

**APPLICATIONS FOR THE GRANT OF AN AQUACULTURE
LICENCE AND LEASE**

by

Abrolhos Grown Pty Ltd

Abrolhos Islands WA

May 2020

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

Abrolhos Grown Pty Ltd

File Ref	L34/20
Date of Application	2 February 2020
General Location	Abrolhos Islands WA
Area of Proposed Sites	1.3, 44 and 64.9 hectares
Proposed species	various species of seaweed
Culture Method	grow-out
Other Sites (within 5 n mile)	Wtn Nominees Pty Ltd & Pelsaert (WA) Pty Ltd Abrolhos Island Oysters Pty Ltd Bruce Cunningham Andrew and Tracey Basile Pelsaert (WA) Pty Ltd Peter and Karen Armstrong Sea Urchin Pty Ltd Batavia Coral Farm Pty Ltd West Australian Octopus Pty Ltd Wildblue Holdings Pty Ltd
Further Information	Contact Danielle Hartshorn at DPIRD Aquaculture Management Directorate on danielle.hartshorn@dpiird.wa.gov.au .

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

Abrolhos Grown Pty Ltd

May 2020

Introduction

This document outlines the information for consideration by agencies, stakeholders and community and industry groups regarding a proposal submitted by Abrolhos Grown Pty Ltd (AG) for an aquaculture licence and lease.

Proposal

On 2 February 2020, AG made applications to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) for an aquaculture licence and lease to grow seaweed on three offshore sites near Basile Island. The three sites comprise an area of 1.3, 44 and 64.9 hectares, respectively (see attached site plan).

In its applications, AG seeks to establish an aquaculture operation for the grow-out and harvest of the following species of seaweed:

- Green algae (*Caulerpa lentillifera*);
- Green algae (*Caulerpa racemosa*);
- *Eucheuma denticulatum*;
- *Eucheuma gelatinum/Betaphycus gelatinus*;
- *Eucheuma speciosum/Betaphycus speciosus*;
- *Gracilaria canaliculata*;
- *Gracilaria preissiana*;
- *Gracilaria textorii*;
- *Sargassum boryi*;
- *Sargassum decurrens*;
- *Sargassum distichum*;
- *Sargassum fallax*;
- *Sargassum ligulatum*;
- *Sargassum linearifolium*;
- *Sargassum podacanthum*;
- *Sargassum spinuligerum*; and
- *Sargassum tristichum*.

The cultured and harvested seaweed may be used for culinary, pharmaceutical and cosmetic purposes. Larger seaweed species are intended for use as fertilisers.

Source of Stock and Methods

AG proposes to collect seaweed cuttings from the wild under a Ministerial Exemption, subject to approval. The cuttings will then be attached to a suitable grow-out system within the proposed sites.

At the initial stages of the operation, AG will be trialling various types of culture methods such as benthic plots, fixed off-bottom systems, floating rafts and the “Vertikultur” method (see Figure 1) to ascertain the best design for optimal growth rates.

Once stock has reached marketable size, the *Caulerpa* and *Ulva* species will be processed and packaged on Basile Island for ongoing sale to local, interstate and international markets. The larger species of seaweed that will be used as fertilisers, will be transported to Geraldton and processed at a facility owned by AG.

Diagram

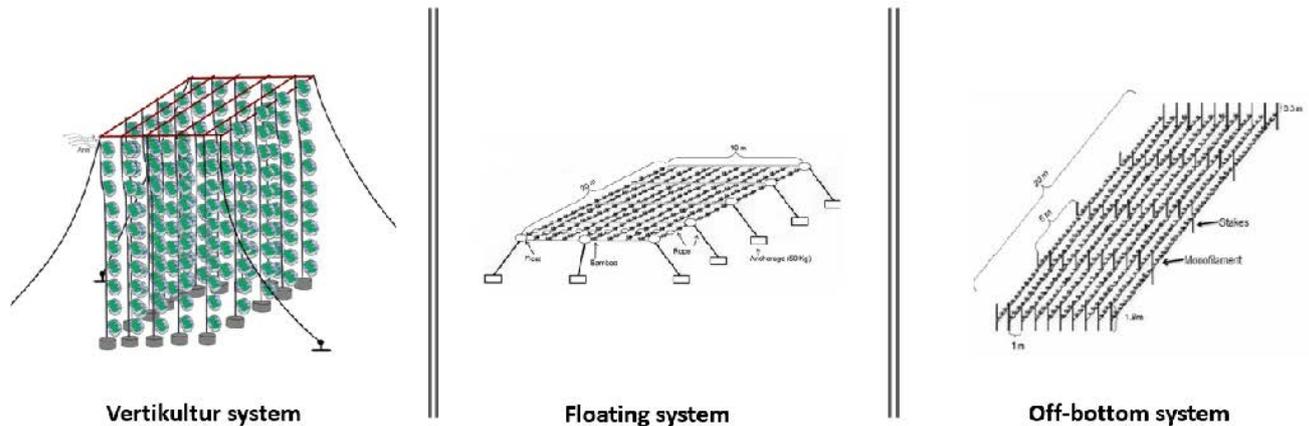


Figure 1:
Grow-out system examples.

Management and Environmental Monitoring

AG has submitted a Management and Environmental Monitoring Plan (MEMP), which includes environmental management processes, biosecurity protocols and incident and emergency procedures. The biosecurity risk through seaweed aquaculture at the proposed sites is considered low, due to the species originating from local waters and not requiring any supplementary feed.

AG's MEMP outlines proposed biosecurity and quarantine controls. Boat crew and divers will monitor environmental parameters during regular inspections of growout systems and monitoring stations outside the aquaculture sites. Equipment aboard the vessels will provide parameters such as water temperature, current strength and turbidity levels. Visual observation will also assist to identify the presence of foreign organisms that may be present on the growout systems. Qualitative health assessments of the specimens will be conducted at regular intervals.

The proponent has chosen the proposed aquaculture sites with a view to having the least impact on existing benthic communities. AG will be following the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' Marine Mammal Entanglement Plan. Further environmental aspects associated with AG's operational components are covered in the MEMP.

AG will dispose of all waste materials on the mainland.

The Ministerial exemption for the collection of broodstock will be subject to conditions that deal with biosecurity and environmental risks.
