

**APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF AN AQUACULTURE
LICENCE**

by

Harvest Road Oceans Pty Ltd

Oyster Harbour, Albany, WA

August 2020

**DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DPIRD)
APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF AN AQUACULTURE LICENCE
Harvest Road Oceans Pty Ltd
Oyster Harbour Albany WA**

File Ref	L2218/13-02
Date of Application	22 July 2020
General Location	Oyster Harbour, Albany, WA
Area of Proposed Site	55.908, 50.146 and 60.904 hectares
Existing Species	blue mussels (<i>Mytilus edulis</i>), flat oyster (<i>Ostrea angasi</i>), rock oyster (<i>Saccostrea</i> spp.)
Species to be added	Akoya pearl oyster (<i>Pinctada fucata</i>), doughboy scallop (<i>Chlamys asperrimus</i>) and red seaweed (<i>Asparagopsis</i> sp.)
Culture Method	Dropper ropes and longlines
Other Sites (within 5 n mile)	Athair Aquaculture Pty Ltd Gareth James
Further Information	Contact Helen Lucich at DPIRD Aquaculture Directorate on (08) 6551 4337 or helen.lucich@dpird.wa.gov.au .

Information provided by the applicant relevant to an application for variation of an aquaculture licence

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Introduction

This document outlines the information for consideration by agencies, stakeholders and community and industry groups regarding a proposal submitted by Harvest Road Oceans Pty Ltd (HRO) to vary its Aquaculture Licence No. 1425 (IDCA 1425).

Background

HRO holds IDCA 1425 which authorises the culture of blue mussels (*Mytilus edulis*), flat oyster (*Ostrea angasi*) and rock oyster (*Saccostrea* spp.) at three sites within Oyster Harbour. The three sites comprise an area of 55.908, 50.146 and 60.904 hectares.

HRO also operates at an existing site within Oyster Harbour under Aquaculture Licence No. 1579 (IDCA 1579).

Proposed Variation

HRO has proposed to vary its Licence to add Akoya pearl oyster (*Pinctada fucata*), doughboy scallop (*Chlamys asperrimus*) and red seaweed (*Asparagopsis* sp.) to the licence. HRO has also proposed to amalgamate the sites on IDCA 1425 and IDCA 1579.

The proposed site is located in Oyster Harbour and has a combined area of 166.958 hectares. When amalgamated, the sites will comprise a total area of 173.819 hectares (future amalgamation of sites will be subject to a separate process).

Source of Stock and Methods

The proposed culture method for the additional species as listed above will remain the same as existing methods identified on IDCA 1425. Culture methods currently consist of dropper ropes and basket culture on longlines. Longlines are approximately 100-200 metres in length from mooring to mooring and spaced between 10 and 40 metres apart.

Shellfish spat will be sourced from existing HRO sites, external aquaculture sites, from the wild and from a licensed hatchery. Spat obtained will be sourced from genetically similar populations to those which naturally occur within Oyster Harbour. The collection of broodstock from wild populations would be made under the authority of a Ministerial exemption, which will be subject to conditions that deal with biosecurity and environmental risks, including genetic differentiation.

Broodstock will be transported to the Albany Shellfish Hatchery, where they will be spawned and the larvae reared to produce spat to a certain size. The hatchery operates under strict biosecurity procedures to minimise any risk of potential spread of diseases to wild populations of marine shellfish. Movements from the Hatchery will be subject to a health certificate. Spat may be pre-settled on culture ropes before being transferred to HRO's aquaculture site or settled onto the culture ropes when on-site.

With regard to seaweed culture, HRO is seeking to conduct grow out trials of *Asparagopsis* sp. to determine its commercial viability. Broodstock would be collected from local populations under the authority of a Ministerial exemption. Production trials will involve seaweed being woven into ropes, which will be deployed as dropper ropes on existing backbone lines, or other methods similar to shellfish culture, such as placement in baskets. Additional growout methods may be implemented following further research and development trials into the proposed species.

Management and Environmental Monitoring

HRO has amended its Management and Environmental Monitoring Plan (MEMP), to accommodate the additional culture of new species as listed above. The MEMP includes environmental management processes, biosecurity protocols and incident and emergency procedures.

The biosecurity risk of this project is considered low due to the proposed species not requiring additional or supplementary feeding. It is therefore unlikely that the farming of oysters, scallops and seaweed will have any negative impact on nutrient levels in the water column and surrounding benthos.

HRO takes a conservative approach in disease risk management by complying with hatchery and translocation protocols. All shellfish broodstock will be sourced locally or from approved locations and transported to the Albany Shellfish Hatchery, which will require a health certificate from DPIRD's Diagnostic Laboratory Services.

In addition, the current licence has conditions in place for the culture of various shellfish species. As part of the licence variation, these conditions will be reviewed and amended as required with consideration for any additional biosecurity and environmental risks that may be posed by the addition of the proposed species.

All broodstock sourced will be subject to broodstock exemption or licence conditions that deal with biosecurity and environmental risks.
