



The existing MPA Fish Farms 700-hectare operation.

Fully allocated

Kimberley Aquaculture Development Zone

The Kimberley Aquaculture Development Zone covers almost 2,000 hectares of Cone Bay, about 215 kilometres north-east of Broome. Extensive studies indicate its capacity to support 20,000 tonnes of finfish annually without significant environmental impact.

Aquaculture development zones provide ‘investment ready’ platforms for setting up large-scale commercial aquaculture operations – or ‘fish farms’. The Government has done all the work up front to ensure that projects in the zone have an ‘environmental seal of approval’. This means investors can now secure environmental approval in a few months, rather than a few years, potentially saving more than \$500,000 in costs.

At about \$15 per hectare, the lease fees in this zone are the least expensive in Australia (compared with \$117 and \$286 per hectare in other states).

Industry growth prospects

The zone will also help protect environmental and cultural values in the region. Expanded or new aquaculture operations will provide economic benefits to the local community through job opportunities and regional economic diversification.

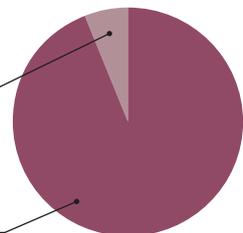
After assessing two applications for aquaculture licences and leases in this zone, we have varied an existing licence and granted one new licence.

To ensure the sites were allocated properly, we considered each application according to the relevant provisions of the *Fish Resources*

Management Act 1994 (FRMA), relevant guidelines and policy principles. The purposes of the FRMA enable the allocation of resources to achieve the optimum benefits to the State and the community.

Current total WA
aquaculture value
– \$12.4 million

Kimberley zone value
at approved capacity
– \$200 million



MPA Fish Farms, already established in the zone, has been growing barramundi. The aquaculture licence has now been varied to increase the size of the site from 700 to 1,344 hectares. It now also permits the company to grow other species of marine finfish and to produce up to 15,000 tonnes per year in total.

For more information see the company’s website at www.marineproduce.com, email general@marineproduce.com or phone +61 8 9381 4483.

A new aquaculture licence has been granted to Aarli Mayi Aquaculture Project for an area of 367 hectares in this zone. It permits the company to produce 5,000 tonnes per year of various species including barramundi, cobia and coral trout.

For more information see the company’s website at www.aarlimayi.com.au, email admin@aarlimayi.com.au or phone +61 8 9387 5870.

Mid West and south coast zones on the way

A new aquaculture zone is being developed in the Mid West and the environmental assessment is expected to be completed by the end of 2016.

Another aquaculture development zone on the south coast is in the early stages of development.

For further information on the Kimberley and Mid West aquaculture development zones, email aquaculture@fish.wa.gov.au

For more information on aquaculture in Western Australia please visit www.fish.wa.gov.au/aquaculture

