

Instructions for making an application for Resource Allocation Authority for Aquaculture

A resource allocation authority is required for aquaculture developments on unallocated tidal land or in Queensland waters (e.g. oyster or pearl farming). A resource allocation authority does not give the holder any right of ownership or tenure over the land, nor does it grant the holder the right to carry out the proposed development without a valid aquaculture development approval. Aquaculture development involving an intake or discharge structure, only part of which is within unallocated state land, does not require a resource allocation authority. However, other approvals may be required, for example permission to perform works i.e. works in a declared Fish Habitat Area or within a State Marine Park. The following information is required to be supplied when submitting an application for a resource allocation authority for aquaculture.

Applicant details

Complete the applicant details section. All named authority holders must sign the application form. For a corporation, the form is signed in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, s127 by either two directors, or a director and a company secretary, or the sole director who is the sole secretary. If the licence is to be held by a registered company, a copy of the current company extract issued by the Australian Securities and Investment Commission should be provided. You may provide a copy with your application, or alternatively the copy can be arranged on your behalf by contacting this office (fees apply). Please note the permit cannot be issued to a business name only and either individual name/s, or a Company or Agency name must also be included.

Location details

Specific details of the area being applied for must be provided. This includes providing a marine navigation chart or boating safety chart which identifies the boundaries of the proposed area(s) where the aquaculture activity will take place, with GPS co-ordinates (latitude and longitude in decimal degrees) for **each** corner marker. Include any other information that may help identify the boundaries of the proposed aquaculture area(s) (e.g. surrounding and/or significant landmarks). Include important features adjacent to the site, for example navigation marks, declared Fish Habitat Area or marine park boundaries, commercial fishing areas, islands, recreation areas, towns, etc

You must specify the area proposed for the aquaculture activity in hectares for each site.

A detailed description of the physical characteristics of the area(s) is to be provided. This should include information regarding water depth, substratum (sandy, rocky, muddy etc), any prominent features and marine plants present i.e. sea grass meadows or algae beds. Photos of the area and sea bed should be included with the application.

Species details

You can apply for the species group listed below (e.g. MT1 or MT2) that includes the species you propose to culture **or** you can list the individual species you propose to culture. If listing the species you must include both the common name and scientific name/s of all species you propose to culture.

MT 1—Pearl oysters

Akoya Pearl Oyster *Pinctada imbricata*

Gold lip Pearl Oyster *Pinctada maxima*

Black lip Pearl Oyster *Pinctada margaritifera*

Penguin Pearl Oyster *Pteria penguin*

MT 2—Edible oysters

Rock Oysters *Saccostrea glomerata*

Include details of where you intend to obtain your broodstock or culture stock. Note a permit is required to collect broodstock and culture stock from Queensland waters. This permit can only be applied for once you have an aquaculture approval.

Technical details

Describe the methods and techniques you intend to use to culture the species you have listed. For example the use of sea cages, lines, racks and trays or ranching. Include details of any harvesting apparatus and vessels that will be used for the proposed aquaculture operation.

Provide detailed plans of all aquaculture infrastructure (e.g. oyster trays, cages, lines etc.), including dimensions (size), use and construction materials, and how aquaculture infrastructure is to be anchored or secured to the sea floor. These plans need to be certified by an engineer. A scaled site plan which identifies where the aquaculture infrastructure and any other structures (e.g. buoys, anchoring devices) will be placed on the area also needs to be provided.

Provide details of any on and off farm impacts to marine plants (seagrass/algae) during construction, operation or subsequent maintenance practices of the proposed aquaculture activities. This includes impacts to marine plants within and adjacent to the proposed development / activity area.

Existing stakeholders of the area

Identify any existing stakeholders in the area of the proposed aquaculture operation and include details of how the proposed aquaculture operation will minimise conflict with other fisheries stakeholders. Existing stakeholders may include commercial fishers, recreational fishers, traditional owners etc. It is recommended that the proponent contacts industry associations about the proposed aquaculture operation to identify if there are any existing stakeholders. Include details and outcomes of any consultation regarding the proposal and any letters of support from industry/community groups.

Application for aquaculture activities in the Torres Strait Protected Zone or adjoining the Torres Strait Protected Zone must be accompanied by written comment from the Island Co-ordinating Council, Torres Strait Fisherman's Association and the relevant local Island Chairman in relation to the proposed aquaculture activities.

Business Plan

Applicants are required to submit a business plan for the proposed activity. The business plan should provide information for each of the following sections:

- 1. Statement of skills and previous experience in the relevant field**
Include relevant skills and any previous experience in the aquaculture industry.
Include any business references, client testimonials and qualifications.
- 2. Product and market analysis: your chosen market and your position in the market**
Describe the products that you will provide, your estimated target market, your market share and how you plan to achieve it.
Include any product information and consumer research data.
- 3. Marketing plan: your strategies to attract and keep clients**
Describe your marketing strategy, product decisions, market segmentation, pricing policies and methods of payment, distribution, advertising and promotions.
Explain who your intended clients are and describe how your proposed supply or value chain will work.
- 4. Operating plan: how the business works**
Summarise your equipment, materials, labour and technology, and how your aquaculture business would operate.
Include anticipated number of full-time and part-time staff.
- 5. Finance plan: your investment, expected turnover, estimated profit and cash flow projections**
List business establishment costs, break-even sales, profit and loss, and cash flow projections.
Explain the assumptions on which projected sales and cash flows are based (i.e. yields and sales prices).
Explain your funding arrangements, including sources of funds and proof of financing for the project.
Include financial projections.
Include legal or contractual responsibilities.
- 6. Risk management plan**
Identify potential impacts on your business (both positive and negative), such as a greater market demand or a depressed economy.
Describe contingency plans that you would follow to minimise losses or to maximise opportunities.

Bond Requirement

The lodgement of a bond, in the form of a bank guarantee, is required by the holder of a resource allocation authority to recover costs that may be incurred by the state for the maintenance or rehabilitation of an approved aquaculture area, including the removal of any abandoned aquaculture infrastructure. As a basis to calculate the value of the bond, applications for a resource allocation authority are required to include valid salvage quotes (a minimum of two valid quotes) obtained from private contractors for costs associated with the removal of the proposed aquaculture infrastructure. The quotes are to be calculated in accordance with the nature of the infrastructure to be removed for the total area of the farm and include costs associated with the appropriate disposal of the infrastructure as directed by Fisheries Queensland. An average of the two valid quotes will be used to calculate the value of the bond. A bond is not required for applications for sea ranching where there is no associated infrastructure. Refer to the Marine Aquaculture Bonds Policy for further information.

Applicants must provide evidence that a bank guarantee can be obtained for their proposed aquaculture operation. Evidence may include a letter from the bank or lending institution.



Declaration

All applicants must sign the declaration.

Payment

Fees vary depending on the type of aquaculture and the size of the area that is being applied for. Contact Impact Assessment and Management Unit for further information on the fee for your proposed aquaculture operation. If using cheques and money orders please make them payable to "Fisheries Queensland", cheques are to be marked "not negotiable". For electronic payment options please contact: (07) 5381 1330.

Applications are preferred to be sent via email to planningassessment@daf.qld.gov.au

Applications can also be sent via post to:

Impact Assessment and Management
Fisheries Queensland
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Maroochy Research Facility - Nambour
PO Box 5083
SCMC Nambour Qld 4560

For information contact:

Phone: (07) 5381 1330

Email: planningassessment@daf.qld.gov.au