APPLICATIONS FOR AN AQUACULTURE LICENCE AND LEASE

by

Port Gregory Oysters Pty Ltd

Port Gregory WA

August 2019

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

APPLICATIONS FOR AN AQUACULTURE LICENCE AND LEASE

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PORT GREGORY WA

File Ref	L99/19
Date of Application	14 June 2019
General Location	Port Gregory, WA
Total Area of Proposed Site	10.066 ha
Species	Non-maxima oysters
Culture Method	Longlines
Other sites (within 5 n mile)	Basf Australia Ltd
Further Information	Contact Danielle Hartshorn at the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) on (08) 6551 4305 or danielle.hartshorn@dpird.wa.gov.au.

Information provided by the applicant relevant to applications for an aquaculture licence and lease

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Introduction

This document provides information for consideration by agencies, stakeholders and community and industry groups regarding applications submitted by Port Gregory Oysters Pty Ltd (PGO) for an aquaculture licence and lease.

Background

On 14 June 2019, PGO applied to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) for an aquaculture licence and lease in Port Gregory, Western Australia.

Proposal

PGO is seeking to establish an aquaculture operation to grow rock oysters at a 10-hectare site within the Port Gregory Lagoon. For the first three years, PGO proposes to conduct a trial for rock oyster aquaculture to study growth, survival and oyster flesh quality.

PGO's proposed species are:

- Milky Oyster (*Saccostrea scyphophilla*); and
- Black lip rock oyster (*Saccostrea cucullata*).

In addition to oyster culture, PGO propose to operate oyster farm tours to make the operation more viable and boost tourism in the region.

Source of Stock and Methods

For intertidal culture, PGO propose to utilise longlines set up in arrays of triplicate lines of oyster baskets. Each triplicate longline will be supported by poles driven into sand or by anchor posts at each end to support the tumbler baskets that will hold the juvenile oysters.

For subtidal culture, PGO propose to use floating baskets on longlines secured with clump weight anchors or screw anchors.

PGO seek to obtain local spat through oyster spat collectors within the lease area and from the Albany Shellfish Hatchery (Hatchery). The Hatchery operates under strict biosecurity procedures to prevent potential spread of disease to wild populations of oysters or other marine shellfish. Prior to being moved from the Hatchery, spat will be certified as being free of disease.

Diagrams

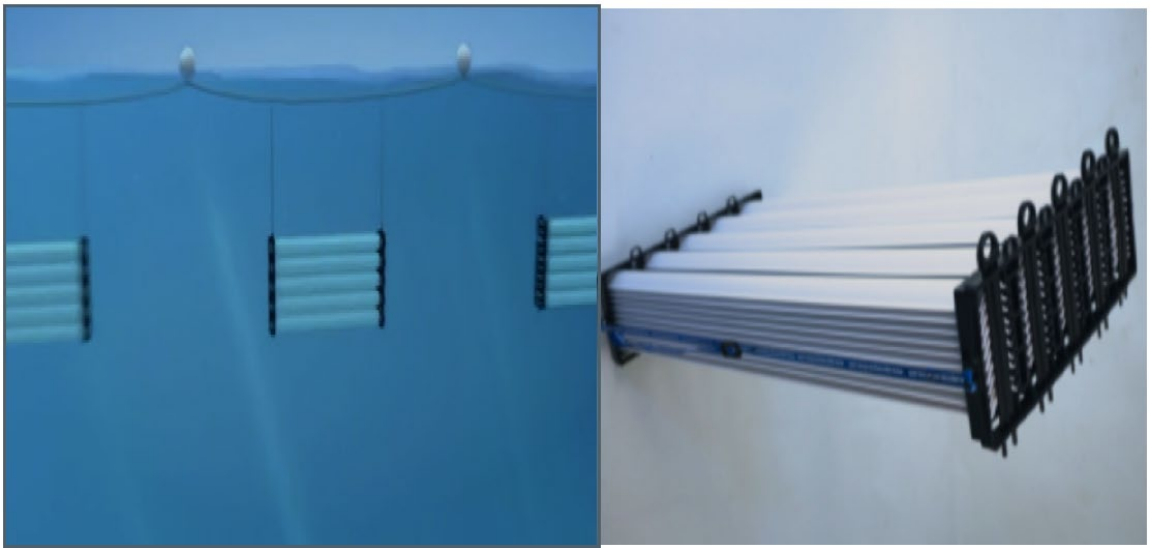

Fig:1 Proposed Spat Collectors (Spat Trap System).

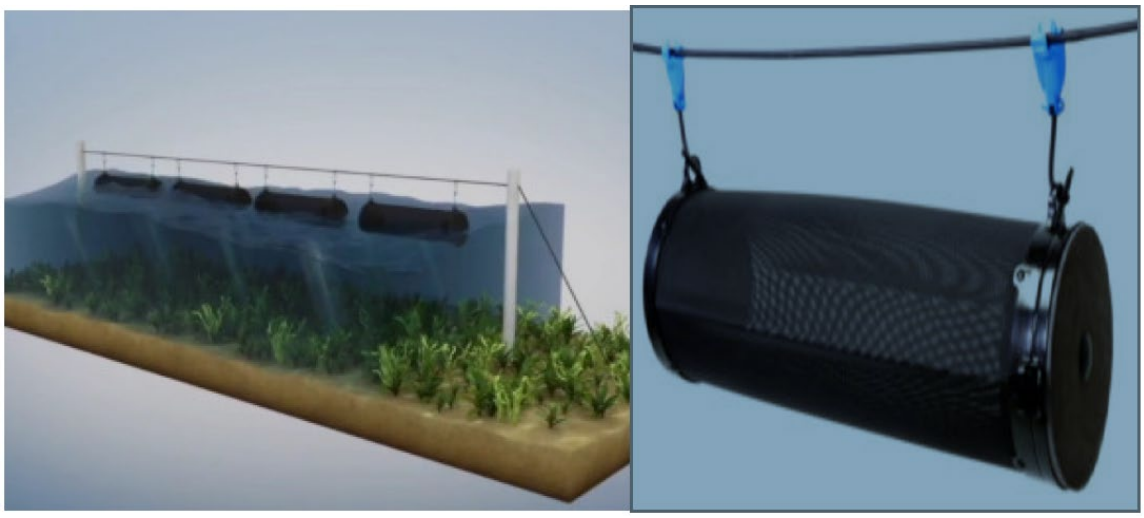

Fig: 2 Proposed Tumblers for Grow Out

Management and Environmental Monitoring

The proposed sites are located within the Port Gregory Lagoon, which consists of seagrass beds, scattered limestone and coral reefs as well as sand drifts. Aquaculture gear will be placed in such a way that no seagrass beds or coral reefs are damaged.

The proposed area is currently used by recreational fishers and some fishing vessels. The aquaculture licence, if approved, will not have exclusive access, which means that recreational and commercial fishers will be able to continue using the area as long as the cultured oysters and aquaculture gear are not interfered with.

Monitoring of the site will be conducted quarterly by use of underwater cameras, drone footage and written log entries. To further minimise potential environmental impacts, PGO will be conducting sediment testing on a six-monthly basis by collecting samples from underneath oyster lines. PGO will compare these with samples taken away from the oyster lines.

Because the cultured oysters filter naturally-occurring algae from the sea water, there is no requirement for any additional or supplementary feeding; consequently, the aquaculture of the proposed species is considered to pose no significant environmental or ecological issues. PGO's Management and Environmental Monitoring Plan (MEMP) will cover how identified risks such as marine mammal entanglement will be mitigated.