

**APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF AN AQUACULTURE  
LICENCE**

**by**

**Harvest Road Oceans Pty Ltd  
King George Sound, ALBANY WA**

**August 2020**

**DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND  
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DPIRD)  
APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF AN AQUACULTURE LICENCE**

**Harvest Road Oceans Pty Ltd  
King George Sound Albany WA**

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<b>File Ref</b>	L2366/13-02
<b>Date of Application</b>	3 July 2020
<b>General Location</b>	Mistaken Island, King George Sound, Albany, WA
<b>Area of Proposed Site</b>	11.237 hectares
<b>Existing Species</b>	Akoya pearl oyster ( <i>Pinctada fucata</i> ), blue mussels ( <i>Mytilus edulis</i> ), brownlip abalone ( <i>Haliotis conicopora</i> ), greenlip abalone, ( <i>Haliotis laevigata</i> ), roe's abalone ( <i>Haliotis roei</i> ), doughboy scallop ( <i>Chlamys asperrimus</i> ) and wingshell pearl oyster ( <i>Pteria falcate</i> )
<b>Species to be added</b>	western rock oyster ( <i>Saccostrea cucullata</i> ), flat oyster ( <i>Ostrea angasi</i> ) and red seaweed ( <i>Asparagopsis</i> sp.)
<b>Culture Method</b>	Dropper ropes and longlines
<b>Other Sites (within 5 n mile)</b>	Athair Aquaculture Pty Ltd Gareth James
<b>Further Information</b>	Contact Helen Lucich at DPIRD Aquaculture Directorate on (08) 6551 4337 or <a href="mailto:helen.lucich@dpiird.wa.gov.au">helen.lucich@dpiird.wa.gov.au</a> .

# Information provided by the applicant relevant to an application for variation of an aquaculture licence

Harvest Road Oceans Pty Ltd

August 2020

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## Introduction

This document outlines the information for consideration by agencies, stakeholders and community and industry groups regarding a proposal submitted by Harvest Road Oceans Pty Ltd (HRO) to vary its Aquaculture Licence No. 1584 (IDCA 1584).

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## Background

HRO holds IDCA 1584 which authorises the culture of Akoya pearl oyster (*Pinctada fucata*), blue mussels (*Mytilus edulis*), brownlip abalone (*Haliotis conicopora*), greenlip abalone (*Haliotis laevigata*), roe's abalone (*Haliotis roei*), doughboy scallop (*Chlamys asperrimus*) and wingshell pearl oyster (*Pteria falcata*) at an 11.237 hectare site near Mistaken Island in King George Sound, Albany.

HRO also operates at two existing sites near Mistaken Island under Aquaculture Licence No. 1582 (IDCA 1582) and Aquaculture Licence No. 1579 (IDCA 1579).

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## Proposed Variation

HRO has proposed to vary its Licence to add western rock oyster (*Saccostrea cucullata*), flat oyster (*Ostrea angasi*) and red seaweed (*Asparagopsis* sp.) to the licence. HRO has also proposed to amalgamate the sites on IDCA 1582 and IDCA 1579 with the site on IDCA 1584.

The proposed site is located near Mistaken island in King George Sound and is 11.237 hectares. When amalgamated, the sites will comprise a total area of 39.333 hectares (future amalgamation of sites will be subject to a separate process).

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## Source of Stock and Methods

The proposed culture method for the additional species as listed above will remain the same as existing methods identified on IDCA 1584. Culture methods currently consist of dropper ropes and basket culture on longlines. Longlines are approximately 100-200 metres in length from mooring to mooring and spaced between 10 and 40 metres apart.

Oyster spat will be sourced from existing HRO sites, external aquaculture sites, from the wild and from a licensed hatchery. Spat obtained will be sourced from genetically similar populations to those which naturally occur within King George Sound. The collection of broodstock from wild populations would be made under the authority of a Ministerial exemption, which will be subject to conditions that deal with biosecurity and environmental risks, including genetic differentiation.

Broodstock will be transported to the Albany Shellfish Hatchery, where they will be spawned and the larvae reared to produce spat to a certain size. The hatchery operates under strict biosecurity procedures to minimise any risk of potential spread of diseases to wild populations of marine shellfish. Movements from the Hatchery will be subject to a health certificate. Spat may be pre-settled on culture

ropes before being transferred to HRO's aquaculture site or settled onto the culture ropes when on-site.

With regard to seaweed culture, HRO is seeking to conduct grow out trials of *Asparagopsis* sp. to determine its commercial viability. Broodstock would be collected from local populations under the authority of a Ministerial exemption. Production trials will involve seaweed being woven into ropes, which will be deployed as dropper ropes on existing backbone lines, or other methods similar to shellfish culture, such as placement in baskets. Additional growout methods may be implemented following further research and development trials into the proposed species.

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## **Management and Environmental Monitoring**

HRO has amended its Management and Environmental Monitoring Plan (MEMP), to accommodate the additional culture of new species as listed above. The MEMP includes environmental management processes, biosecurity protocols and incident and emergency procedures.

The biosecurity risk of this project is considered low due to the proposed species not requiring additional or supplementary feeding. It is therefore unlikely that the farming of oysters and seaweed will have any negative impact on nutrient levels in the water column and surrounding benthos.

HRO takes a conservative approach in disease risk management by complying with hatchery and translocation protocols. All oyster broodstock will be sourced locally or from approved locations and transported to the Albany Shellfish Hatchery, which will require a health certificate from DPIRD's Diagnostic Laboratory Services.

In addition, the current licence has conditions in place for the culture of various species of shellfish. As part of the licence variation, these conditions will be reviewed and amended as required with consideration for any additional biosecurity and environmental risks that may be posed by the addition of the proposed species.

All broodstock sourced will be subject to broodstock exemption or licence conditions that deal with biosecurity and environmental risks.

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