APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF AN AQUACULTURE LICENCE AND LEASE

by

Batavia Oysters Pty Ltd

Abrolhos Islands WA

November 2021

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DPIRD)

APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF AN AQUACULTURE LICENCE AND LEASE

Batavia Oysters Pty Ltd

File Ref	L67/20
Date of Application	14 June 2020
General Location	HOUTMAN ABROLHOS - WALLABI GROUP
Area of Proposed Sites	18.834, 15.384 and 5.060 hectares
Proposed species	Western rock oyster (*Saccostrea cucullata*)
Culture Method	Longlines
Other Sites (within 5 n mile)	Bruce Ayling, Allan Rose, Shirlee Rose & A I & A Flannagan Pty Ltd Warburton Aquaculture Pty Ltd Westyle Fishing Pty Ltd Brad Rowe & Richard Hoult
Further Information	Contact Druimé Nolan at DPIRD Aquaculture Management Directorate on 6319 3659 or druime.nolan@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 outlines the information for consideration by agencies, stakeholders and community and industry groups regarding a proposal submitted by Batavia Oysters Pty Ltd (Batavia Oysters) for an aquaculture licence and lease.

Proposal

On 14 June 2020, Batavia Oysters made an application to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) for an aquaculture licence and lease to grow oysters at three offshore sites near West Wallabi and North Island in the Abrolhos Islands. The three sites comprise areas of 18.834, 15.384 and 5.060 hectares, respectively (see attached site plan).

In its application, Batavia Oysters seeks to culture the native rock oyster species *Saccostrea cucullata*.

Source of Stock and Methods

Batavia Oysters proposes to use subtidal longlines between 100 and 200 metres in length, suspended by floats and held in place by two 60 kg anchors, one at each end. Multiple stacks of six 25-litre grow out baskets will hang from each longline, with each stack of baskets spaced roughly 1 metre apart. Each longline will hold between 600 -1200 oyster baskets.

Oyster spat will be sourced from the Albany Shellfish Hatchery from genetically similar populations to those that occur naturally in the Abrolhos Islands. The hatchery operates under strict biosecurity procedures to prevent any potential spread of diseases to wild populations of marine shellfish. Movements from the hatchery will be accompanied by a health certificate.

Management and Environmental Monitoring

Batavia Oysters has submitted a Management and Environmental Monitoring Plan (MEMP), which includes environmental management processes, biosecurity protocols and incident and emergency procedures.

The proposed aquaculture sites have deliberately been selected to minimize impacts to the Western Rock Lobster fishery and other existing benthic communities. The sites selected consist primarily of sand and rubble and anchoring devices will be placed in a manner that will not cause damage to any sensitive benthic habitats. Batavia Oysters will conduct regular monitoring at the aquaculture sites to minimise any potential environmental impacts that may arise from the proposed operations.

Because the cultured oysters filter naturally-occurring algae from the sea water, there is no requirement for any supplementary feed. It is therefore unlikely that the farming of oysters will have any negative impact on nutrient levels in the water column and surrounding benthos.

Further environmental aspects associated with Batavia Oyster's operational components are covered in the MEMP.

Diagram

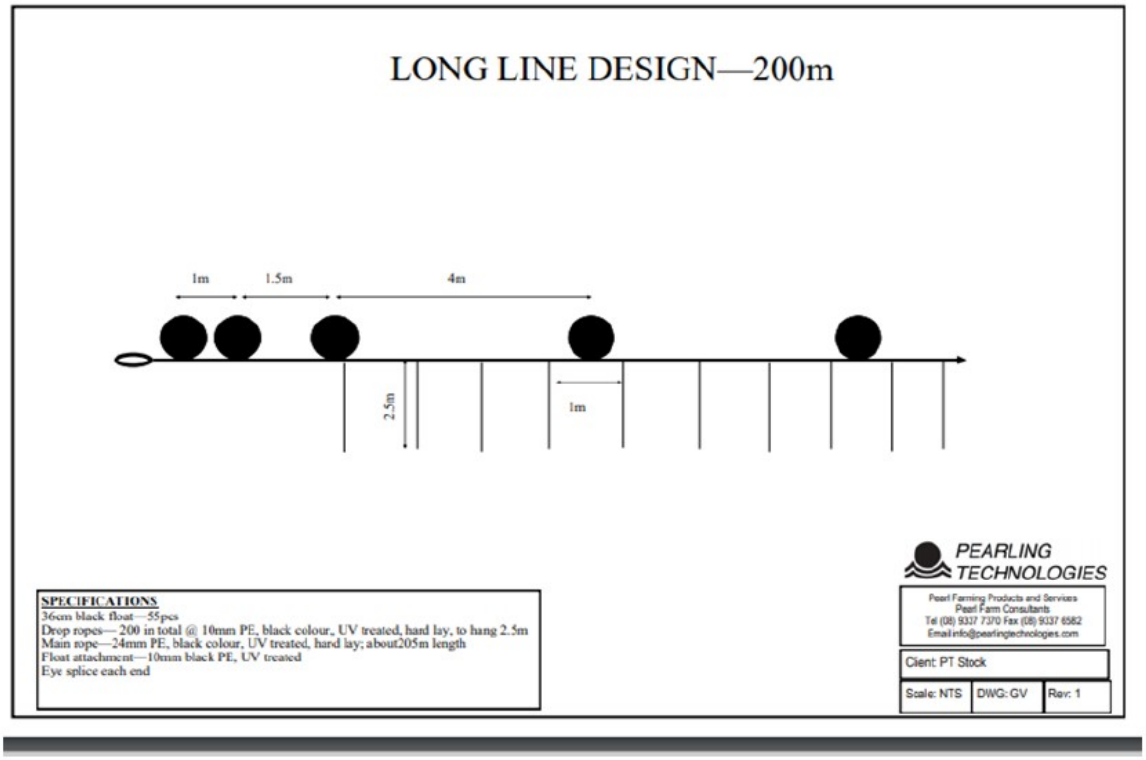

Figure 1. Representation of long line oyster culture design.

Figure 2 Example of longline system

Figure 3.Example of proposed anchor

Risks

The proposed aquaculture activity poses no significant environmental issues, with identified risks accommodated by Batavia Oysters MEMP.

The MEMP identifies and addresses measures aimed at having the least impact to existing significant fishery and aquaculture stakeholder groups.

The proposed species of oyster occurs naturally in the surrounding environment, therefore the risk of the introduction of disease is low. All spat produced for grow-out will be the progeny of broodstock from a licenced hatchery.