

# **Aquaculture investment in South Australia**



**Government  
of South Australia**

Department of Primary  
Industries and Regions

# Aquaculture in South Australia

South Australia is home to a well-established aquaculture industry, with a reputation for producing safe, sustainable, high quality and high value aquaculture products in both land-based and marine-based environments. Key commercial aquaculture species include Southern Bluefin Tuna, Yellowtail Kingfish, Barramundi, Oysters, Mussels, Abalone, Microalgae, and Seaweed.

The Government of South Australia is committed to supporting investment, growth and social licence of aquaculture in our state, and is a world leader in ecologically sustainable development of aquaculture. The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) is a key economic development agency in the Government of South Australia, with responsibility for the prosperity of the state's primary industries and regions, including the aquaculture industry which is primarily based in regional South Australia.

The *Aquaculture Act 2001* allows the aquaculture sector to approach PIRSA directly and for their proposals to be assessed and implemented quickly and efficiently. This includes coordinating referrals and consultation with other government departments, key stakeholders and the community, via a single government agency 'one-stop-shop' approach. PIRSA also proactively plans for the future growth and expansion of the industry via science based policies, including aquaculture zone policies.

The Government of South Australia also invests significantly in research and innovation in the state's aquaculture industry. The South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI), the research arm of PIRSA, is a world-class leader in seafood and aquatic species research and provides a range of development services to stakeholders of the aquaculture industry to address barriers, increase productivity, and ensure ecological sustainability.

The protection of the aquatic environment through science-based policies, risk assessments to underpin ecologically sustainable development, environmental monitoring, aquatic animal health programs and aquaculture marine spatial planning ensures South Australian aquaculture developments retain a high standard of environmental credentials.

South Australia is ranked as one of the most cost competitive states in Australia. Access to staff, competitive labour costs and high staff retention rates rank as important attributes, unique to the South Australian workforce. With excellent logistical infrastructure for cold-chain transport and full traceability of goods, South Australia is a natural leader in the production and export of premium aquaculture products.

Support for South Australian aquaculture investment can be provided by the Government of South Australia, through PIRSA and the Department for Trade and Investment.

## Key features supporting the South Australian aquaculture industry are:

- strong policy and regulatory frameworks
- streamlined single government agency coordinated approvals
- world leading research and development institute based in metropolitan Adelaide
- pristine waters and clean environment
- premium high-value species
- significant available marine-based areas with no monetary bidding for lease sites
- availability of terrestrial land
- full traceability and advanced logistical infrastructure
- freedom from many known aquatic diseases.

# Aquaculture zones in South Australia

Statutory aquaculture zone policies under the *Aquaculture Act 2001* are a marine spatial planning tool for aquaculture and take into consideration other users and important features of the marine environment. They streamline the assessment and approval for marine-based aquaculture proposals, involve a non-monetary bidding competitive tender process, and provide confidence and security of investment to the aquaculture industry.

Specifically, they prescribe:

- boundaries of where aquaculture can and cannot occur
- species that may be farmed
- aquaculture farming systems permitted
- aquaculture maximum biomass and/or leasable area allowed.

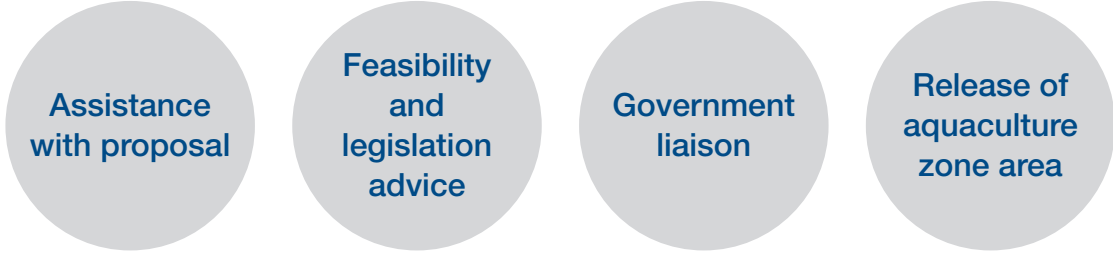
## Farmed aquaculture species in South Australia



# Aquaculture proposal guide

## 1. Pre-application

### Approach PIRSA



### Questions to consider

- Which species will you farm?
- Where will your operations be located? (land-based or marine-based?)
- Which farming method will you use?
- What your expected output is in tonnage?

## 2. Lodge application

### Land-based

- Apply to PIRSA for aquaculture licence
- Apply to planning authority for development consent

### Marine-based

#### Inside an aquaculture zone

- Apply to PIRSA for aquaculture lease and licence

#### Outside an aquaculture zone

- Apply to PIRSA for aquaculture lease and licence
- Apply to planning authority for development consent

## 3. Application assessment

Once submitted, PIRSA will case manage your application throughout the assessment process:

- Public notification
- Ecologically Sustainable Development Risk Assessment
- Referral to relevant state government agencies and stakeholders:
  - Environment Protection Authority
  - Native Title holders/claimants (marine-based only)
  - Seabed authority holder (marine-based only)

## 4. Approved

Start operations

Application approval process\* (~6-12 month period)

\*The approval process period will be influenced by application complexity and any development consent application required

# Here to help

To ensure the success of your aquaculture proposal, the Government of South Australia offers services that will assist with the formal development and delivery of your project. Some of these services may incur costs. We can also refer you to professional fee-for-service independent consultants.

## Department of Primary Industries and Regions

### Fisheries and Aquaculture

For services relating to:

- aquaculture regulation
- aquaculture application enquiries
- general aquaculture enquiries
- grant opportunities

T +61 8 8207 5333

E [pirsa.aquaculture@sa.gov.au](mailto:pirsa.aquaculture@sa.gov.au)

W [pir.sa.gov.au/primary\\_industry/aquaculture](http://pir.sa.gov.au/primary_industry/aquaculture)

2 Hamra Avenue, West Beach SA 5024

PO Box 1625, Adelaide SA 5001

### SARDI Aquatic Sciences

For information and advice on aquaculture research.

T +61 8 8207 5400

E [pirsa.sardiaquatics@sa.gov.au](mailto:pirsa.sardiaquatics@sa.gov.au)

W [pir.sa.gov.au/aquatic-sciences](http://pir.sa.gov.au/aquatic-sciences)

2 Hamra Avenue, West Beach SA 5024

PO Box 120, Henley Beach SA 5024

## Department for Trade and Investment

For information on and assistance with:

- investing in aquaculture projects
- promoting aquaculture projects seeking investment.

T +61 8 8235 5400

E [dti.foodwineagribusiness@sa.gov.au](mailto:dti.foodwineagribusiness@sa.gov.au)

W [invest.sa.gov.au/sectors/food-wine-and-agribusiness](http://invest.sa.gov.au/sectors/food-wine-and-agribusiness)

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