

**APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF AN AQUACULTURE
LICENCE**

by

Abrolhos Island Oysters Pty Ltd

Abrolhos Islands WA

November 2020

**DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DPIRD)**
APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF AN AQUACULTURE LICENCE

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

File Ref	L13/18
Date of Application	2 October 2020
General Location	Pelsaert Group, Abrolhos Islands, WA
Total Area of Proposed Sites	0.209 hectares
Existing Species	western rock oyster (<i>Saccostrea</i> spp.)
Species to be added	saucer scallop (<i>Amusium balloti</i>) commercial scallop (<i>Pecten fumatus</i>) austral scallop (<i>Chlamys australis</i>) doughboy scallop (<i>Mimachlamys asperrima</i>) Akoya pearl oyster (<i>Pinctada fucata</i>)
Culture Method	growout using longlines
Other Sites (within 5 n mile)	Bruce Cunningham Batavia Coral Farm Pty Ltd Sea Urchin Pty Ltd Peter and Karen Armstrong Andrew Joseph & Tracey Lee Basile Wildblue Holdings Pty Ltd Pelsaert (WA) Pty Ltd Cappoquin Fisheries Pty Ltd WTN Nominees Pty Ltd & Pelsaert (WA) Pty Ltd
Further Information	Contact Helen Lucich, DPIRD Aquaculture Management 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 Abrolhos Island Oysters Pty Ltd (AIO) to vary its Aquaculture Licence No. 1654 (IDCA 1654).

Background

AIO holds IDCA 1654 which authorises the culture of western rock oyster (*Saccostrea* spp.) at two sites within the Pelsaert Group at the Abrolhos Islands. The two sites comprise areas of 95.380 and 20.418 hectares.

Proposed Variation

AIO proposes to vary its Licence to add the following species:

- saucer scallop (*Amusium balloti*)
- commercial scallop (*Pecten fumatus*)
- austral scallop (*Chlamys australis*)
- doughboy scallop (*Mimachlamys asperrima*)
- Akoya pearl oyster (*Pinctada fucata*)

AIO also proposes to add an additional site to its Licence to use as a nursery area for the growout and monitoring of spat. The proposed site is located in the Pelsaert Island Group at the Abrolhos Islands and comprises an area of 0.209 hectares (see attached site plan).

Source of Stock and Methods

AIO will be trialling a number of different culture methods to determine which gear type is most effective at its sites. Oyster cages, baskets, floating bags and orca mesh pearl panels will be attached to 50 m longlines made up of 20–25 mm polypropylene rope and set approximately 7 metres apart. Longlines will be suspended with floats and anchored by low impact 25–50 kg Delta/Stingray anchors at each end. Lantern baskets attached to the longlines will be five-tiered with varying mesh size and orca mesh pearl panels will be installed in aggregations of 6 to 10 panels with varying mesh size. Ear hanging may also be trialled, with scallops attached to cord droppers by monofilament placed through holes drilled in the ear and hung from longlines.

Spat will be sourced from authorised local hatcheries within the Abrolhos Islands and the Albany Shellfish Hatchery. The collection of broodstock 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.

Management and Environmental Monitoring

AIO has amended its Management and Environmental Monitoring Plan (MEMP), to accommodate the 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 and scallops will have any negative impact on nutrient levels in the water column and surrounding benthos.

Broodstock will be sourced from within the Abrolhos Islands and spat stocked at the site will require a health certificate from DPIRD's Diagnostic Laboratory Services. As such, new genetic combinations will not be introduced to the local gene pool nor will exotic pathogens be introduced to the area.

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.

Diagram



Figure 1:
Example of Floating Longlines and Oyster Baskets

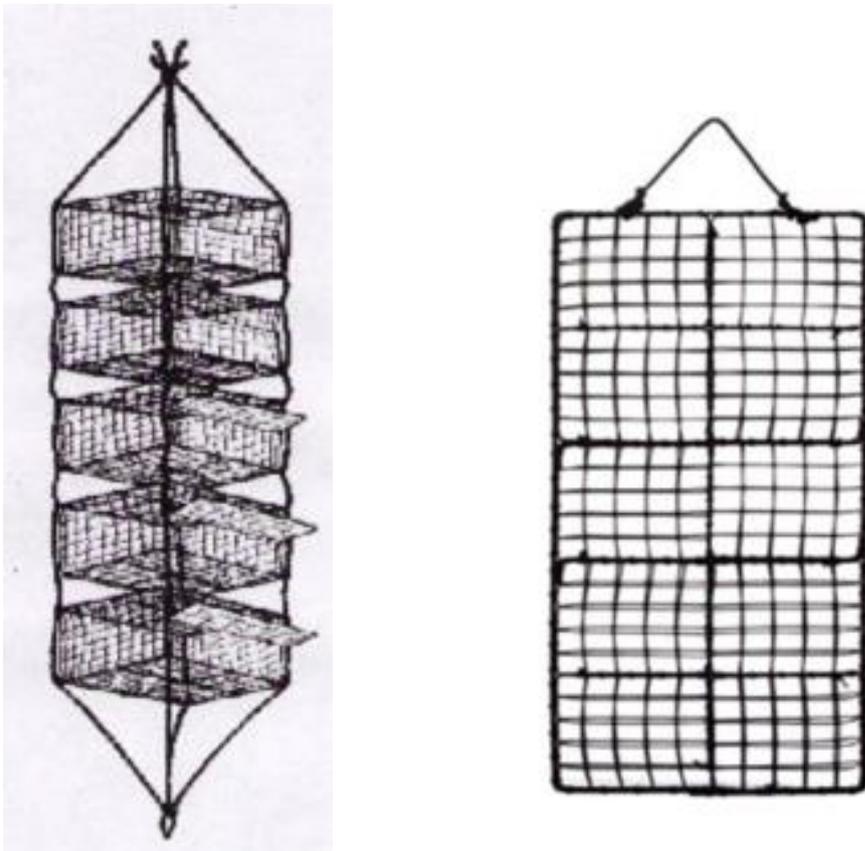


Figure 2:
Example of Lantern Baskets and Orca Mesh

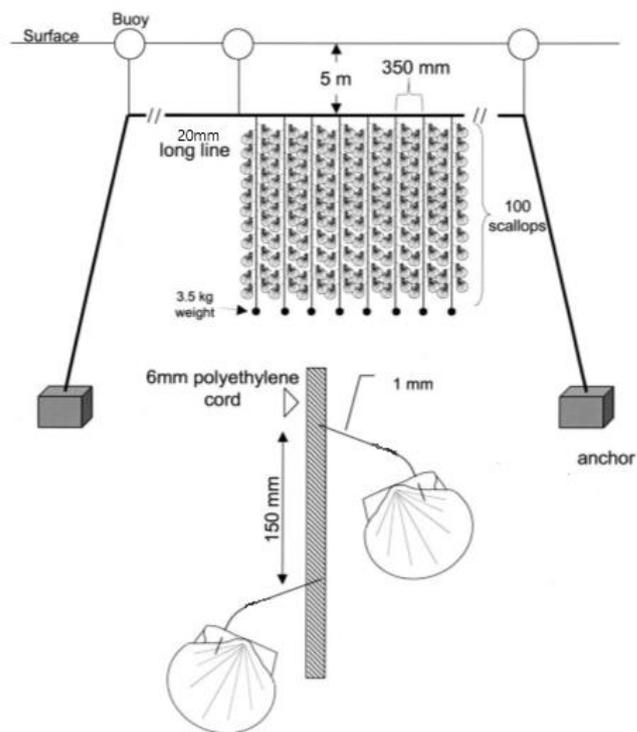


Figure 3:
Example of Scallop Ear Hanging