



Statement No.

**MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

**000649**

**STATEMENT THAT A PROPOSAL MAY BE IMPLEMENTED  
(PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986)**

**YELLOWFIN TUNA AQUACULTURE TRIAL,  
ZEEWIJK CHANNEL, ABROLHOS ISLANDS**

**Proposal:** The implementation of a one-year, pilot scale yellowfin tuna seacage aquaculture trial in the Zeewijk Channel, Abrolhos Islands (approximately 75 kilometres west of Geraldton), as documented in schedule 1 of this statement.

**Proponent:** Latitude Fisheries Pty Ltd, and  
W. T. N. Nominees Pty. Ltd. AFT the Newbold Family Trust

**Proponent Addresses:** Latitude Fisheries Pty Ltd  
PO Box 77  
GERALDTON WA 6530

W. T. N. Nominees Pty. Ltd. AFT the Newbold Family Trust  
PO Box 1419  
GERALDTON WA 6531

**Assessment Number:** 1485

**Report of the Environmental Protection Authority:** Bulletin 1109

The proposal referred to above may be implemented by the proponent subject to the following conditions and procedures:

**1 Implementation**

1-1 The proponent shall implement the proposal as documented in schedule 1 of this statement subject to the conditions of this statement.

Published on

**24 MAY 2004**

## **2 Proponent Commitments**

- 2-1 The proponent shall implement the environmental management commitments documented in schedule 2 of this statement.
- 2-2 The proponent shall make the Environmental Management Plans committed to and referred to in schedule 2 publicly available, to the requirements of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Environmental Protection Authority.

## **3 Proponent Nomination and Contact Details**

- 3-1 The proponent for the time being nominated by the Minister for the Environment under section 38(6) or (7) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* is responsible for the implementation of the proposal until such time as the Minister for the Environment has exercised the Minister's power under section 38(7) of the Act to revoke the nomination of that proponent and nominate another person as the proponent for the proposal.
- 3-2 If the proponent wishes to relinquish the nomination, the proponent shall apply for the transfer of proponent and provide a letter with a copy of this statement endorsed by the proposed replacement proponent that the proposal will be carried out in accordance with this statement. Contact details and appropriate documentation on the capability of the proposed replacement proponent to carry out the proposal shall also be provided.
- 3-3 The nominated proponent shall notify the Department of Environmental Protection of any change of contact name and address within 60 days of such change.

## **4 Commencement and Time Limit of Approval**

- 4-1 The proponent shall substantially commence the proposal within three years of the date of this statement or the approval granted in this statement shall lapse and be void.

Note: The Minister for the Environment will determine any dispute as to whether the proposal has been substantially commenced.

- 4-2 The proponent shall make application for any extension of approval for the substantial commencement of the proposal beyond three years from the date of this statement to the Minister for the Environment, prior to the expiration of the three-year period referred to in condition 4-1.

The application shall demonstrate that:

1. the environmental factors of the proposal have not changed significantly;
2. new, significant, environmental issues have not arisen; and
3. all relevant government authorities have been consulted.

Note: The Minister for the Environment may consider the grant of an extension of the time limit of approval not exceeding five years for the substantial commencement of the proposal.

## **5 Compliance Audit and Performance Review**

- 5-1 The proponent shall prepare an audit program and submit compliance reports to the Department of Environmental Protection which address:

1. the status of implementation of the proposal as defined in schedule 1 of this statement;
2. evidence of compliance with the conditions and commitments; and
3. the performance of the environmental management plans and programs.

Note: Under Sections 48(1) and 47(2) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environmental Protection is empowered to audit the compliance of the proponent with the statement and should directly receive the compliance documentation, including environmental management plans, related to the conditions, procedures and commitments contained in this statement.

- 5-2 The proponent shall submit a performance review report at the completion of the one-year trial, to the requirements of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Environmental Protection Authority.

The performance review report shall include a summary statement of the monitoring and management results and shall address:

1. the environmental issues associated with the project; the targets for those issues; the methodologies used to achieve these; and the key indicators of environmental performance measured against those targets;

2. the level of progress in the achievement of sound environmental performance, including industry benchmarking, and the use of best available technology where practicable;
3. stakeholder and community consultation about environmental performance and the outcomes of that consultation, including a report of any on-going concerns being expressed; and
4. how the information gained through the operation of the one-year trial would be applied in the development of a future, related proposal.

Note: Under Section 38(1) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, a future proposal which appears likely, if implemented, to have a significant effect on the environment shall be referred in writing to the Environmental Protection Authority.

## **6 Decommissioning Plan**

- 6-1 Prior to installation of the seacages, the proponent shall prepare a Decommissioning Plan, designed to ensure that the site is left in an environmentally acceptable condition to the requirements of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Environmental Protection Authority.

This Plan shall address the removal or, if appropriate, retention of infrastructure in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

- 6-2 The proponent shall implement the Decommissioning Plan required by condition 6-1 within five years following the commencement of the trial.
- 6-3 The proponent shall make the Decommissioning Plan required by condition 6-1 publicly available, to the requirements of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Environmental Protection Authority.

Note: In a case where a future proposal is approved in this location, the Decommissioning Plan may be amended accordingly.

## **Procedures**

- 1 Where a condition states "to the requirements of the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Environmental Protection Authority", the Environmental Protection Authority will provide that advice to the Department of Environmental Protection for the preparation of written notice to the proponent.

- 2 The Environmental Protection Authority may seek advice from other agencies or organisations, as required, in order to provide its advice to the Department of Environmental Protection.

#### Notes

- 1 The Minister for the Environment will determine any dispute between the proponent and the Environmental Protection Authority or the Department of Environmental Protection over the fulfilment of the requirements of the conditions.
- 2 The proponent is required to apply for a Works Approval and Licence for this project under the provisions of Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.



Dr Judy Edwards MLA  
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

24 MAY 2004

## Schedule 1

### The Proposal (Assessment No. 1485)

The proposal is for the implementation of a one-year yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) seacage aquaculture trial in the Zeewijk Channel, Abrolhos Islands. The trial involves capture of up to 200 tonne of yellowfin tuna, supplementary feeding of the tuna in seacages for up to seven months, and harvesting and processing of the tuna.

The key characteristics of the proposal are summarised in Table 1 below.

**Table 1 - Key Proposal Characteristics**

Element	Quantities / Description
Period of operation	One-year. Seacages stocked for up to 7 months. Tuna to be captured in approximately December of one year and harvested in approximately July of the following year.
Species farmed	Yellowfin tuna ( <i>Thunnus albacares</i> ).
Locality	Zeewijk Channel, Abrolhos Islands (approximately 75 kilometres west of Geraldton).
Coordinates of location / locality (area of interest)	The area of interest is bounded by the coordinates: N/W corner 28° 48.46'S and 113° 50.96'E South to 28° 50.59'S and 113° 50.98'E S/East to 28° 51.52'S and 113° 52.31'E East to 28° 52.16'S and 113° 55.64'E North to 28° 48.51'S and 113° 55.52'E, then West to join with the first point (see figure 1).
Area of location / locality	Approximately 7.3 kilometres by 3.6 kilometres (being approximately 4330 hectares).
Area and position of seacage placement	Approximately 3 kilometres by 1 kilometre (being approximately 300 hectares). The seacages will not be relocated during the trial.
Number of seacages	7 to 8
Size of seacages	40 metres diameter
Drop of net	Approximately 12 metres

Biomass capacity of seacages	Approximately 30 tonne per seacage
Capture biomass of yellowfin tuna	Up to 200 tonnes
Expected end-of-trial biomass of yellowfin tuna	Approximately 260 tonnes
Feed sources	Bait fish, squid, processed pellets
On-site staff	5 (housed at existing infrastructure on Basile Island).
Processing	Yellowfin tuna processed aboard dedicated vessel designed for zero discharge. Waste returned to mainland for disposal.
Predator control	Stanchion and netting above the waterline will be maintained at 2 metres high.

**Figure (attached)**

Figure 1 – Map of area of location / locality.

**HOUTMAN ABROLHOS**  
**LATITUDE FISHERIES P/L AND W.T.N NOMINEES PTY LTD**  
**ATF THE NEWBOLD FAMILY TRUST**  
**AQUACULTURE LICENCE - SITE PLAN**

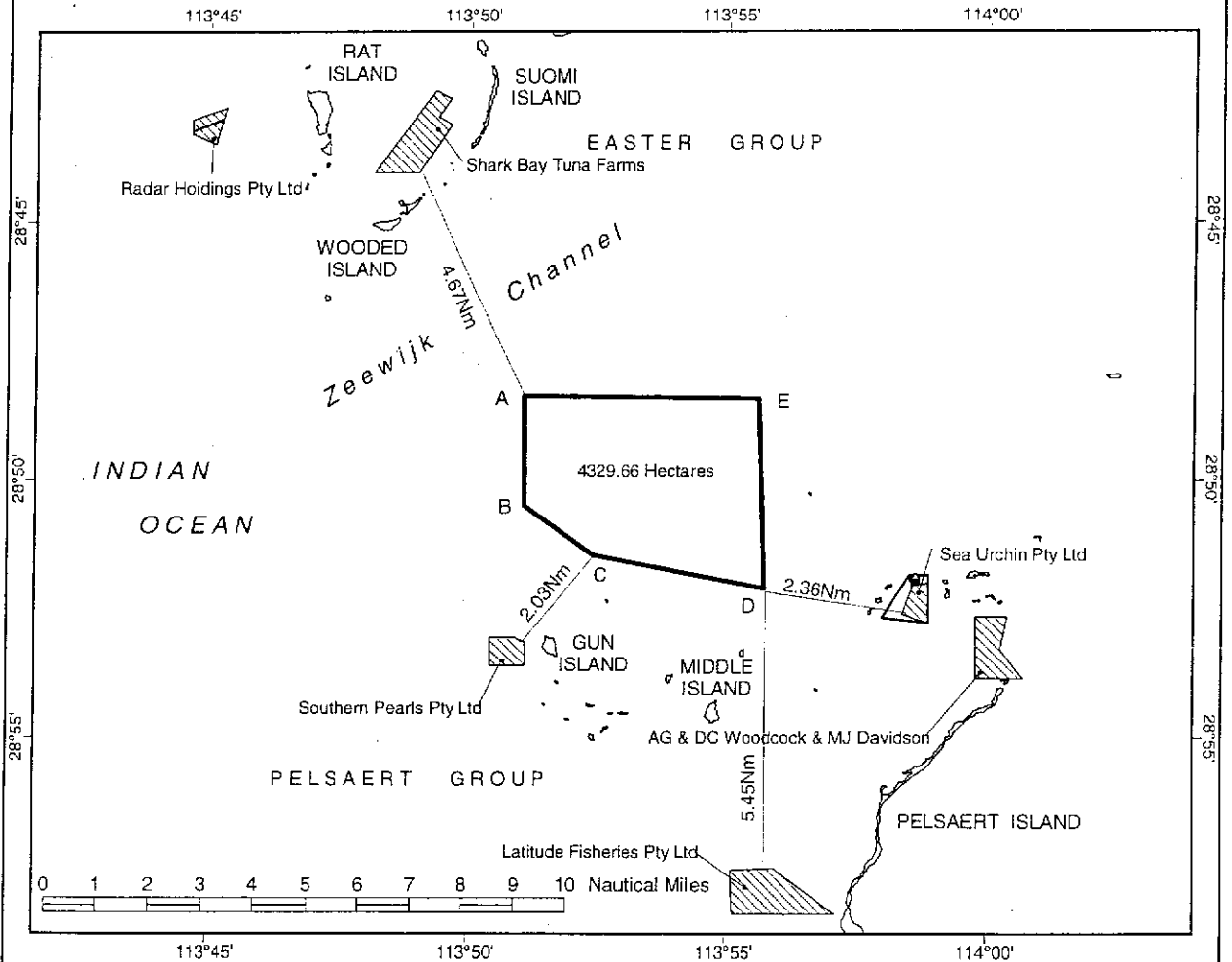
**APPLICATION**

Boundary Corner Co-ordinates: Datum GDA94

Point	Longitude	Latitude
A	113° 51.047'	-28° 48.386'
B	113° 51.067'	-28° 50.516'
C	113° 52.397'	-28° 51.446'
D	113° 55.727'	-28° 52.086'
E	113° 55.607'	-28° 48.436'

Boundary Corner Co-ordinates: Datum AGD84

Point	Longitude	Latitude
A	113° 50.96'	-28° 48.46'
B	113° 50.98'	-28° 50.59'
C	113° 52.31'	-28° 51.52'
D	113° 55.64'	-28° 52.16'
E	113° 55.52'	-28° 48.51'

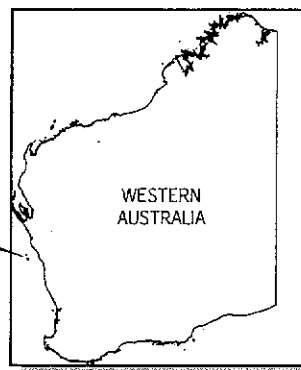


- Existing Applications
- Existing Licences

Prepared  
**J.W.H**  
 29 - 08 - 2003  
 Carographic Services - DPI

PLAN 969 - 144 - 01

Houtman Abrolhos





**Proponent's Environmental Management Commitments**

January 2004

**Yellowfin Tuna Aquaculture Trial,  
Zeewijk Channel, Abrolhos Islands**

(Assessment No. 1485)

Latitude Fisheries Pty Ltd  
and  
W.T.N. Nominees Pty. Ltd. AFT the Newbold Family Trust

## Proponent's Environmental Management Commitments

### Yellowfin Tuna Aquaculture Trial, Zeewijk Channel, Abrolhos Islands (Assessment No. 1485), January 2004

**Note:** The term "commitment" as used in this schedule includes the entire row of the table and its six separate parts as follows:

- a commitment number;
- a commitment topic;
- the objective of the commitment;
- the 'action' to be undertaken by the proponent;
- the timing requirements of the commitment; and
- the body/agency to provide technical advice to the Department of Environmental Protection.

No.	Topic	Objective/s	Action	Timing	Advice
1	General Environmental Management	Manage environmental effects of the proposal.	<p>Develop an Environmental Management Program (EMP) which addresses specific management procedures identified in consultation with concerned community stakeholders, other users of the resource and relevant government agencies.</p> <p>This will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A series of monitoring programs addressing the following:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Water quality / benthic impact;</li> <li>2. Seabird interactions; and</li> <li>3. Wildlife (non-seabird) interactions.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. A waste management plan for management of all wastes (commercial, domestic, incidental yellow fin tuna mortality) generated by the project at the site, and at the Abrolhos Islands;</li> <li>3. Formulation of remedial action plans to address matters of environmental concern arising from the monitoring programs; and</li> <li>4. Induction training for staff and contractors to ensure adherence to environmental requirements identified in the scoping document.</li> </ol>	Pre-operation	DoF CALM

No.	Topic	Objective/s	Action	Timing	Advice
2	General Environmental Management	Achieve the objectives of commitment 1.	Implement the Environmental Management Program referred to in commitment 1.	During operation	DoF CALM
3	Water quality / benthic impact	Carry out an objective evaluation of the impact of the proposal on the water quality and benthic impact at, and adjacent to, the site of operation with a view to devising management measures to minimise any such impacts.	<p>Prepare water quality / benthic impact program which objectively monitors:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. sediment loading and changes in benthic productivity;</li> <li>2. changes in abundance or scarcity within epibenthic communities;</li> <li>3. changes in nutrient levels;</li> <li>4. changes in chlorophyll;</li> <li>5. changes in algal cover on adjacent corals; and</li> <li>6. longer term changes in coral productivity.</li> </ol> <p>Note: Specific limits will be set by the Department of Environmental Protection through a licence issued under Part V of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>.</p>	Pre-operation	UWA
4	Water quality / benthic impact	Achieve the objectives of commitment 3.	Implement the water quality / benthic impact program referred to in commitment 3.	During operation	UWA
5	Seabirds	Carry out an objective evaluation of the impact of the proposal on seabird behaviour and populations with a view to devising management measures to minimise any impacts, and to quantify any impacts likely from a larger scale operation.	<p>Prepare a Seabird Monitoring Program which addresses seacage configuration to maximise the statistical power obtainable from data collected, and collects data on:</p> <p>(a) Seabird behaviour</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. before the seacages arrive at the site;</li> <li>2. after the seacages have been positioned, but before the pens are stocked with yellowfin tuna;</li> </ol>	Pre-operation	CALM CCWA Dr. Chris Surman

No.	Topic	Objective/s	Action	Timing	Advice
			3. while the seacages are stocked with yellowfin tuna; and 4. while harvesting takes place; and  (b) Silver gull population size.		
6	Seabirds	Achieve the objectives of commitment 5.	Implement the Seabird Monitoring Program referred to in commitment 5.	During operation	CALM CCWA Dr. Chris Surman
7	Other (non-seabird) wildlife observations	Carry out an objective monitoring program to log all non-seabird wildlife interactions, including sightings within a 300 metre radius of seacages.	Prepare a Wildlife Monitoring Program including:  1. log books / data sheets for the structured collection and archiving of data; 2. species identification guides for animals likely to be sighted at the operation; 3. carcass retrieval and forwarding protocols for wildlife mortalities; 4. reporting requirements for wildlife mortalities; and 5. induction training for site staff and contractors on both the documentation, and species identification.	Pre-operation	Diversity P/L CALM
8	Other (non-seabird) wildlife observations	Achieve the objectives of commitment 7.	Implement the Wildlife Monitoring Program referred to in commitment 7.	During operation	Diversity P/L CALM

No.	Topic	Objective/s	Action	Timing	Advice
9	Imported disease	Minimise risk of disease being introduced to the Abrolhos Islands through the importation of bait.	<p>Develop management protocols to source bait in a manner which minimises the risk of imported pathogens, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. sourcing domestic product where there are supplies of foreign and domestic bait with similar characteristics and cost;</li> <li>2. sourcing New Zealand product where no domestic options exist, but there are supplies of foreign bait from New Zealand or from other countries both with similar characteristics and cost;</li> <li>3. sourcing southern hemisphere product where no domestic options exist, but there are supplies of foreign bait from the southern or northern hemisphere both with similar characteristics and cost; and</li> <li>4. regardless of the source of the bait, implement a formal documentation trail to verify that all bait imported has been used in a manner consistent with undertakings in the scoping document, or disposed of at a registered waste disposal site.</li> </ol>	Pre-operation	DoF
10	Imported disease	Achieve the objectives of commitment 9.	Implement the bait sourcing management protocols referred to in commitment 9.	During operation	DoF
11	By-catch	Document the by-catch during purse seine operations.	Have an observer aboard the purse seine vessel to document the by-catch of the purse seine operation if all "take" occurs in one trip, or have an observer aboard the catching vessel for a representative sample of trips if multiple trips are needed.	During purse seine operations	AFMA
12	Decommissioning	To consolidate the seacages within the area of interest.	Remove nets from the seacages and consolidate the seacages within the area of interest.	Post - harvest	DoF

No.	Topic	Objective/s	Action	Timing	Advice
13	Consultation Strategy	To ensure ongoing and frequent consultation and reporting of environmental performance to stakeholders, including nearby operators.	Develop and implement a Consultation Strategy.	Pre-, during and post-operation	

**Abbreviations:**

AFMA Australian Fisheries Management Authority  
 CCWA Sustainable Fisheries Liaison Office, Conservation Council of WA  
 CALM Department of Conservation and Land Management  
 DEP Department of Environmental Protection  
 DoA Department of Agriculture  
 DoF Department of Fisheries  
 EMP Environmental Management Program  
 UWA University of Western Australia

**Attachment 1– Change to Proposal (Statement 649)**

**PROPOSAL:**           **YELLOWFIN TUNA AQUACULTURE TRIAL, ZEEWIJK  
CHANNEL, ABROLHOS ISLANDS**

**PROPONENT:**       **LATITUDE FISHERIES PTY LTD AND WTN NOMINEES  
PTY LTD AFT THE NEWBOLD FAMILY TRUST**

**CHANGE:**           **IN TIME LIMIT OF APPROVAL**

**FROM:**             **24 MAY 2007 UNTIL 24 MAY 2010**

**Approval Date:**   **- 3 JUL 2007**

## Attachment 1 to Statement 649 Change to Proposal

**Proposal:** Yellowfin tuna aquaculture trial Zeewijk Channel, Abrolhos Islands

**Proponent:** Latitude Fisheries Pty Ltd

### Change:

The proposed changes to the proposal are listed and discussed below:

- change in species to be cultured;
- period of operation;
- number of pens;
- biomass capacity of pens;
- source of stock;
- feed sources; and
- predator control.

### Components of original Proposal as implemented:

Element	Quantities/Description
Period of operation	One-year Seacages stocked for up to 7 months Tuna to be captured in approximately December of one year and harvested in approximately July of the following year
Species farmed	Yellowfin tuna ( <i>Thunnus albacares</i> )
Number of seacages	7 – 8
Size of seacages	40 metres diameter
Biomass capacity of sea cages	Approximately 30 tonne per seacage
Capture biomass of Yellowfin tuna	Up to 200 tonne
Expected end-of-trial biomass of Yellowfin tuna	Approximately 260 tonne
Feed sources	Bait fish, squid, processed pellets
Processing	Yellowfin tuna processed aboard dedicated vessel designed for zero discharge Waste returned to mainland for disposal
Predator control	Stanchion and netting above the waterline will be maintained at 2 metres high



**Components of changed Proposal:**

<b>Element</b>	<b>Quantities/Description</b>
Period of operation	Three year trial. Fish sourced from hatchery stock. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1x 2 year grow out of one cage to start in year 1 and end in Year 2</li> <li>• 1x 2 year grow out to start in year 2 and end in Year 3</li> </ul> Staggered harvest of fish
Species farmed	Mulloway ( <i>Argyrosomus hololeptidotus</i> ) and Yellowtail Kingfish ( <i>Seriola lalandi</i> )
Number of seacage	3 x 40 metre in close array or up to 5 x 25 metre (maximum number over 30 months)
Size of seacages	40 metre and or 25 metre diameter
Biomass capacity of seacages	Maximum 200 tonne for 40 metre sea cage
Intake biomass	Mulloway (2 intakes over 2008/2009) 75000@50 grams = 3750 kilograms. Yellowtail Kingfish (1 intake 2008), 50000@ 50 grams = 2500 kilograms
Expected end-of-trial biomass of yellowfin tuna	Mulloway (total growth after 30 month trial) approximately 272 tonne Yellowtail Kingfish (total growth after 30 month trial) approximately 228 tonne
Feed sources	Processed pellets
Processing	Fish harvested and processed on shore with zero discharge. Waste disposed of on mainland
Predator control	Predator nets used

**Approved under delegation  
from Minister for the Environment:**

**Approval Date:** 25.2.08