



AQUACULTURE UPDATE

September 2016

Out for comment

- Ocean Grown Abalone licence variation application
- Indian Ocean Fresh Australia licence variation application
- Abalone aquaculture policy (draft)

Draft Abalone Aquaculture policy released

The 2013 Abalone Aquaculture Policy has been revised and released for 60 days of comment.

Key changes include: consideration of spatial separation according to the provisions of the Act, the merit of proposals and risk assessments; the removal of genetic zoning; and the use of science-based genetic management strategies.

Shellfish hatchery on track

Planning for the Albany shellfish hatchery is in full swing.

The Department's Albany office has sourced second hand autoclave equipment - at no cost - from Swan Districts Hospital to install in the planned new facility. The equipment has been delivered to Albany.

Tenders have been let for three new water pumps. NSW Government officers from the Port Stephens hatchery have been to Albany to review the location and architect plans.

The Department is aiming to have a tender for construction released by Christmas.

Right: Autoclave equipment being loaded for the trip to Albany to be installed in the planned shellfish hatchery



Midwest Aquaculture Development Zone

The public comment period for the Midwest Zone Public Environmental Review has now closed.

Four submissions were received. Fisheries is preparing a response to issues raised in the submissions so the Environmental Protection Authority assessment can proceed.

South Coast Aquaculture Development Zone

The Government has provided \$1.3 million in funding for establishment of a south coast aquaculture development zone.

The first stage of the project will include discussion with industry and development commissions. Mike Pengelly has been seconded from the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority to lead the project. He starts with Fisheries on 3 October 2016.

Kimberley Aquaculture Development Zone (KADZ)

Final approvals for the Kimberley Zone are imminent.

More information on the Kimberley Zone can be found [here](#).

Statements of decision for the allocation of area within the KADZ have been published on the Department's website [here](#).

Productivity Commission report

The Commonwealth Productivity Commission has released its draft report on Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture. The report surveys trends in Australian aquaculture, evaluates the impact of regulation on aquaculture operators and considers whether regulatory settings are appropriate for the future.

Submissions are open until 14 October 2016, and a final report is due to be published by the end of the year. The Department of Fisheries is co-ordinating the Western Australian Government's submission.

The report can be found at www.pc.gov.au

Australian Centre for Applied Aquaculture Research (ACAAR)

Fisheries has provided a technical officer, Justin King, to ACAAR to assist in the production of yellowtail kingfish until the end of the year. The Department has also entered into a year long arrangement to rotate its policy and aquatic management officers through a 1-2 week "immersion" in the ACAAR production facility.

The Department is also working with the Department of Training and Workforce Development on a long term plan for the future of ACAAR.



Above: Justin King at ACAAR

Aquaculture Licence Applications and Leases

Company Name/Date submitted	Location	Application Type	Status	Next Steps
Licence Applications				
Indian Ocean Fresh Australia Pty Ltd 29/07/2016	Champion Bay, Geraldton	Variation to increase area	Consultation period ends 23/09/2016	Draft Statement of Decision
Kimberley Prawn Company (Aust) Pty Ltd 11/04/2016	Derby	Variation to add barramundi	Consultation period ended 01/08/2016	Finalising Statement of Decision
Ocean Foods International Pty Ltd 19/12/2014	Albany	Variation to add species	MEMP in revision	Awaiting additional Information
Ocean Grown Abalone 22/07/2016	Flinders Bay, Augusta	Variation to Increase area	Consultation period ends 23/09/2016	Draft Statement of Decision
Pan Holdings Pty Ltd 19/01/2016	Nanga, Shark Bay	New Licence Application	Consultation period ended 14/08/2016	Provide Pan with Summary of Submissions
Plankton Farms Pty Ltd 13/02/2015	Karratha	New Licence Application	Consultation period ended 08 November 2015; PF arranging tenure	DDG has made the decision to grant
Whitby and Bonney 26/08/2016	Abrolhos Islands	Variation to add coral species	Details of variation request confirmed	Preparing consultation information
Lease Applications				
Aarli Mayi Aquaculture Project Pty Ltd	KADZ	New aquaculture lease application	Draft lease deed prepared	Draft lease deed sent to applicant for consideration
Batavia Coral Farm	Abrolhos Islands	New aquaculture lease application	Draft lease deed sent to applicant for consideration	Finalising lease deed
Ocean Grown Abalone Pty Ltd	Flinders Bay, Augusta	Variation to existing lease	Finalising lease deed draft	Send draft lease deed to applicant for consideration
Pan Holdings Pty Ltd	Nanga, Shark Bay	New aquaculture lease application	Finalising lease deed draft	Send draft lease deed to applicant for consideration

Ten Year Plan for aquaculture

A committee has been established to progress the 10-year aquaculture development plan.

Independently chaired by Brett McCallum, the committee has representation from industry and government departments. The next meeting is on Monday, 3 October 2016.

Activities - recent and planned

- The Deputy Director General has recently made a decision to grant an aquaculture licence to Plankton Farms Pty Ltd, Karratha.
- The Director General and Deputy Director General recently travelled to the Dampier Peninsula to view Cygnet Bay pearling operations and to meet traditional owners at Ardyaloon (trochus hatchery). They also met with Aarli Mayi aquaculture project representatives.
- The Deputy Director General met with aquaculture licence holders in Geraldton in August, including Andrew and Tracy Basile and Baba Marda (Abrolhos Live Rock P/L).

Coming soon

Release for comment of the review of Ministerial Policy Guideline no.8 *Assessment of applications for authorisations for Aquaculture and Pearling in coastal waters of Western Australia*.

Regulatory Reform

The Department of Finance is undertaking a 90-day red tape reduction program for aquaculture, with Fisheries. The media statement can be viewed [here](#). The report is due to be completed by September 30, 2016.

The Department has also established Project Barracuda to tackle red tape throughout the Department and implement the recommendations of the 90 day aquaculture review when it is finalised.

Additional information

For additional information please contact the Aquaculture Branch on aquaculture@fish.wa.gov.au.