

APPLICATIONS FOR AN AQUACULTURE LICENCE AND LEASE

by

Harvest Road Oceans Pty Ltd

Carnarvon

December 2021

**DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
APPLICATIONS FOR AN AQUACULTURE LICENCE AND LEASE
Harvest Road Oceans PTY LTD
Carnarvon

File Ref	L61/21
Date of Application	13/09/2021
General Location	Carnarvon
Total Area of Proposed New Sites	49.217 Hectares
Species	Western Rock Oysters Tropical Rock Oysters
Culture Method	Longline
Other Sites (within 5 n mile)	Bealwood Pty Ltd.
Further Information	Contact Druimé Nolan at the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) on (08) 6319 3659 or druime.nolan@dpiird.wa.gov.au .

**Information provided by the applicant relevant to applications for an
aquaculture licence and lease**
Harvest Roads Ocean Pty Ltd

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Introduction

This document provides information for consideration by agencies, stakeholders and community and industry groups regarding applications submitted by Harvest Road Oceans (HRO) Pty Ltd for an aquaculture licence and lease.

Proposal

On 13 September 2021, HRO made an application to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) for an aquaculture licence and lease to grow rock oysters at two locations in the Fascine and Massey Bay, Carnarvon. The total area of the two sites is 49.217 hectares.

In its application, HRO seeks to establish an aquaculture operation for the grow-out and harvest of the following species of rock oysters:

- *Saccostrea glomerata*
- *Saccostrea cucullata*

HRO has already completed oyster growth trials under a Ministerial Exemption at the two sites and both sites have shown positive results for each species. HRO is now seeking to expand its operations to a commercial scale. The primary objective of HRO's proposal is the long-term development of sustainable shellfish aquaculture in WA, with Carnarvon being a key production location.

Source of Stock and Methods

All spat produced for grow-out at the proposed site will be the progeny of naturally occurring broodstock and sourced from a licenced hatchery. All stock transfers will be subject to the licence conditions.

HRO is committed to using modern aquaculture methods in line with global best practice. A triplicate longline system will be used in the intertidal areas – this is the same system currently being used within the Carnarvon trial sites. Oysters will be kept in floating oyster baskets suspended using tensioned adjustable longlines. The longline system allows for high production volumes while minimising fouling and impacts on the seafloor. The design allows movement of the lines in water currents resulting in less impact on seagrass populations due to shading compared with other systems.

Subtidal longlines may also be trialled in deeper channels within the sites. In this system, oyster baskets will be hung from floating sections of the longlines as single or stacked baskets.

In both systems, longlines are secured using screw anchors in the seafloor.

Diagrams

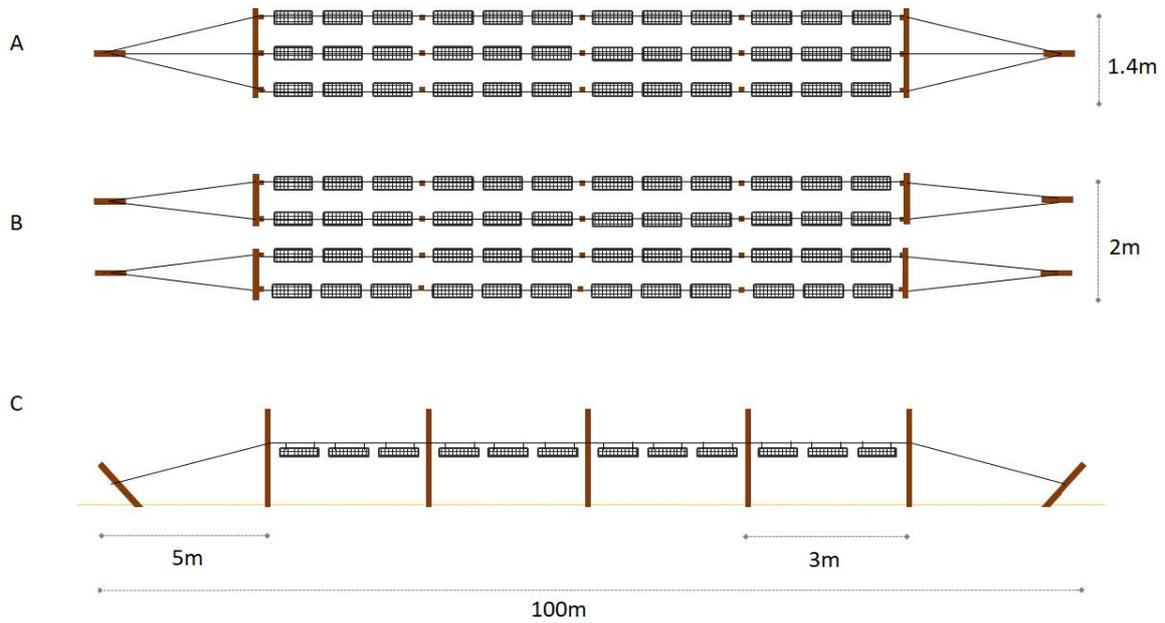


Figure 1 Schematic diagram of adjustable longline.

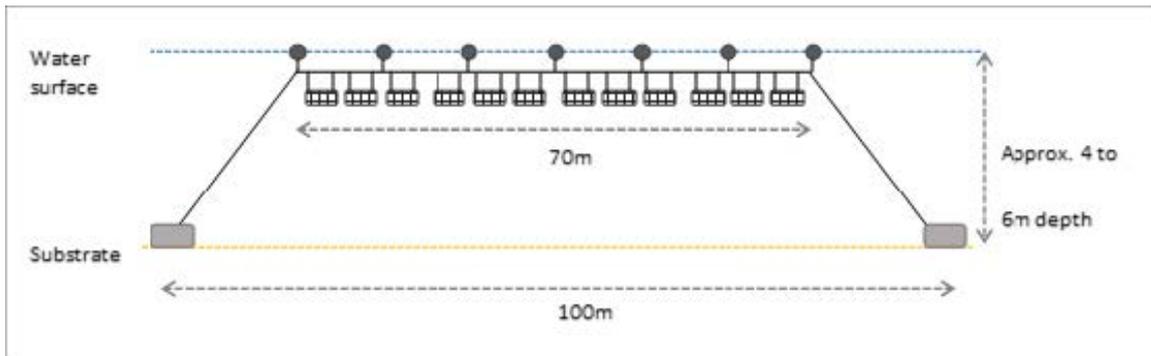


Figure 2 Schematic diagram of Harvest Road Oceans subtidal longline



Figure 3. Stacked oyster baskets hanging from longline.

Management and Environmental Monitoring

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

HRO's MEMP outlines proposed biosecurity and quarantine controls. Detectable changes in water chemistry and composition are unlikely to result from the culture of oysters in the proposed area. Sediment monitoring is not deemed necessary because there are no feed additives or chemical treatments involved in shellfish aquaculture.

Monitoring will be carried out for oyster health and condition and the proposed licensee is actively involved in the Western Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program (WASQAP).

Annual reports will be submitted to DPIRD as per aquaculture licence conditions and HRO will be required to comply with procedures related to suspicion of disease or identification of marine pests. HRO has committed to adhering to the 2020 Fisheries Occasional Publication No.138 West Coast Rock Lobster Entanglement Mitigation Workshop.

HRO will dispose of all waste materials in landfill.

Any Ministerial Exemption approved for the collection of broodstock will be subject to conditions that deal with biosecurity and environmental risks associated with this activity.

Risks

The biosecurity and environmental risk associated with rock oyster aquaculture at the proposed sites is considered low, due to the species being present naturally in local waters and not requiring supplementary feed or chemical treatments.

All spat produced for grow-out at the proposed site will be the progeny of naturally occurring broodstock and sourced from a licenced hatchery. All stock transfers will be subject to the licence conditions.