

# LIVING MARINE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ACT 1995

## SECTION 75 – MINISTERIAL GUIDELINE

### SCALLOP RANCHING IN TASMANIAN WATERS

This Ministerial Guideline applies to the licensing of marine farming activities involving seeding the seabed with juvenile scallops (spat) and harvesting the mature scallops from the seabed in Tasmanian waters. This technique is known as ranching. Scallop species covered under this guideline include:

- Queen scallop (*Equichlamys bifrons*)
- Commercial scallop (*Pecten fumatus*)
- Doughboy scallop (*Mimachlamys asperrima*).

#### OBJECTIVE

To guide decision making on licence applications received with respect to the marine farming of scallops using techniques involving seeding the sea bed with juvenile scallops (spat) and harvesting the mature scallops from the sea bed in Tasmanian waters. This guideline does not apply to any existing licences that provide the authority to undertake scallop ranching, or the application to transfer any existing licence that provides the authority to undertake scallop ranching.

#### POLICY STATEMENT

Any future application for the granting of a licence for the marine farming of scallops in Tasmanian waters, will need to be based on scallop stock being kept in escape proof containers, or being tethered, to prevent their free ranging over the sea bed. This should address the difficulty of ensuring that the recreational, wild, and marine farmed scallop fisheries are managed sustainably.

The granting of authority (grant or variation of a licence) with respect to the marine farming of scallops in Tasmanian waters, where scallop stock are kept in escape proof containers or tethered to prevent their free ranging over the sea bed, is considered to be more effective in ensuring that the recreational, wild and marine farmed scallop fisheries are managed sustainably. Conversely the granting of any such authority whereby scallop ranching is undertaken is considered to be less effective in achieving sustainable management of the scallop fishery.

#### APPLICATION OF THIS GUIDELINE

1. The Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995 (LMRMA) gives the Minister authority to grant, vary or transfer a licence.

2. In any application received from the date of this Ministerial Guideline, so as to authorise the granting or variation of a marine farming licence made pursuant to section 77 (1) of the *Living Marine Resources Act 1995* (LMRMA), for marine farming activities involving the culture of scallops using techniques involving seeding the sea bed of a marine farming lease area with juvenile scallops (spat), and harvesting the mature scallops from the lease area seabed in Tasmanian state waters, there will be taken into account the commercial, environmental and administrative problems posed by scallop ranching in Tasmanian waters. A decision to not grant such a licence because of such concerns may be authorised by s. 78 (1)(e) and (h) of the LMRMA. A decision to not vary a licence because of such concerns may be authorised by s. 83 (1A)(e) or (ea) and s. (1B)(b) of the LMRMA.

## **BACKGROUND**

On 27 November 2002, the then Minister approved a policy which provided a framework for authorising the culture of scallops using techniques involving seeding the sea bed with scallop spat and harvesting mature scallops inside marine farming lease areas in the D'Entrecasteaux Channel. The technique of seeding the sea bed and harvesting mature scallops from the same area is known as scallop ranching.

The policy was developed to enable interested marine farming licence-holders to trial this novel scallop marine farming technique.

There have been six marine farming licence-holders who have been authorised to engage in scallop ranching. As of June 2009 only one of the six farmers remains authorised for this activity.

The trials conducted by the licence holders demonstrated that scallop ranching in the D'Entrecasteaux Channel on marine farming lease areas is not commercially viable. Scallop ranching has also proven impractical from the perspective of planning, regulation and compliance.

Experience gained from the trial has established that this culture technique is not appropriate given the difficulties of managing competing interests with respect to this resource in Tasmanian waters.



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