



Northern  
Territory  
Government

# Guide to writing a “Notice of Intent for Aquaculture” in the Northern Territory



# Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
1. The proponent .....	3
2. Operator skills.....	4
3. The site.....	4
3.1 Specifying the site .....	4
3.2 Pre-existing land use .....	4
4. Nature of the development .....	4
4.1 Farming process.....	4
4.2 Layout of farm.....	4
4.3 Time-line and staging of the development.....	4
4.4 Effects of development .....	4
4.5 Disease and genetic material .....	5
4.6 De-commissioning .....	5
5. Aboriginal sacred sites .....	5
6. Government Agency certification/requirements.....	5
7. Where to from here?.....	5
8. More information.....	6
Aquaculture licensing Flow Chart.....	7

# Guide to writing a Notice of Intent for Aquaculture in the Northern Territory

## ***Introduction***

This guide is intended to assist proponents in the production of a single document that is satisfactory for use as an Aquaculture Licence Proposal, under the *Fisheries Act*, and a Notice of Intent (NoI) under the *Environmental Assessment Act*. Information should be supplied against each heading.

The first step in gaining an aquaculture licence is to identify, and gain approval, to use a specific site either on land or in the sea. Licence acquisition is easiest if the site is private or leasehold land. Leases over Crown land (which includes the sea) are more involved and normally take a lot longer to process. Crown leases are the responsibility of the Land Administration group within the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (8999 6117).

Once a site has been identified a NoI can then be prepared and lodged with NT Fisheries. It is recommended that during the preparation stage for the NoI that you liaise with NT Fisheries to help ensure that the final document contains all the necessary information.

At completion please submit to:  
Fisheries Licensing, DoR,  
GPO Box 3000, Darwin NT 0801.  
Phone (08) 8999 2150; Fax (08) 8999 2065.

## **1. The proponent**

### *The applicant*

The full name of the applicant should be provided.

### *Consultant*

If the document is submitted by a consultant on behalf of the proponent, full details of the consultant should be provided.

### *Company nominee*

If the proponent is a company, then a natural person must be identified as a nominee for the purposes of an aquaculture licence. The nominee must be a board member of the company.

### *Owner of the site*

If the proponent does not own the site, full details of the owner must be provided, and in addition to this, proof must be tendered that the owner approves of using the site for aquaculture. (This can be as an attachment)

### *Contact information*

Full contact information should be provided for the proponent, the nominee, consultant and the owner. This should include the postal address, phone numbers, fax numbers and e-mail address, where appropriate.

## **2. Operator skills and Knowledge**

The document should describe the skills and knowledge of the proponent to be applied to developing and managing the aquaculture venture. These may include business, as well as technical skills. They should include details of any academic qualifications or practical experience of the proponent, and skills/experience of employees or consultants.

## **3. The site**

### **3.1 Specifying the site**

The location of the site must be specified and should include a detailed map of the site boundaries. There should be a description of the adjacent area. Aerial photographs and topographic maps should be included where appropriate.

### **3.2 Pre-existing land use**

There should be a description of previous land use. The description should include site details such as geology, hydrology, land unit description, water resources, flora and fauna habitats, coastal and marine environments in and adjacent to the proposed site. There should also be a brief description of other factors such as heritage values and features, conservation, social, cultural, economic, endangered species, feral animals, weed species and other relevant environmental issues.

## **4. Nature of the development**

### **4.1 Farming process**

The production process should be described, including procedures for hatchery and nursery processes, grow-out, harvesting, processing and acquisition of livestock, including broodstock. Include all the species proposed for use and their source.

### **4.2 Layout of farm**

The layout of the farm should be illustrated with a plan of the site and showing the location of relevant ponds and/or cages, water reticulation system and buildings, as well as indicating the function of each construction.

### **4.3 Time-line and staging of the development**

Detail the stages in which the development is planned to proceed. Include a description of timing of the proposed action, including schedule for commissioning. (Be aware that if a later stage is not described at this time, application will have to be made again to determine if the later stage will be allowed.)

### **4.4 Effects of development**

Briefly describe the local and regional benefits expected from the proposal.

Describe likely impacts the development may have on the surrounding environment, including any risks associated with the factors outlined in Section 3.2, and measures that will be taken to address these. In particular, describe waste management and pollution control on- and off-site. Also describe proposed approaches to risk management, and environmental commitments, safeguards, monitoring, and management systems relevant to the identified risks of the proposal.

The information submitted in this section will be used by the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport (NRETAS).

#### 4.5 Disease and genetic material

Also describe measures for dealing with introduction and escape of disease and genetic material, including techniques for isolating areas (quarantine) and ensuring biological security. This should be done for each stage of production (brood stock, hatchery, nursery, grow-out, harvest and processing).

#### 4.6 De-commissioning

Describe proposed measures for decommissioning and rehabilitation of the site.

### 5. Aboriginal sacred sites

Demonstrate that due diligence has been applied to ensure there will be no desecration of Aboriginal sacred sites. The clearest demonstration is in the form of a certificate, issued for the site, by the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority. The certificate can be compared with the plan of the site specified under Section 4.2 above.

### 6. Government Agency certification/requirements

Evidence of acquisition must be provided for:

- ✓ water extraction licence(s),
- ✓ a waste discharge licence,
- ✓ a permit to construct or alter works (should a dam be involved),
- ✓ development consent
- ✓ vegetation clearing permit
- ✓ Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority Certificate

For initial evaluation of the *Notice of Intent*, the entitlements need only to be identified. For the final application for an Aquaculture Licence these entitlements must have been acquired.

This evidence is best provided by attachment of photocopies of permits and licences. If such a permit/licence is not needed it is desirable to obtain a written statement from the relevant agency to this effect.

The proponent will be required to formulate an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) to the satisfaction of NRETAS before an Aquaculture Licence will be issued.

### 7. Where to from here?

Once the Nol has been finalised it can be formally submitted to Fisheries Licensing as an Aquaculture Licence Proposal. Fisheries will then pass the document to NRETAS. The information contained in the Nol can also be used as the basis for an application for Development Consent. This process is controlled by the Environment and Heritage Division (phone (08) 8924 4136, fax (08) 8924 4053).

Once environmental assessment is completed, Development Consent and Crown leases (if any) are granted, an Environmental Management Plan is accepted and all other required licences and permits have been obtained, the proposal then returns to NT Fisheries for the final approval of the Aquaculture Licence.

## **8. More information**

Waste water discharge information:

[http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/environment/licences/pdf/guide\\_waste\\_discharge\\_licence.pdf](http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/environment/licences/pdf/guide_waste_discharge_licence.pdf)

Water extraction licences and dam building permits:

<http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/water/permits.html>

Guide to environmental impact assessment in the NT:

<http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/environment/assessment/eiaguide/index.html>

Guide to gaining development consent:

<http://www.nt.gov.au/lands/planning/system/index.shtml>

Aquaculture licensing can be discussed with the Senior Licensing Officer,  
NT Fisheries on 8999 2150

Flow Chart for obtaining an Aquaculture Licence in the NT



