

APPLICATIONS FOR AN AQUACULTURE LICENCE AND LEASE

by

Abrolhos Island Oysters Pty Ltd

Abrolhos Islands WA

April 2018

**DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DPIRD)
APPLICATIONS FOR AN AQUACULTURE LICENCE AND LEASE**

**Abrolhos Island Oysters Pty Ltd
Abrolhos Islands WA**

File Ref	L13/18
Date of Application	3 January 2018
General Location	Pelsaert Group, Abrolhos Islands, WA
Total Area of Proposed Sites	115.798 hectares
Species	Western rock oyster (<i>Saccostrea scyphophilla</i>)
Culture Method	grow-out using longlines
Other Sites (within 5 n mile)	Batavia Coral Farm Pty Ltd Abrolhos Pearls WA Pty Ltd Sea Urchin Pty Ltd Pelsaert WA Pty Ltd Zeewyk Pearls & Diving Pty Ltd Andrew Joseph & Tracey Lee Basile Peter & Karen Armstrong WTN Nominees Pty Ltd & Pelsaert (WA) Pty Ltd
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 an application for grant of 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 a proposal submitted by Abrolhos Island Oysters Pty Ltd (AIO) for an aquaculture licence and lease.

Background

In 2017, AIO was issued an Exemption to conduct an oyster aquaculture trial in the Abrolhos Islands. After a successful trial, AIO has made an application to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development for an aquaculture licence and lease within the Pelsaert Island Group of the Abrolhos Islands. The proposed areas are the same as the trial sites under the Exemption.

Proposal

AIO proposes to culture western rock oysters (*Saccostrea scyphophilla*) at two sites within Pelsaert Group at the Abrolhos Islands. The areas of the proposed sites are 95.38 and 20.418 hectares (Attachment 1).

Diagram



Figure 1:
Example of Floating Longlines

Source of Stock and Methods

For the grow-out of oysters, AIO proposes to use floating longlines, consisting of floating bags, tumblers and baskets which are held in place by anchors. The anchorage of structures and longlines will be implemented without affecting or damaging sensitive benthic habitats or live coral.

Oyster spat will be obtained through oyster spat collectors placed at specific locations within the Abrolhos Islands (Attachment 2). Stock will also be supplemented from the Albany Shellfish Hatchery using endemic *S. scyphophilla* broodstock collected from the Abrolhos Islands.

Management and Environmental Monitoring

The biosecurity risk of this project is considered low due to the proposed species originating from local waters and not requiring additional or supplementary feeding. It is therefore unlikely that nutrient levels in the water column and surrounding benthos will be altered by the farming of oysters.

AIO has submitted a Management and Environmental Monitoring Plan (MEMP), which includes biosecurity controls and incident and emergency procedures in the event of occurrences such as hydrocarbon spillage, marine mammal entanglement and breakage of longlines. The risk of disease through oyster aquaculture is considered low.

Oyster spat will originate from within the Abrolhos Islands, or from the Albany Shellfish Hatchery, which will require translocation approval and a health certificate from DPIRD.

As such, new genetic combinations will not be introduced to the local gene pool nor will exotic pathogens be introduced to the area.

To further minimise potential environmental impacts from oyster farming, AIO proposes to conduct sediment quality tests on a three-month basis.
