

## South Coast Bioregion

### Regional Management Overview

The south coast bioregion encompasses the major centres of Albany and Esperance. Aquaculture activity in the region is focused at Albany and includes commercial mussel and edible oyster production and trial abalone production. Management activities were directed at management of the Albany Aquaculture Park in which three sites are leased for abalone and edible oysters. Additional applications for mussel farming in King George Sound were assessed through the public consultation process (Ministerial Policy Guideline no. 8). Administrative oversight of the WA Shellfish Quality Assurance Program was continued. Activity in the Esperance area related to the aquaculture plan for the Recherche Archipelago and interest in abalone aquaculture.

South Coast Aquaculture Figure 1 shows the major licensed aquaculture sites in this bioregion.

### Regional Compliance and Extension Overview

Regional officers conducted site inspections to ensure compliance with licence conditions and, in particular, site marking requirements. Officers were also involved in supervising the sampling of waters and shellfish and monitoring harvesting closures as part of the WA Shellfish Quality Assurance Program. Extension activities were focused principally on public enquiries and planning in relation to aquaculture development, particularly abalone.

### Regional Research Overview

A major research activity has been the evaluation of greenlip and Roe's abalone fed various diets in a project managed jointly by Fisheries WA and industry, with financial support from the ADF. Major progress has been made with conditioning greenlip abalone broodstock out of season and using these for commercial production of juvenile abalone. Performance of greenlip abalone in sea-based culture near Albany continues to be extremely encouraging. Assessment of the potential environmental impact of mussel farming on benthic habitats, supported by Fisheries WA, FRDC and ADF, is nearing completion near Albany.



**SOUTH COAST AQUACULTURE FIGURE 1**

Map showing the major licensed aquaculture sites of the south coast bioregion.

