

**APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF AN AQUACULTURE
LICENCE**

by

**Bruce Cunningham
Abrolhos Islands WA**

February 2019

**DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DPIRD)
APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF AN AQUACULTURE LICENCE
BRUCE CUNNINGHAM
ABROLHOS ISLANDS WA**

File Ref	L1297/13-02
Date of Application	7 December 2018
General Location	Southern Group, Abrolhos Islands, WA
Species	various species of scallops
Culture Method	Growout using longlines
Proposed Variation	Addition of culture species
Other sites (within 5 n miles)	WTN Nominees Pty Ltd & Pelsaert (WA) Pty Ltd, Zeewyk Pearl & Diving Pty Ltd, Andrew & Tracey Basile, Wildblue Holdings Pty Ltd, Pelsaert (WA) Pty Ltd, Sea Urchin Pty Ltd, Peter and Karen Armstrong, Batavia Coral Farm Pty Ltd, Abrolhos Island Oysters Pty Ltd
Further Information	Contact Clara Alvarez at DPIRD Aquaculture Branch on (08) 6551 4346 or clara.alvarez@dpiird.wa.gov.au .

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

Bruce Cunningham

February 2019

Introduction

This document outlines information for consideration by agencies, stakeholders and community and industry groups regarding an application submitted by Bruce Cunningham (Cunningham) for variation of its aquaculture licence IDCA 1347 (Licence).

Background

On 7 December 2018, Cunningham made an application to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (Department) to vary its Licence, which authorises the aquaculture of Akoya pearl oyster, Black lip pearl oyster and Shark Bay pearl oyster at an offshore site near the Southern Group at the Abrolhos Islands.

Proposed Variation

Cunningham seeks to vary the Licence to add the following scallop species:

- doughboy scallop (*Mimachlamys asperrima*);
- saucer scallop (*Amusium balloti*);
- commercial scallop (*Pecten fumatus*); and
- austral scallop (*Chlamys australis*).

Source of Stock and Methods

Cunningham is initially seeking to source broodstock through relevant approvals, translocation and health certificates. Broodstock will be obtained from farm stock once commercially operational. Scallop larvae will be bred at the Albany Shellfish Hatchery or at Cunningham's hatchery on Coronation Island, where they settle onto mesh ropes and bags and are reared in tanks.

For the scallop culture at the offshore site, Cunningham proposes to use the existing suspended longlines with a combination of panels and mesh or plastic cages that are currently used for oyster aquaculture. In addition, suspended cages, spat collectors, pearl panels, lantern cages and ear hanging will be utilised.

Management and Environmental Monitoring

Cunningham has submitted an amended Management and Environmental Monitoring Plan (MEMP), to accommodate the additional scallop species above.

The MEMP includes biosecurity and quarantine protocols as well as an environmental monitoring program to minimise potential environmental impacts.

As part of the environmental monitoring, Cunningham proposes to monitor sediment (pH of upper seabed sediment) and water quality parameters such as seawater temperature, seawater pH and dissolved oxygen in water at various depths by using hand-held tools.

Waste water leaving the hatchery facility on Coronation Island is filtered through a dual micron filter before reaching the sea. Any solid waste, such as dead oysters will be bagged up, frozen, transferred to Geraldton and discarded at the tip.

The culture of scallops does not involve the addition of feed into the water. Scallops are filter-feeders that will absorb existing nutrients from the water column.

If the proponent is obtaining broodstock through a Ministerial exemption, it will be subject to exemption conditions that cover environmental and biosecurity measures.

Diagram

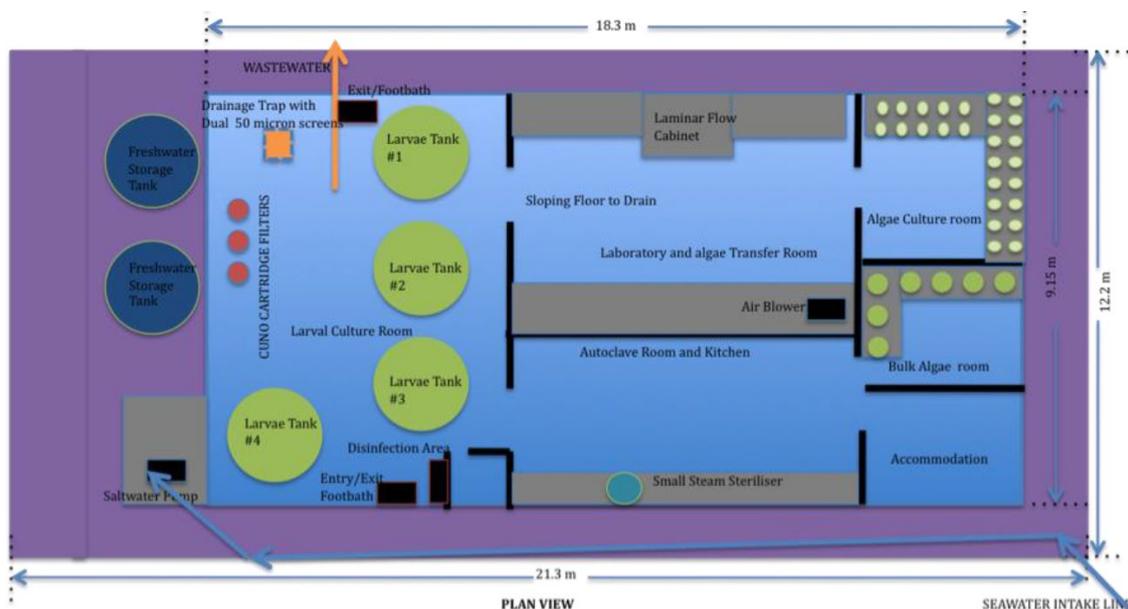


Figure 1: Layout of the Facility on Coronation Island

Risks

The proposed aquaculture activity poses no significant environmental risk. Identified risks have been dealt with in Cunningham's amended MEMP.

The benthic habitat of the site consists of sandy and coral rubble seabed with rare outcrops of coral that can be found near fringes or boundary areas. The positioning of the aquaculture gear will avoid these coral sections by placing anchors on the outer edges of the seabed near the site boundary or near the edge of surrounding coral reef within the site.

There will be no introduction of non-native or exotic species – all stock will be sourced locally or reared from broodstock species that occur naturally at the Abrolhos Islands.
