

# AQUACULTURE



**AUSTRALIA'S NORTHERN TERRITORY  
INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY**





**Location:** Northern Territory, Australia

**Sector:** Aquaculture

**Investment type:** Various options available including purchase, lease, joint venture or partnerships with indigenous enterprises

**Estimated total project cost:** Variable dependent on location, scale and infrastructure

**Investment amount sought:** Various

**Project status:** Proposed



## Introduction

The Aquaculture industry in the Northern Territory (NT) is currently valued at \$25M per annum with Australia's largest tiger prawn farm, Project Sea Dragon, currently progressing through approvals towards development.

The production of pearls from the silver-lipped oyster is currently the most significant aquaculture industry sector in the NT with barramundi farming the next most valuable.

## The opportunity

There is a significant opportunity for expansion of the aquaculture industry. While wild caught seafood is not expected to increase on a global scale, the demand for seafood continues to rise with increases in population and the rising middle class, especially in South East Asian markets.

## NT advantages

Key advantages for large-scale aquaculture production in the NT are:

- Minimal competition by other coastal users, such as industrial manufacturing, urban coastal growth and recreational users of the coastline and seas
- Broad support and engagement by Aboriginal coastal communities for fisheries-based economic development and employment opportunities
- Pristine waters offering clean, safe and natural production and product branding
- Proximity to Asia with its rapidly growing wealthier middle class
- Warm year-round seawater temperatures offering substantial production cost savings through significantly reduced production times
- Support from the NT Government including case management, investment facilitation services and a dedicated Government owned aquaculture research facility
- Opportunity for solar power options
- Low sovereign risk.

## Types of aquaculture

- Sea cucumber (trepang) ranching
- Large-scale pond-based farming: prawns, mud crabs, barramundi, snapper, algae
- Large-scale sea-based finfish cage farming: including for example barramundi, jewfish
- Aquarium products: corals, ornamental fish, giant clams
- Tropical rock oysters
- Seaweed and algae.

## Locations

The NT offers 10 953 kilometres of coastline and premium near shore and land-based locations with valuable biosecurity credentials.

Snake Bay on Tiwi Islands (80 kilometres north of Darwin) has advanced environmental impact studies for sea-based activities.

The NT Pastoral Land Act allows diversification of Pastoral Leases for land based aquaculture developments.



Giant clam



Sea cucumber



Tiger prawns



Rainbowfish

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