

Department of Fisheries Aquaculture Zones Newsletter No. 2

Kimberley Aquaculture Zone



EPA level of assessment set

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has set the level of assessment for the project as Assessment on Proponent Information (API). Scoping guidelines have also been provided by the EPA to guide the development of the environmental approval document.

To view the EPA decision and documents go to www.epa.gov.au

Thanks for your feedback

Thank you to everyone who took up the opportunity to meet with us on our visit to Broome and Derby in June. We were encouraged by the support and input provided which will help us shape the project.

Once the field studies have been completed there will be another opportunity to meet to discuss the results and proposed management approach for the Kimberley Aquaculture zone.

In the meantime if you have any questions about the project or would like further information please email aquaculture@fish.wa.gov.au or Ph (08) 9482 7208

To keep up to date with the latest project developments check out the new Aquaculture Zones webpage

[www.fish.wa.gov.au/Fishing-and-](http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/Fishing-and-Aquaculture/Aquaculture/Aquaculture%20Zones/Pages/default.aspx)

[Aquaculture/Aquaculture/Aquaculture%20Zones/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/Fishing-and-Aquaculture/Aquaculture/Aquaculture%20Zones/Pages/default.aspx).

Field studies commencing

The Department of Fisheries is pleased to announce that it has awarded the contract for undertaking the field and modelling work to support the establishment of the Kimberley Aquaculture Zone. The successful tenderer was a consortium led by DHI Pty Ltd and including staff from Oceanica Pty Ltd and the Kimberley Marine Research Station (based at Cygnet Bay).

Field work will involve collecting water quality and sediment samples from the area around Cone Bay, King Sound. Equipment to monitor currents and tides will also be deployed in the area.

The first field trip was successfully completed in the week commencing 24 September. Field trips will continue until March 2013.

Mid West Aquaculture Zone

The Mid West Aquaculture Zone will be the second Aquaculture Zone to be established in Western Australia. The project is just commencing and we aim to have the zone in place by the end of 2014. The location of the zone has yet to be determined (refer to the information below). The zone will streamline the environmental approvals and provide an “investment ready” platform for marine finfish operations.

The many benefits of a zones approach include improved environmental protection and encouraging economic diversity. These benefits occur without restricting any other activities – people will still be allowed to access the zone as long as they don’t interfere with the aquaculture operations.

New staff member

We are pleased to welcome John Eyres to the Department of Fisheries Aquaculture team.

John’s role will focus on managing the establishment of the Mid West Aquaculture Zone.

You may have already met John in his previous role as translocation officer within the Department.

You can contact John by email john.eyres@fish.wa.gov.au or
Phone (08) 9482 7377

Where will the zone be located?

The first step the Department is undertaking for the Mid West zone is a site selection process. The primary constraint for the location of the zone is that it must be within State waters as we do not have the legislative power to declare a zone in Commonwealth waters. The map (right) shows the areas of State waters within the Mid West region.

The Department will narrow down the possible locations for zones within these areas based on other suitability criteria such as water depth, environmental values and other uses. Stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment on the suitability criteria and site options in the coming months.

If you would like to register your interest to receive communications from the Department about the Mid West project, including notification of opportunities to comment on the site selection process, please email: aquaculture@fish.wa.gov.au

