

WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S AQUACULTURE ZONES PROVIDING 'INVESTMENT READY' PLATFORMS IN THE KIMBERLEY AND MID WEST

Western Australia's pristine waters provide great potential for sustainable commercial aquaculture, particularly with marine finfish and shellfish species.

This gives us an exciting opportunity to develop a sector that can supply a large share of high-value seafood to world markets.

With this in mind, to promote the development of large-scale marine finfish aquaculture, the State Government has created two zones, each providing an 'investment ready' platform for aquaculture ventures.

The zone system allows us to grant approvals quickly at low cost so that businesses can start with minimal delay.

To streamline the process, we first secure approval for the whole zone for aquaculture, based on a strategic assessment of potential environmental impacts. Once the zone is operating, we will carefully manage it to minimise any biosecurity risk and improve operating efficiency.

The expansion of the aquaculture sector will be a springboard for major economic and social benefits including greater diversity for regional industry and more jobs.



Kimberley Aquaculture Development Zone

The Kimberley Aquaculture Development Zone covers almost 2,000 hectares of Cone Bay, about 215 kilometres north-east of Broome. Extensive studies indicate its capacity to support production of 20,000 tonnes of finfish annually without significant environmental impact.

A fish farm already established in the zone is growing barramundi. The company's aquaculture licence was varied to increase the size of the site from 700 to 1,344 hectares; it now permits the company to grow other species of marine finfish and to produce up to 15,000 tonnes per year in total.

A new aquaculture licence was granted to another company for an area of 367 hectares in the zone and permits the company to produce 5,000 tonnes per year of marine fish species.

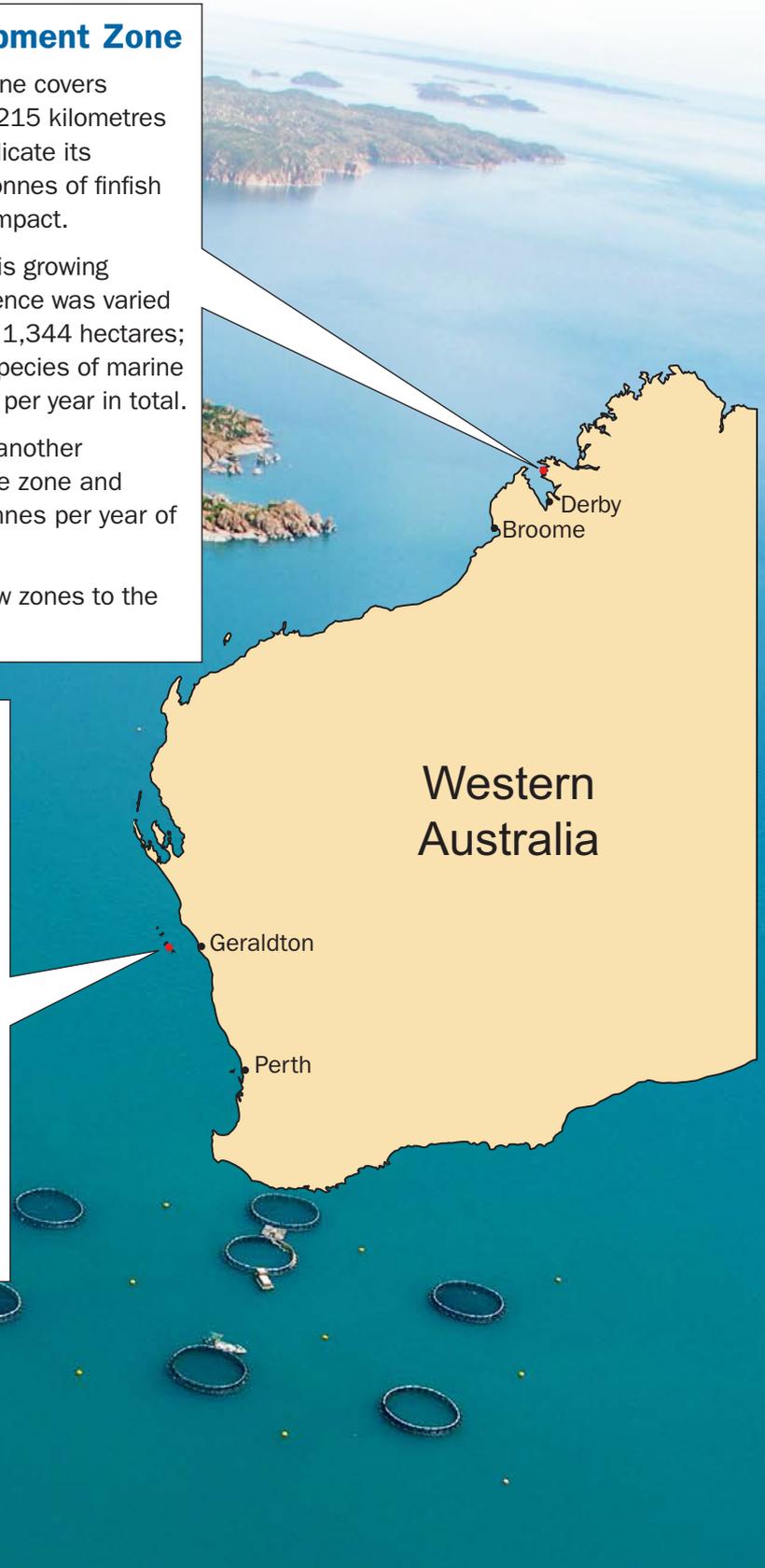
There is area available with potential for new zones to the north of Cone Bay.

Mid West Aquaculture Development Zone

The Mid West Aquaculture Development Zone is located across an area of open water between Geraldton and the southern region of the Abrolhos Islands group. The 3,000 hectare zone is comprised of two parts, a northern area of 2,200 hectares and a southern area of 800 hectares, as shown on the Mid West Aquaculture Development Zone map.

The southern area of the zone is subject to an existing aquaculture licence.

The Department is currently assessing applications for licences and leases within the zone.



More information

For further information on the Kimberley and Mid West aquaculture development zones, contact:

Steve Nel at Steve.nel@dpird.wa.gov.au or (08) 6551 4485

For more information on aquaculture in Western Australia please visit www.fish.wa.gov.au/aquaculture