Partners in Sustainability

The Abalone Industry Association of South Australia's Successful Self-Management Arrangement

Dr Nicole Hancox
AIASA Executive Officer

INTERNATIONAL ABALONE SYMPOSIUM FEB-MARCH 2023
SA Abalone Industry & The Association (AIASA)

WZAF 22 Licence Holders

AIASA’s affiliations

- Abalone Council of Australia Ltd (ACA)
- Seafood Industry Australia Inc (SIA)
- Emerging State peak body - Seafood Industry South Australia Inc

- Eyrewoolf Abalone
- Streaky Bay Seafood
- Western Abalone Processors
Western Zone Abalone Fishery

- Greenlip (*H. laevigata*) @145mm & Blacklip (*H. rubra*) @130mm
- 2023 quota is ~43T (meat weight) each
- Divers use surface air supply to send abalone to the surface using air-filled bags to the “Sheller” on board
- Abalone are partially processed ‘shucked’, chilled on-board & delivered to a local processor for grading & export (cans, pouches, frozen & live)
- Operate under Commonwealth and State (PIRSA) regulation with quotas set annually (with science advice SARDI).

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**Figure 15-6** Management fee per licence, SA commercial fisheries, 2001/02 to 2020/21

In 2015, the Harvest Strategy review commenced

Industry recognized & assessed:

- The HS was failing/flawed
- The potential risk to the biomass
- Sustainability priorities
- Scientific publication by Stobart et al 2013 was supported
- Working with processors to shift away from servicing markets
- A reduction in profitability, with large management costs
The area ‘Waterloo Bay’ is open for harvesting under the 1-day access arrangement (odds & evens).
### AIASA Diver Assessment Surveys

**GREENLIP** January to March 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nth Nuyts 2 A B F G H</th>
<th>Pt Westall 4B 4C 4D 4E4F</th>
<th>Baird Bay 5B 5C 5D 5E</th>
<th>Venus 5F</th>
<th>Amour 7A B C D E</th>
<th>Flinders 9E F G H</th>
<th>Hotspot 9C D</th>
<th>Ward Isle 9A B</th>
<th>Drummond 11C 12A B C 12C</th>
<th>Reef Head 13D E F 14A 14B</th>
<th>Avond Bay 14C 14D</th>
<th>Point Avond 15E 15A</th>
<th>Fishery Bay 15A 16B 15B</th>
<th>Memory 15C 15E</th>
<th>Taylors Island 19A BCDE</th>
<th>Gap 18 F</th>
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<td><strong>SAU</strong></td>
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#### Total number of days fished
#### % of time spent - Live (L), Shucked (S) or Other (O)
#### Is your average daily catch rate / catch....
#### Is the average density of abalone....
#### Is the average size of abalone....
#### Are the number of juvenile abalone....
#### Overall SAU performance

### Legend:

2 Better than your “Expected Performance”?  
1 Marginally better than your “Expected Performance”?  
0 Same as your “Expected Performance”?  
-1 Marginally worse than your “Expected Performance”?  
-2 Worse than your “Expected Performance”?  

“Expected Performance”: In your diving experience, over time, what is the average you anticipate from this SAU

“Complete survey for each diving day for the majority of species caught e.g. if 60% GL were caught use GREENLIP Diver Assessment.

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### BL Indicators

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Drummond Average Catch Rate</th>
<th>Drummond Average Number of Juveniles</th>
<th>Drummond Average Size</th>
<th>Drummond Average Density</th>
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<td>2015</td>
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• Optimum condition is when the abalone weigh more (i.e. bleed less)
• Identified the optimum time to harvest
  • GL (April-July)
  • BL (Jan-April)
• Less abalone are harvested for the same (quota) taken

**Scenario 6** ~33,326 GL left in the water/year
• Decrease risk of resource being overexploited
• GL left on the reef increases in size, leading higher value individuals available for harvest.
• Catch rates increase
• Produce an average of 61 billion eggs per year which provides an additional buffer against recruitment failure

*Maximize yield or minimize risk in the Blacklip Abalone fishery: using biological data to direct fishing strategies, Ben Stobart, Stephen Mayfield, Rowan Chick, FRDC technical report, 2018*

Advantages of Self-Management

- **Increased sustainability**: Encouraged responsible fishing practices

- **Improved efficiency**: Tailor arrangements to the specific needs/conditions of the Fishery leading to a more productive/profitable fishery (reducing costs)

- **Flexibility**: Self-management allows Industry to be more responsive to changing conditions and emerging issues

- **Cost effective**: Efficient use of resources, streamlines processes, improved decision making, effective leadership
Positive Impact of Collaboration

- **Collaboration & communication**: Fosters shared responsibility/ownership leading to more effective decision-making and greater cooperation.

- **Increased member participation**: Has lead to a more inclusive and transparent decision-making process, as well as greater accountability and buy-in from all Members.
MOA is used as a formal tool to acknowledge Industry collaboration together.

Industry used the MOA as an opportunity to voluntarily withhold quota, change the seasonal timing of harvest, implement biosecurity protocols & support management.

Industry’s self management arrangements have been successful due to:
- Reliable leadership and trust within the industry
- Good science
- Proactive relationship with the Government

Industry’s self management arrangements has impacted and affected:
- **Fishers:** Empowerment, flexibility, collaboration, reduce costs
- **Stock:** Reduced the risk (protect spawning & harvested less abalone)
- **Regulators:** A history of self management has built recognition

**Opportunities:** Fine-tuning the MOA as new information emerge
Digitalization & new technologies to improve the efficiency/effectiveness of the MOA
Collaboration, Innovation and a commitment to sustainability:

Industry can help to ensure that the fishery remains productive and viable over the long term
AB YARNS: 50 YEARS OF BLOWING BUBBLES 1969-2019

Abalone Industry Association of South Australia

RRP $69, order forms available abyarnsa@gmail.com