice on aquatic animal health risks and aid in investigation of fish kills and Perkinsus.	

Long term objectives	Outcomes	Fisheries Management	Compliance	Assessment and Research	Leasing and Licensing
Cost effective and participative management of the fishery.	<p>Support co-management of the fishery.</p> <p>Assist with industry electronic data reporting.</p> <p>Review how input from industry is incorporated into the Harvest Strategy.</p>	<p>Maintain regular communication with industry representatives through industry association and be accessible to all licence holders.</p> <p>Provide management advice, where necessary, throughout the licensing year.</p> <p>Progress co-management arrangements consistent with the Co-management Policy</p> <p>Assess how industry information can be used as input in the Harvest Strategy process</p> <p>Assist with industry electronic data reporting.</p>	<p>Maintain regular communication with industry representatives.</p> <p>Provide compliance advice, where necessary, throughout the licensing year.</p>	<p>Maintain regular communication with industry representatives.</p> <p>Provide scientific advice where necessary, throughout the licensing year.</p> <p>Assist with review on how input from industry can be incorporated into the Harvest Strategy.</p>	<p>Maintain regular communication with industry representatives.</p> <p>Provide licensing advice, where necessary, throughout the licensing year.</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 Western Zone Abalone 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

Anticipated outcomes

1. Prepare day-to-day necessary legislative instruments and/or advice required for the management of the Western Zone Abalone Fishery (regulations, closure notices, licence conditions, Ministerial exemptions etc).

2. Provide advice to the Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture on setting total allowable commercial catch and effort levels for the Western Zone Abalone Fishery.
3. Prepare submissions to enable regular assessment of the Western Zone Abalone Fishery under the EPBC Act (1999).
4. Prepare annual report to the Australian Government on EPBC Act (1999) requirements for the Abalone fisheries.
5. Develop and maintain day-to-day productive working relationships and outcomes through cooperative management and collaboration with stakeholders.
6. Further the development of co-management arrangements including the support of industry initiatives.

Performance indicators

1. Strong industry and government involvement in co-management relationship and adherence to formally agreed co-management arrangements.
2. Implement Management Plan. Management Plans to include Harvest Strategies that protect sustainability of the fishery based on ESD risk assessment processes.
3. Australian Government recommendations met in relation to EPBC assessment.
4. Setting of TACC for Western Zone Abalone 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	59	0.30	54,103

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 and other State and Commonwealth agencies 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.	<p>Conduct regular assessment or review of existing management arrangements for fisheries management, including analysis of statistical information on fisheries and interactions with threatened, endangered and protected species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement carry over provisions 	March 2024 pending EOY quota balance reconciliations
5.	Implement <i>Management Plan for the South Australian Commercial Abalone fisheries</i> under the <i>Fisheries Management Act 2007</i>	Ongoing
6.	<p>Implement carry over provisions including consulting with industry at TACC meetings regarding requested carry-over arrangements for the following fishing season and implementation of those arrangements.</p> <p>Working with Leasing and Licensing unit to effect carry-over arrangements</p>	<p>Sept 2023</p> <p>March 2024</p>
7.	Liaise with PIRSA Fisheries officers, SARDI Aquatic Sciences, Crown Solicitors and other state and local agencies on matters relevant to the fishery.	Ongoing
8.	<p>Coordinate consultation with fishery stakeholders through established co-management processes.</p> <p>For TACC setting;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-TACC Meeting TACC Meeting 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>September 2023</p> <p>November 2023</p>
9.	Participate in industry liaison in the field to strengthen fishery management knowledge and understanding and develop rapport with licence holders and divers including quarterly meetings with AIASA	Ongoing
10.	<p>Participate industry-led development initiatives related to fisheries management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in discussions relating to the potential use of shell and visera 	Ongoing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support industry implementation of electronic reporting 	
11.	Attend to general correspondence and enquiries relevant to the WZAF.	Ongoing
13.	Provide advice to Minister in relation to the management of fisheries and Ministerial correspondence.	Ongoing
14.	Communicate on fisheries management issues to key stakeholder groups and the broader community.	Ongoing
15.	Support timely consideration of an industry application if received around stock enhancement as informed from outcomes of risk assessment and genetics workshop.	If required

Legal Services Program

Program Manager:

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Program summary

The Legal and Legislative program of PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture Directorate provides legal and governance services to the Executive Director Fisheries and Aquaculture, Director Operations and all other groups within 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 or governance issues relating to proposed decisions and the implementation or administration of abalone 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	7	0.03	6,486

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 arrangements) 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:

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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	33	0.16	32,660
Quota Monitoring	26	0.13	23,815

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 licence and licence holder information.	Ongoing
3.	Quota monitoring and management including applying overcatch and undercatch adjustments.	Ongoing
4.	Collect licence fees and associated payments.	Ongoing
5.	Compose and send quarterly instalment notices.	Ongoing
6.	Record and track unpaid invoices.	Ongoing
7.	Compose and send late payment instalment notices for un-paid quarterly instalments.	Ongoing
8.	Draft and issue notices to fishers.	Ongoing
9.	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 changes, gear enquiries and fishing regulations.	Ongoing
10.	Regularly update information about licence holders.	Ongoing
11.	Research and prepare documents for public record.	Ongoing
12.	Liaise with government stakeholders to verify the credentials of fishers.	Ongoing
13.	Liaise with PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture, SARDI Aquatic Sciences, Crown Solicitors and other state and local agencies on matters relevant to the fishery.	Ongoing
14.	Draft and update licence conditions over the duration of the licensing year as determined by the Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture.	Ongoing
15.	Provide information to licence holders relating to the requirements pursuant to licence administration.	Ongoing
16.	Manage calls from fishers regarding late payment notices, fees and general enquiries about their licences.	Ongoing
17.	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
	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

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	12	0.06	10,776

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 on the cost recovery agreement to the Executive Officer.	September

Fisheries Compliance Operations Program

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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 Western Zone Abalone 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. These outputs are aimed at educating fishers, deterring opportunistic and financially motivated crimes, enforcing the rules and regulations and reducing overall compliance risks to resource sustainability.

Legislative and regulatory framework

Fisheries Management Act 2007

Fisheries Management (Abalone Fisheries) Regulations 2017

Fisheries Management (Fish Processors) Regulations 2017

Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2017 Schedule 2

Fisheries Management (Demerit Points) Regulations 2017

Abalone Fisheries 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 continually reviews the WZA fishery compliance program, gaining efficiencies through data driven compliance activities, targeted operations and re-directing compliance effort where necessary to address any current or emerging issues and risks.

The table below 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	35	0.17	46,795
Effective Deterrence, Monitoring and Surveillance	255	1.28	340,935
Enforcement	70	0.35	93,590
TOTALS	360	1.8	481,320

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 is guided by an industry specific compliance plan which was developed in consultation with the Western Zone Abalone 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 Abalone. 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 pre-season education meetings and participate in industry days.
- Provide electronic distribution of educational material to fishers and licence holders at the start of the season
- Ensure all interested parties understand their respective obligations and the compliance focus for the coming season.
- Develop Industry communication and relationship programs to facilitate discussion of topics such as compliance inspection outcomes and issues impacting the Western Zone Abalone 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 change of ownership in 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 court enforced actions.
- Communicate enforcement outcomes in formal reporting.
- Enforcement of any suspensions or other Court Orders.

Risk assessment and management (work priorities)

PIRSA use information obtained from operational data, 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 subject to change during the fishing season however the following are currently relevant to the Western Zone Abalone Fishery.

1. Quota Management System Integrity.
2. Take Undersize Abalone.
3. Pest and Disease Incursion.
4. Fish in Closed Season / Closed Areas
5. Illegal Unreported Unregulated Take (included in the Recreational Fishery Plan)

Deliverables

	Deliverables	Due date
1.	PIRSA and SARDI to continue to work with industry to improve the understanding of the meat-weight/shell-length issue, including the associated risks & compliance options.	30 June 2024
2.	Provide 6 monthly and annual compliance report, working with Industry to have reports improved.	On-going

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

Stock Assessment and Monitoring Program

Fisheries and Aquaculture Contact Person:

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1. Project details

1.1 Title

South Australian Abalone Fishery (Western Zone)

1.2 Timeframe

Commencement Date: 1 July 2023

Completion Date: 30 June 2024

1.3 Summary

This is the ninth Project Scope developed specifically for the Western Zone (WZ) of the South Australian Abalone Fishery. Recent Project Scopes for this Zone were for two years and rationalised work programs and reporting frameworks across years. Consequently, not all activities are undertaken in the WZ in all years. This scope of work for 2023/24 maintains that work program and reporting cycle and specifically addresses strategic research priorities for the fishery, which include: ongoing application and implementation of the Harvest Strategy; surveys of key fishing areas; fine-scale management and fine-scale fishery assessments.

The primary outputs from the research program are:

- (1) A stock assessment report for Blacklip Abalone (BL; due 31/10/2023);
- (2) a stock status (Harvest Strategy) report for Greenlip Abalone (GL; due 31/10/2023)
- (3) the completion of fishery-independent surveys on GL in surveyed Spatial Assessment Units (there are no BL surveys in 2023/24);
- (4) provision of scientific advice to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture;
- (5) responding to queries from PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture and industry; and
- (6) provision of aggregated data/information to the Executive Officer, AIASA.

Secondary outputs include 'year-to-date' catch and effort summaries and science advice in the form of PowerPoint presentations provided to PIRSA and industry at port meetings to inform TACC discussions.

2. Project description

2.1 Background

There are three primary components to the overall research program provided by SARDI Aquatic Sciences to PIRSA in support of the WZ abalone fishery. These are:

- (1) Analyse commercial catch-effort and catch length-frequency data on both species across the fishery;
- (2) fishery-independent surveys of the abundance of both species in surveyed Spatial Assessment Units (SAUs) located across the fishery; and
- (3) provision of comprehensive reports that assess fishery-dependent and fishery-independent data, assess fishery performance against performance indicators defined in the Management Plan and detail resource status.

2.2 Need

This project addresses the need for scientific information to support sustainable utilisation of abalone in the South Australian Abalone Fishery and application of the Harvest Strategy identified in the Management Plan for the fishery.

2.3 Objectives

- 2.3.1 Provide PIRSA with a stock assessment report for BL;
- 2.3.2 Provide PIRSA with stock status (Harvest Strategy) reports for GL;
- 2.3.3 Provide PIRSA with scientific advice to support the sustainable management of the WZ of the South Australian Abalone Fishery, including TACC setting in accordance with the Management Plan;
- 2.3.4 Assist PIRSA with implementation of the Abalone Fishery Management Plan, including application of the Harvest Strategy;
- 2.3.6 Provide PIRSA and industry with 'year-to-date', catch and effort data summaries to support TACC setting; and
- 2.3.7 Continue fishery-independent surveys to monitor stock status and possible disease incursions. Surveys for GL at Anxious Bay, The Gap and Avoid Bay to be completed by 30 June 2024. There are no BL surveys in 2023/24.

2.4 Methods

- 2.4.1 Analyse commercial catch-effort and GL catch grade data;
- 2.4.2 Collect, collate, store and analyse the time-series of abundance for GL in surveyed SAUs;
- 2.4.3 Apply Harvest Strategy for each species using the methods described in the New Management Plan;
- 2.4.4 Document and interpret the research findings; and
- 2.4.5 Provide aggregated data/information to the Executive Officer, AIASA.

3. Deliverables

The key deliverables of the 2023/24 WZ stock assessment and monitoring program are tabulated below; additional work related to the WZ stock assessment and monitoring program is also identified:

Funding Source	Deliverable	Due Date
This SLA	Stock assessment report for BL and stock status report for GL delivered	31 October 2023
This SLA	Stock assessment presentations, including year-to-date data, to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture, The AIASA Executive Committee and Industry delivered as required.	30 November 2023
This SLA	Surveys for GL at Anxious Bay, The Gap and Avoid Bay completed.	30 June 2024
This SLA	Provision of scientific advice to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture	30 June 2024
This SLA	Respond to queries from PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture and industry	30 June 2024
This SLA	Provision of aggregated data/information to the Executive Officer, AIASA	30 June 2024
PIRSA	Scientific advice where required and workshop attendance to support the development of industry initiatives, including diver assessments and Roei	30 June 2024
PIRSA	Support industry implementation of electronic reporting and deckhand	30 June 2024
PIRSA/FRDC	Project completion: Accelerating Greenlip Abalone stock recovery in South Australia using release of hatchery-reared juveniles (Phase 1 - genetics risk assessment and preliminary cost-benefit analysis)(FRDC project 2020/116; Principal investigator: Dr Stephen Mayfield).	31 December 2023
FRDC	Project completion: The impact and implication of <i>Perkinsus olens</i> on Australian abalone fisheries (FRDC project 2020/004; Principal Investigator: Dr Ben Stobart)	31 December 2023
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
FRDC	Project continuation: Indicators for density and biomass of exploitable abalone - developing and applying a new approach (FRDC Project 2020/065; Principal Investigator: Dr Keith Sainsbury).	30 June 2024
FRDC	Project continuation: Drawing strength from each other: simulation testing of Australia's abalone harvest strategies (FRDC project 2019/118; Principal Investigator: Dr Cathy Dichmont).	30 June 2024
FRDC	Contribute to Status of Key Australian Fish Stocks Report	30 June 2024

3.1 Service Provided:

3.1.1 Disease response

- Respond to *Perkinsus* infections and mortality events as required.
- Provide replacement disease response kits as required.

3.1.2 Collect, collate, store and analyse abundance-survey data for GL and BL

- Maintain the time series of the abundance and size composition of GL at Anxious Bay, The Gap and Avoid Bay.

Species	Site	Number of lead lines	Expected days of diving	Expected delivery timeframe	Survey cost funded by licence holders (\$)	SARDI In-kind to Survey cost (\$)
Greenlip	Anxious Bay	14	3	Summer 2024	\$27,715	\$3,899
Greenlip	The Gap	26	6	Summer 2024	\$36,433	\$5,718
Greenlip	Avoid Bay	12	3	Autumn 2024	\$25,190	\$4,188

3.1.5 Management and quality assurance of research data

- Provide effective storage and management of research data.

3.1.6 Apply Harvest Strategy

- Apply the Harvest Strategy using the approach detailed in the Management Plan.

3.1.7 Analysis and interpretation

- Interpret the results of the research program in reports and presentations. Determine stock status for each species.

3.1.8 Catch/effort/survey summaries

- Provide presentations summarising year-to-date information for both species across the fishery at TACC and other relevant meetings.

3.1.9 Fishing strategies

- Assist PIRSA with application of the Abalone Fishery Management Plan.
- Assist PIRSA and Industry with the identification of management options for the fishery.

3.1.10 Provision of aggregated data

- Provide the Executive Officer, AIASA, with aggregated data/information as specified in Appendix 1.

3.1.11 Project management

- Ongoing supervision of projects.
- Management of deliverables.

- Quality control.
- Liaise with PIRSA, industry, State and Commonwealth agencies on matters relevant to the fishery.
- Participate in industry development initiatives.
- Work with PIRSA and stakeholders to identify research priorities and to develop and implement new projects.
- Collaborate on proposed/existing projects

3.2 Outcomes:

The principal outcome will be scientific advice to support sustainable management of the WZ abalone fishery abalone.

3.3. Outputs and extension:

There are four principal output and extension elements:

- (1) A stock assessment report will be provided for BL by 31 October 2023;
- (2) A stock status (Harvest Strategy) report will be provided for GL by 31 October 2023;
- (3) 'Year-to-date', catch and effort data summaries for GL and BL will be provided to PIRSA and at 'port' meetings to support TACC setting; and
- (4) Provision of scientific advice to PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture, and responding to queries from PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture and industry.

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 \$ (GST N/A)	Total SARDI In-kind \$ (GST N/A)	Total Project Cost \$ (GST N/A)
2023/24	\$541,408	\$98,676	\$640,084
TOTAL	\$541,408	\$98,676	\$640,084

4.3 Milestone and payment schedule

Date	Milestone	Payment (\$) Ex GST
31 October 2023	BL stock assessment report	
31 October 2023	GL stock status (Harvest Strategy) report	
31 December 2023	Payment 1 of 2023/24 SLA	\$270,704
31 May 2024	Payment 2 of 2023/24 SLA	\$270,704
SUBTOTAL		\$541,408
GST		NO GST
TOTAL COST		\$541,408

5. Project staff

Staff	2023/24 FTE
Principal Scientist	0.10
Research Scientist	1.00
Research Officer	0.45
Technical Officers	0.50
TOTAL	2.05

6. Project cost summary

Cost	Detail	2023/24 Total (\$) Ex GST
Salaries (FTE)		2.05
Salaries (\$)		\$315,940
Operating (\$)		
Payment to industry for surveys (\$)		
Fieldwork (\$)		\$46,209
Laboratory (\$)		\$650
Travel (\$)		\$10,375
Office and communication (\$)		\$1,750
Capital equipment (\$)		
SARDI overhead (\$)		\$166,484
SARDI inkind (\$)		\$98,676
Total Cost (\$)		\$640,084
Revenue – PRICE		
PIRSA F&A (\$)		\$541,408
Total Revenue 85% (\$)		\$541,408
SARDI Investment 15% (\$)		\$98,676

Breakdown explanations

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

Appendix 1. Provision of aggregated data/information to Executive Officer, AIASA

By month (for the period 1 January to 30 June), total GL catch, number of fishing days when GL harvested and GL CPUE amalgamated for all SAUs East of Cape Carnot. Due 31 August 2023.

A copy of the pre-TACC presentation made by SARDI to AIASA. To include the assessment and status reports, harvest strategy outcomes and wildlife interactions (TEPS). Due 30 November 2023.

Provisional Harvest Strategy output tables, by species. To be provided 30 days after 50% and then 75% of the TACC has been harvested each year.

