



AQUACULTURE UPDATE

November 2016

MPG 8 revised and draft released for comment

The 1998 Ministerial Policy Guideline No. 8 has been revised and released for public comment. The draft document, now referred to as an Administrative Guideline, can be found [here](#) for your comment.

Key changes include:

- Reducing the consultation period from 60 days to 28 days in line with current consultation agreements with industry;
- Removal of “major” and “minor” variation categories for aquaculture, embedding a risk based approach;
- Move towards online forms and transactions;
- Statements of Decision will be placed on Department’s web page to increase transparency; and
- Inclusion of details regarding Management and Environmental Monitoring Plans for Aquaculture and Aquaculture Development Zones.

10-Year Aquaculture Plan

A draft plan is being circulated to committee members for comment, and will later be released for broader industry comment.

Site works have started at the Albany Shellfish Hatchery

The NSW Department of Primary Industries has endorsed the site and plans. Work is progressing on the tendering process for the construction phase.



Regulatory Reform

The first 90-day regulatory mapping project on aquaculture has been completed by the Department of Finance with a summary intended for public release and a full report prepared. Seventeen recommendations have been proposed, including streamlined and faster licence approvals, greater guidance to applicants and the use of online applications, along with further marine zoning and improved tenure arrangements to improve investment certainty.

Out for comment

Draft Administrative Guideline - Assessment of Applications for Authorisations for Aquaculture and Pearling in Coastal Waters of Western Australia (due 5pm Monday 7 November 2016)

Abalone Aquaculture in WA: Principles and Considerations Relating to Management of Abalone Aquaculture in WA (due 5pm Tuesday 15 November 2016)

National Aquaculture Strategy

The Department is maintaining a watching brief on the progress of the Strategy, mainly through participation on the National Aquaculture Committee. Information on the strategy can be found [here](#).

Australian Centre for Applied Aquaculture Research (ACAAR)

The Department's arrangement to rotate policy and aquatic management officers through 1-2 week periods in ACAAR's production facility has commenced with Lauren Pickles being the first to undergo the program.

Aquaculture Development Zones (ADZs)

Kimberley ADZ

All derived proposals have been completed in less than 50 business days and endorsed by the Minister for Environment

Midwest ADZ

The Department's responses to comments raised in the PER are expected to be considered by the EPA in its meeting on 15 December 2016.

South Coast ADZ

The Project Manager for the South Coast ADZ project, Mike Pengelly, visited the south coast in late October for preliminary site visits and meetings with stakeholders.

The next project management group meeting is scheduled in Albany in early December.



Mike Pengelly, Project Manager South Coast ADZ

Aquaculture Licence and Lease Applications

Company Name/ Date submitted	Location	Application Type	Status	Next Steps
Licence Applications				
Indian Ocean Fresh Australia 29/07/2016	Champion Bay, Geraldton	Variation to increase area	Consultation period ended 23/09/2016	Draft Statement of Decision in preparation
Kimberley Prawn Company (Aust) Pty Ltd 11/04/2016	Derby	Variation to add barramundi	Consultation period ended 01/08/2016 Applicant to amend MEMP	Finalise MEMP and Statement of Decision
Ocean Foods International 19/12/2014	Albany	Variation to add species	MEMP in revision	Awaiting additional Information from proponent
Ocean Grown Abalone 22/07/2016	Flinders Bay, Augusta	Variation to Increase area	Consultation period ended 23/09/2016	Draft Statement of Decision in preparation
Pan Holdings Pty Ltd 19/01/2016	Nanga, Shark Bay	New Licence Application	Consultation period ended 14/08/2016	Draft Statement of Decision in preparation
Plankton Farms Pty Ltd 13/02/2015	Karratha	New Licence Application	Consultation period ended 08/11/15; PF arranging tenure	DDG has made the decision to grant PF
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 on 18 August 2016
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

Activities – recent and planned

- Approval has been given by the Minister to continue to apply a reduced fee of \$290 for aquaculture broodstock exemptions.
- The Department's Corporate Executive has approved recruitment of a Senior Fish Pathologist. The recruitment process has been initiated and the Department plans to advertise the position soon.
- The Aquaculture Council of WA AGM and AMM were held on 13 October 2016 with a positive outcome.
- The Director General and Deputy Director General travelled to Port Stephens in October to visit the NSW Government hatchery.



Heather Brayford, Director General, and Dr Stewart Fielder, Senior Aquaculture Research Scientist, at the NSW Government aquaculture facility in Port Stephens

- From November 1 2016, the Department will increase Fish Health capacity by no longer providing disease testing services for ornamental fish or for interstate samples. A national plan is proposed to manage disease risks using an audit based approach.

Other News

- Further to the 90-day regulatory mapping project, the Department has launched Project Barracuda, of which the purpose is to simplify management arrangements in fisheries and aquaculture. The Department of Finance's 90-day red tape program specifically addresses aquaculture.
- A Port Working Group has been established to resolve issues on providing long-term leases in port waters. The Group includes Darren Foster (Fisheries), Nicholas Fertin (Southern Ports), Graeme Doyle (DoT), Katherine Martin (DoT) and Catherine Wallace (DoT).
- The Commonwealth has renewed the export accreditation for the Marine Aquarium Fishery. On the strength of a new harvest strategy and management plan the approved total coral take, which now includes aquaculture, has been substantially increased.
- Two abalone farms have been pre-assessed for Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) certification and the Department is waiting on the ASC to develop an assessment standard for barramundi.

Additional Information

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