Aquaculture development in Western Australia

The next 10 years
Budget deliberations

- Funding for reserves (zones) for mollusc cultivation;
- Funding for restocking including a hatchery;
- Funding for restoration of depleted fisheries (translocation and restocking)
The Colony's Fisheries.

The report, which we publish in another column, by Mr. Saville-Kent, goes at great length into the fisheries of the colony and the steps necessary in order to protect and develop them. The object of the report is to induce the Government to place a sum of £750 upon the Estimates for the next financial year in order that Mr. Saville-Kent's recommendations may be carried into effect. No one who carefully reads the report is likely to grudge the expenditure of this comparatively small sum. £300 of it is proposed to be devoted to establishing reserves at Fremantle and Albany for the cultivation of edible oysters; £150 is required for the acclimatisation of fresh water fish in the rivers of the colony, including the construction and maintenance of a trout hatchery, and the remaining £300 is intended for aiding in the restoration of the mother-of-pearl fisheries at Sharks Bay. Considering the importance of its fishery resources, the colony may congratulate itself on having secured the services of so competent and so practical an authority as Mr. Saville-Kent. One has only to read his reports to see how thoroughly at home he is in the subjects of which he treats, and how strongly they excite his interest. Common sense suggests that while Mr. Saville-Kent is holding the position of Commissioner of Fisheries, the colony does wisely to avail itself to the
WA Government

• “WA has an excellent reputation for the quality of our seafood exports.
• We must capitalise on this reputation by expanding the aquaculture industry to meet the worldwide demand for seafood.
• …the State Government has developed a strategy to promote and encourage the development of the industry.”
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  Synopsis, Conclusions and Preliminary Strategies - Industry Development and Investment Attraction and Strategic Marketing Plan

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  Review of aquaculture activities to support a sustainable aquaculture industry

• Australian Venture Consultants Pty Ltd (December 2004)
  Western Australian Aquaculture Industry Development and Investment Attraction Strategy Stage 1 Consultancy Report

• Australian Venture Consultants Pty Ltd (December 2004)
  Review and analysis of aquaculture research and education providers in Western Australia

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  Western Australian Aquaculture Industry Strategic Marketing Implementation Strategy Stage 1 Consultancy Report

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  An objective review of mid-western marine aquaculture and proposed development plan

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• Ord Group Pty Ltd (July 2006)
  A preliminary feasibility assessment of an abalone aquaculture project on the south coast of Western Australia
Statement of commitment

Clear priorities:

• Support for existing industry
• Aquaculture Zones and Infrastructure
• Streamlining regulation
• Industry Development and Investment
• Fish health and biosecurity
Lead agency

• Developing 10 year plan for Marine Aquaculture;
  – Realistic and achievable;
  – Guide investment decisions;
  – Building blocks for the future;
Reducing red tape
Development zones

• Kimberley development zone

• Geraldton-Mid-West zone

• Where next?
Fish health services
Research, hatchery and nursery services

- WA Marine Research Laboratory – Hillarys
- Australian Centre for Applied Aquaculture Research
Multi species hatchery

Located at Albany Aquaculture Park, Frenchman’s Bay

$1.8 million operating costs over four years

$500,000 capital costs
New legislation

• Aquatic Resources Management Bill 2015

A Bill for “...the development and management of aquaculture that is compatible with the protection of aquatic ecosystems”.

Reality check

• Listen to messages from industry;
  • logistical challenges;
  • environmental challenges;
  • biosecurity risks;
  • high costs.

• Point of difference
• Do a few things well
• Build on what works
Cause for optimism

- Yellow tail kingfish, Indian Ocean Fresh
- 888 Abalone, Bremer Bay
- Marine Produce Australia, Cone Bay
- Blue Lagoon Mussels
- Funding commitments in State Budget