



Australian Centre for Applied Aquaculture Research

Inquiry into Opportunities for Expanding the Aquaculture Industry in Northern Australia

This submission relates to the Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia: Term of Reference: develop new aquaculture projects and products.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my thoughts on opportunities for expanding the aquaculture industry in Northern Australia.

I am sure that you are well aware of the potential for aquaculture in northern Australia and its significance to seafood production throughout the world so I won't bore you with such details. However, an introduction to the Centre which I lead is appropriate.

The Australian Centre for Applied Aquaculture Research (ACAAR) is part of the Challenger Institute of Technology and based at the Maritime Campus in Fremantle, Western Australia. ACAAR was established in the early 1990's to provide products, consultancy, research and development and other services to the Western Australian aquaculture industry. ACAAR has had commercial contracts with Marine Produce Australia (MPA) since 2010 to produce 1 million barramundi juveniles per annum for their seacage grow-out facility located at Cone Bay off the coast of Derby.

These Challenger Institute barramundi juveniles are potentially the most travelled fish in the world. ACAAR has now undertaken more than twenty deliveries of up to 320,000 barramundi per trip over 2,700km from Fremantle to Derby, one of the most remote locations in Australia. From Derby they are placed onto one of MPA's boats for the 6 hour trip to the farm site at Cone Bay.

The majority of these deliveries have utilised my staff to drive a hired 10 tonne Tautliner truck for the non-stop drive to Derby in 27 hours.

More recently we have developed self-contained and monitored tanks that can be delivered via commercial transport that has considerably reduced the cost to the company.

Now while this arrangement has worked well for the establishment period of the MPA farming operations, the lack of a suitable hatchery/nursery facility in northern Western Australia is an issue that will restrict the rapid expansion of this industry.

Other major issues that face this industry in the Kimberley region all revolve around logistics and the tyranny of distance. These include the lack of processing facilities and the lack of feed production infrastructure. Logistic pressures particularly impact on delivery costs of feed from the east coast of Australia to the farm and product to the east coast markets. Local logistic issues include the transport of personnel to and from the Kimberley Aquaculture Zone site which is approximately 100 kilometres from the town of Derby.

Thankyou for the opportunity to present this submission.

Best regards

Greg

Greg Jenkins

Director

Australian Centre for Applied Aquaculture Research

Challenger Institute of Technology
1 Fleet Street Fremantle WA 6160

challenger.wa.edu.au/Workingwithindustry/acaar/Pages/intro.aspx

29 April 2015