

**APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF AN AQUACULTURE
LICENCE**

by

Peter and Karen Armstrong

Abrolhos Islands WA

June 2018

**DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DPIRD) - FISHERIES
APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF AN AQUACULTURE LICENCE**

Peter and Karen Armstrong

Abrolhos Islands WA

File Ref	L206/13-02
Date of Application	21 September 2017
General Location	Basile Island (Pelsaert Group), Abrolhos Islands, WA
Area of Site	256 square metres
Existing Species	Octopus tetricus
Species to be added	cuttlefish, squid and green algae
Culture Method	tanks and panels
Other Sites (within 5 n mile)	Abrolhos Island Oysters Abrolhos Pearls WA Pty Ltd Sea Urchin Pty Ltd Pelsaert WA Pty Ltd Zeewyk Pearls & Diving Pty Ltd Andrew Joseph and Tracey Lee Basile Batavia Coral Farm Pty Ltd
Further Information	Contact Helen Lucich at DPIRD Aquaculture Branch on (08) 6551 4337 or helen.lucich@dpiird.wa.gov.au .

Information provided by the applicant relevant to an application for variation of an aquaculture licence

Peter and Karen Armstrong

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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 Peter and Karen Armstrong (Armstrong) to vary its Aquaculture Licence No. 1642 (IDCA 1642).

Background

Armstrong was granted Aquaculture Licence no. IDCA 1642 in 2013. The Licence authorises the culture of octopus (*Octopus tetricus*) at a 256 square metre offshore site in the Pelsaert Group of the Abrolhos Islands.

Proposed Variation

Armstrong has proposed to vary its Licence to increase the site to a total of 332 square metres, which includes the addition of a 76 square metre offshore area, and seeks to include the following three species to the licence:

- squid (*Sepioteuthis australis*);
- cuttlefish (*Sepia apama*); and
- green algae (*Caulerpa lentillifera*)

The proponent is also seeking to apply for an exemption to enable it to collect broodstock of the proposed species.

Source of Stock and Methods

Armstrong proposes to culture green algae and conduct preliminary aquaculture research trials on squid, cuttlefish and octopus aquaculture to determine the optimum conditions for the species' survival and growth.

The trials on squid and cuttlefish will involve culturing the proposed species in tanks (each of 2m x 1 m dimension) on the jetty of the onshore facility, which is provided with filtered sea water.

The successful methods will ultimately be implemented for the growout of the species in a proposed offshore site near Gun Island, where juvenile octopus, squid and cuttlefish will be held in steel cages that are attached to a pontoon.

The proposed feed for the squid and the cuttlefish will be local rock crabs and herring, which will be sourced from the wild. The same culture method and feeding type are currently used for the culture of octopus.

The proposed culture method for green algae will be on submerged aluminium panels inside the existing authorised site. Initially, the panels will be placed on the seabed and may be suspended horizontally with rope and floats.

No additional feed will be required for the grow-out of green algae.

For the initial trials on squid and cuttlefish, the proponent is seeking to use locally sourced broodstock, subject to appropriate approval and conditions.

It is noted that the proposed offshore site near Gun Island is not part of this variation application. If the proponent wishes to expand the authorised site to include an offshore site in the future, the expansion would require an application to vary the licence and lease, which includes a full consultation process as outlined in *Administrative Guideline 1*.

Management and Environmental Monitoring

Armstrong has submitted a Management and Environmental Monitoring Plan (MEMP), which includes biosecurity controls such as quarantine protocols. The risk of disease being introduced to the area through the culture of octopus, squid and green algae is considered low.

Water discharged from the inshore site will be filtered through a mesh screen and any waste collected from the filters will be placed in a sealed bag and transported to the mainland and disposed of appropriately. In the unlikely event of water contamination, Armstrong proposes to sterilize the water with chlorine and then neutralise it with sodium thiosulphate pentahydrate and subsequently transport the water in bulk bins to the mainland.

There is also low risk of adverse impact on the surrounding area because the seabed comprises sand and it is unlikely any coral or seagrass will be affected.

The current Aquaculture Licence has conditions in place for the culture of octopus. These conditions will be reviewed and amended as required with consideration for any additional biosecurity and environmental risks that may be posed by the addition of green algae, squid and cuttlefish.

All broodstock sourced will be endemic to the Abrolhos Islands and subject to broodstock exemption conditions that deal with biosecurity and environmental risks.
