

AQUACULTURE

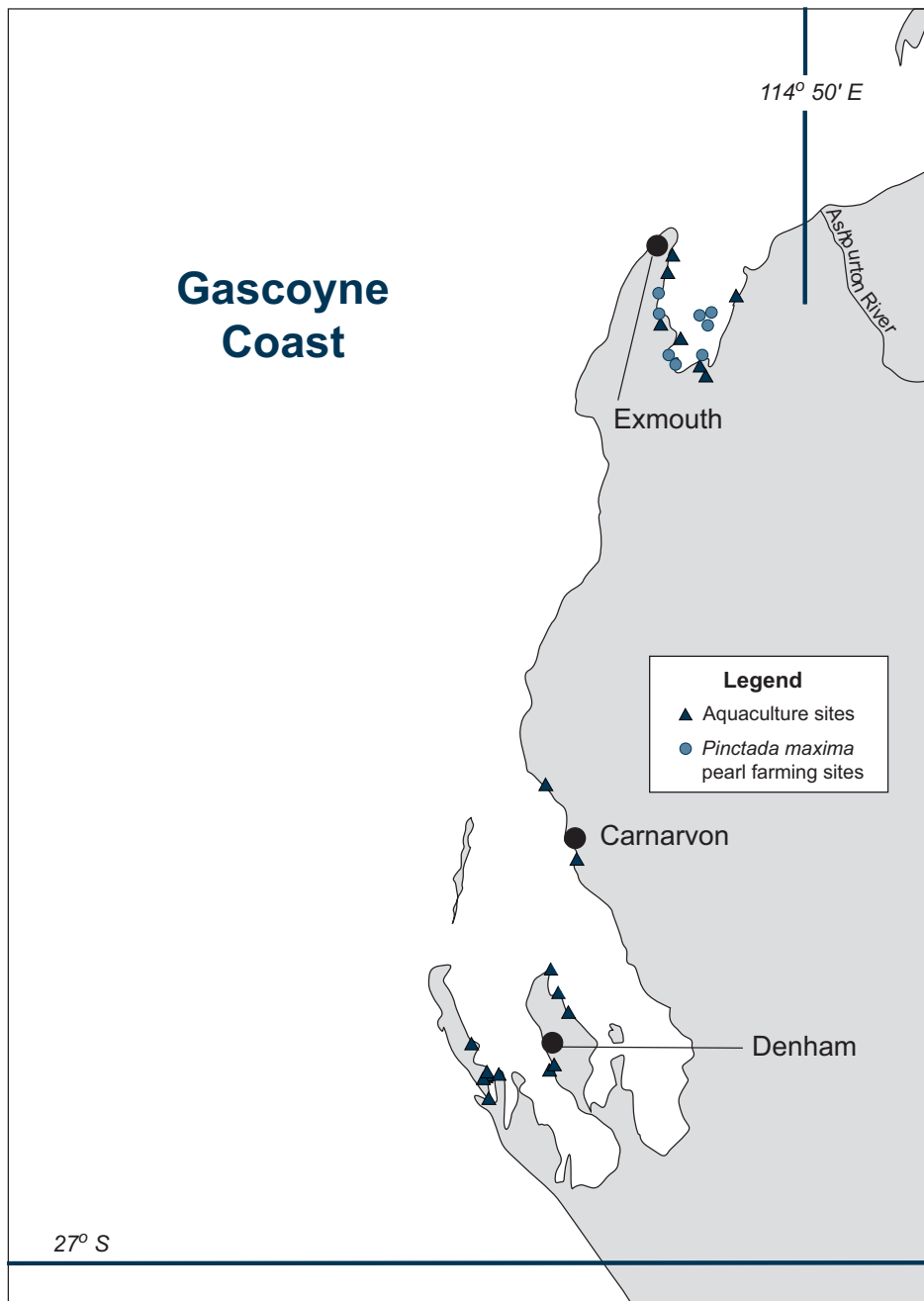
Regional Research and Development Overview

The Department's main focus in the Gascoyne continues to be on encouraging the growth of pearling industries using species that complement the major state industry based on silverlip pearls (*Pinctada maxima*).

There have been no major research activities during 2003/04 except health monitoring by the Fish Health Unit (see

Appendix 5). However, specialised technical advice has been provided to assist hatchery operations and to help progress aquaculture and related licence applications.

Key development tasks have involved supporting the emergence of a local aquarium fish production sector, the establishment of a mahi-mahi (*Coryphaena* sp.) farm at Exmouth and the diversification of a nearby prawn hatchery into other marine species.



GASCOYNE COAST AQUACULTURE FIGURE 1

Map showing the major licensed aquaculture and pearl farming sites of the Gascoyne coast bioregion. Note that aquaculture operations may also encompass the culture of non-*Pinctada maxima* pearl oysters.

GASCOYNE COMPLIANCE TABLE I

Summary of compliance and educative contacts and infringement types within the Gascoyne coast bioregion during the 2002/03 financial year.

<i>CONTACT WITH THE COMMERCIAL FISHING COMMUNITY</i>		<i>NUMBER</i>
Hours delivered in bioregion		9,716
Fisher field contacts by Fisheries Officers		1,759
District Office contacts by Fisheries Officers		4,553
Fishwatch reports *		5
<i>COMMERCIAL OFFENCES DETECTED</i>		
Infringement warnings		52
Infringement notices		32
Prosecutions		9
<i>CONTACT WITH THE RECREATIONAL FISHING COMMUNITY</i>		<i>NUMBER</i>
Hours delivered in bioregion		8,620
Fisher field contacts by Fisheries Officers		11,181
District Office contacts by Fisheries Officers		4,852
<i>RECREATIONAL OFFENCES DETECTED</i>		
Infringement warnings		90
Infringement notices		70
Prosecutions		11

* This represents the total number of Fishwatch reports, both commercial and recreational, since the service provider reporting mechanism cannot differentiate between sectors.



WEST COAST
BIOREGION

GASCOYNE COAST
BIOREGION

NORTH COAST
BIOREGION

SOUTH COAST
BIOREGION

NORTHERN INLAND
BIOREGION

SOUTHERN INLAND
BIOREGION