

**APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF AN AQUACULTURE
LICENCE**

by

**Abrolhos Aquaculture Australia Pty Ltd
Abrolhos Islands WA**

October 2018

**DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DPIRD)
APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF AN AQUACULTURE LICENCE
ABROLHOS AQUACULUTE AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
ABROLHOS ISLANDS WA**

File Ref	L2532/13-02
Date of Application	September 2018
General Location	Rat Island, Easter Group, Abrolhos Islands, WA
Species	
Culture Method	Grow-out longlines with cages, baskets and trays.
Proposed Variation	Addition of culture species to an established land-based hatchery with an associated jetty.
Further Information	Contact Clara Alvarez at DPIRD Aquaculture Branch on (08) 6551 4346 or clara.alvarez@dpird.wa.gov.au .

Information provided by the applicant relevant to applications for grant or variation of an aquaculture licence and lease

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Introduction

This document outlines information for consideration by agencies, stakeholders and community and industry groups regarding an application submitted by Abrolhos Aquaculture Australia Pty Ltd (AAA) for variation of its aquaculture licence IDCA 1574 (Licence).

Background

On 23 August 2018, AAA made an application to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (Department) to vary its Licence, which authorises the aquaculture of Akoya pearl oyster, bat wing pearl oyster and black lip pearl oyster at an offshore site near the Easter Group at the Abrolhos Islands.

Proposed Variation

Under the variation application, AAA proposes to add to its Licence various species of scallops, clams, oysters, sea cucumbers, sponges and sea urchins for aquaculture purposes.

The proposed species are:

- Scallops: *Amusium balloti*, *Chlamys australis*;
- Clams: *Tapes literatus*, *Tapes dorsatus*, *Tridacna maxima*, *Tridacna squamosal*, *Tridacna derasa*;
- Oysters: *Saccostrea* spp;
- Sea cucumbers: *Holothuridae*, *Holothuria scabra*, *Actinopyga* spp.;
- Sponges: *Hymedesmiidae*, *Latrunculiidae*, *Mycalidae*, *Irciniidae*, *Spongidae*, *Thorectidae*;
- Sea urchins: *Tripneustes gratilla*, *Tripneustes* spp, *Toxopneustidae*.

In addition, AAA proposes to extend the authorised site by adding to its Licence an existing jetty facility owned by AAA on Rat Island.

AAA is also making an application for an exemption to enable it to collect broodstock of the proposed species, namely *Tapes literatus* and *Tapes dorsatus* at this stage. Juveniles of a number of the species listed above naturally settle on aquaculture equipment established on AAA's authorised marine site, hence they will become potential broodstock for hatchery trials. Other shellfish broodstock, such as *Amusium balloti*, may be purchased off licenced commercial fishermen if necessary.

Source of Stock and Methods

AAA proposes to rear the new species in its hatchery and then conduct research and grow-out trials with various cages, baskets or trays on longlines at its marine site authorised under the Licence. These trials will be aimed at determining optimum culture techniques and stocking densities. The new species are filter feeders, detritus feeders or grazers and no supplementary or artificial feeds will be used to promote growth; consequently, no nutrients will be added to the water.

AAA is initially seeking to use locally sourced broodstock or broodstock approved for use by the Department.

Management and Environmental Monitoring

AAA has amended its Management and Environmental Monitoring Plan (MEMP), which was approved in 2017, to accommodate the additional culture of new species as listed above. The MEMP already includes biosecurity and quarantine protocols and the risk of disease being introduced to the area is considered low.

Screening of wastewater and management of wastes was dealt with in the approved MEMP. The collection of broodstock of new species will be subject to exemption conditions that are yet to be provided.

Risks

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

Outgoing hatchery water is filtered through an in-ground trap and natural limestone rubble before diffusing into the sea. This is to ensure that emissions do not adversely affect environmental values surrounding the hatchery facility.

The risk of escape of larvae and spat during the culture process is overcome by the culture tanks being drained through outlet screens that catch larvae and to enable them to be transferred to newly filled tanks. The screened water is also filtered through a main trap to prevent escapes.

There will be no introduction of non-native or exotic species – all stock will be sourced locally or from approved locations.
