

**APPLICATIONS FOR AN AQUACULTURE LICENCE AND LEASE**

**by**

**Indian Ocean Fresh Pty Ltd**

**Geraldton**

**November 2021**

**DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND  
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**  
**APPLICATIONS FOR AN AQUACULTURE LICENCE AND LEASE**  
**Indian Ocean Fresh Australia Pty Ltd**

**Champion Bay  
Geraldton**

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<b>File Ref</b>	L1954/13-02
<b>Date of Application</b>	6 October 2021
<b>General Location</b>	Champion Bay, Geraldton
<b>Total Area of Sites</b>	36 hectares
<b>Species</b>	Cobia ( <i>Rachycentron canadus</i> ) Coral Trout ( <i>Plectropomus spp.</i> ) Mulloway ( <i>Argyrosomus hololepidotus</i> ) Snapper ( <i>Lujanus spp.</i> ) Southern Bluefin Tuna ( <i>Thunnus maccoyii</i> ) Yellowfin Tuna ( <i>Thunnus albacares</i> ) Yellowtail Kingfish ( <i>Seriola lalandi</i> )
<b>Culture Method</b>	Marine Sea Cage
<b>Other Sites</b> (within 5 n mile)	Central Regional TAFE
<b>Further Information</b>	Contact Ms Druimé Nolan at the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) on 08 6319 3659 or <a href="mailto:druime.nolan@dpird.wa.gov.au">druime.nolan@dpird.wa.gov.au</a> .

**Information provided by the applicant relevant to applications for an  
aquaculture licence and lease**  
*Indian Ocean Fresh Pty Ltd*

November 2021

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## **Introduction**

This document provides the information for consideration by agencies, stakeholders and community and industry groups regarding applications submitted by Indian Ocean Fresh Pty Ltd for an aquaculture licence and lease.

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## **Proposal**

On 6 October 2021, Indian Ocean Fresh Pty Ltd (IOFA) made an application to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) to vary its aquaculture licence to grow seaweed and oyster species at a site located in Champion Bay, Geraldton. The site comprises an area of 36 hectares. The site is has been licenced since 2010 for finfish species

In its application, IOFA seeks to establish an aquaculture operation for the grow-out and harvest of the following species of seaweed and oysters:

- *Asparagopsis spp.*
- *Gracilaria spp.*
- *Gelidium spp.*
- *Laurencia spp.*
- *Meristotheca spp.*
- *Solieria spp.*
- *Porphyra spp.*
- *Portieria spp.*
- *Pterocladia spp.*
- *Pyropia spp.*
- *Cladosiphon spp.*
- *Sargassum spp.*
- *Ecklonia spp,*
- *Caulerpa spp.*
- *Enteromorpha spp.*
- *Halimeda spp.*
- *Ulva spp.*
- *Akoya pearl oyster (Pinctada fucata)*

IOFA aim to take part in and contribute to research and development of the proposed seaweed species as an emerging aquaculture industry in Western Australia. Akoya Pearl oysters have been noted to settle naturally within the licenced site. IOFA intend on culturing this oyster species both as a food product and for the harvesting of pearls.

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## **Source of Stock and Methods**

IOFA proposes to collect seedstock (juvenile plants, seaweed as well as pearl oyster spat) from collectors that will be placed on its site or from a hatchery authorised to culture the species. New licence conditions will be imposed to authorise the collection of seedstock of the proposed species.

Seedstock will be sorted, identified and hung on droppers or panels attached at intervals on longlines at the site for grow out. Longlines will be moored to the seafloor with anchors of suitable weight to maintain tension on the lines. Longlines will vary in length and strength ensuring they are adequate for local conditions at the licenced site. IOFA proposes to use the existing moorings initially to trial the grow out methods.

Oysters will be cultured using industry best practice in panels attached to longlines.

Should finfish, seaweed and oysters be grown concurrently, IOFA already have highly developed systems in place for finfish aquaculture ensuring industry best practice is always maintained.

All lines will be assessed for appropriate tensioning, for biofouling and marine pests.

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## **Management and Environmental Monitoring**

IOFA has submitted an updated Management and Environmental Monitoring Plan (MEMP), which includes environmental management processes, biosecurity protocols and incident and emergency procedures. The biosecurity risk of seaweed and oyster aquaculture at the proposed site is considered low, due to the species originating from local waters and not requiring supplementary feed.

IOFA's MEMP outlines proposed biosecurity and quarantine controls. IOFA has been carrying out environmental monitoring under an approved MEMP since 2008. All findings have been reported to DPIRD as part of the aquaculture licence reporting conditions. IOFA has developed a comprehensive record of environmental data at the licenced site. IOFA believe that the operational effect on nearby sediments and water quality will be negligible given the proposed low intensity farming of seaweed and oysters.

The licenced site consists of a mainly sandy substrate with intermittent patches of limestone reef. The benthic habitat across the site consists primarily of algae interspersed with patches of seagrass on lightly sand covered limestone pavement. Fish and invertebrate life is sparse.

IOFA have developed a Marine Fauna Interaction Management Plan to minimise entanglements with marine mammals by utilising appropriate equipment. Further environmental aspects associated with IOFA operational components are covered in its MEMP.

IOFA will dispose of all waste materials in approved landfill facilities.

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## **Risks**

The proposed aquaculture activity poses no significant environmental issues, with identified risks accommodated by IOFA's MEMP.

The proposed species of seaweed and oyster occur naturally in the surrounding environment, therefore the risk of the introduction of disease is low. All larvae, juveniles or spat produced for grow-out will be the progeny of endemic broodstock or sourced from a licenced hatchery and will be transferred to Aquaculture Licence Site 1633 Champion Bay, as per the licence conditions.