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**Discussion Paper**

**Change @ South Australia - 90 Day Project Concept**

***South Australian Rock Lobster Industry - Administrative Efficiencies***

**November 2015**

**Context:**

The South Australian Rock Lobster Industry wishes to pursue the establishment of a 90 Day Project with the South Australian Government to focus on generating and enhancing administrative efficiencies in a range of processes relevant to the businesses of fishery operators.

The South Australian Rock Lobster Fishery is the State's most valuable commercial fishery and supports a sustainable and renewable industry which generates:

- Up to \$280 million in economic activity for South Australia which primarily benefits regional coastal communities from which the industry operates.
- An estimated Gross Value of Production (GVP) for 2014-15 of approximately \$130 million.
- Approximately 1,300 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) employment positions, again based largely in the regions.

Currently, the State-wide Total Allowable Commercial Catch (TACC) is harvested by a 200 vessel strong fishing fleet. Almost 100% of the catch is exported, live, to mainland China.

The recently finalised China-Australia Free Trade Agreement provides further opportunity for the Rock Lobster Industry in the form of:

- Increased competitiveness for this premium product.
- Increased certainty for the Australian Exporters who underpin the industry.
- Increased demand and market-share through targeted product promotion.
- Increased price.

At an operational level, it is SARLAC's strong view that a focussed 90 Day Project will deliver business efficiencies which will assist to deliver against some of these opportunities as well as continuing to assist in building the value of this profitable South Australian industry.

It is SARLAC's view that a 90 Day Project should focus on three key areas;

**SARLAC 90 Day Project 'Focus Areas':**

**1. Completion of the Rock Lobster Fishery Rules Review & Gear Review Projects**

These projects were initiated by the recently abolished Fisheries Council of South Australia in 2011.

While agreement was reached between PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture and industry in a range of areas regarding required legislative change, there have been no tangible outcomes to date.

**2. Fisheries Licensing Efficiencies**

SARLAC believes there are a range of achievable efficiencies in process which may assist in streamlining operations associated with, for example; permanent and temporary transfers of quota units and licences, vessel registrations, various issues associated with 'over catch' in some definable scenarios (this may link with Focus Area 1, above), acceptance and distribution of documentation in electronic forms (scanned and emailed).

Many of these potential efficiencies could also be further enhanced through progressing Focus Area 3, below.

**3. Progression of the PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture e-Business Portal / Platform**

The South Australian Rock Lobster Industry desires to play a leading role, for industry, in assisting to inform and test development of these much needed services in partnership with PIRSA.

Being able to perform current administrative functions and transactions electronically will generate significant efficiencies for participants in commercial fisheries.

SARLAC believes that, as a starting point, there is good potential to work with PIRSA to further improve the current 'myPIRSA' platform and promote increased use amongst industry.

SARLAC also believes this Focus Area could encompass improvements in electronic catch reporting as these systems continue to evolve e.g. better communication between the on-boat Deckhand application and the on-shore electronic scales system in the Southern Zone and uptake of a system for electronic catch reporting in the Northern Zone.

This is an initiative which would involve working in close collaboration with SARLAC's members; the South Eastern Professional Fishermen's Association Inc (SEPFA) and the South Australian Northern Zone Rock Lobster Fishermen's Associations Inc (SANZRLFA).

Management of service provision requirements, and costs, to facilitate operation of these systems should also be considered.

**Additional Comments:**

While SARLAC recognises the initiation of a formal 90 Day Project to explore these opportunities is likely to be the most effective means of driving outcomes, we are also cognisant of the resource limitations within PIRSA and its relevant divisions.

Accordingly, SARLAC is open to, at least initially, discussing alternate methods of achieving progress in these areas.