



**Northern Territory Government**

Office of Environment and Heritage

## **PART A**

# **INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC**

### **Draft Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines**

**Marine Harvest  
Barramundi Fish Farm  
Snake Bay, Melville Island NT**

**April 2005**

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## **1. Purpose**

This section of the guidelines has been developed to assist members of the public and other interested parties in preparing comments on the Draft Guidelines for the preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Marine Harvest Barramundi Fish Farm at Snake Bay, Melville Island NT.

The object of these Guidelines is to identify those matters that should be addressed in the EIS. The Guidelines are based on the initial outline of the proposal in the Notice of Intent (NOI). The Guidelines, however, are not necessarily exhaustive. They should not be interpreted as excluding from consideration any matters which are currently unforeseen that emerge as important or significant from scientific studies or otherwise during the preparation of the EIS and the public consultation process.

## **2. Exhibition Time**

The Draft Guidelines will be on exhibition until Monday 18 April, which is 14 days from the date advertised.

Once the EIS has been submitted (based on the Final Guidelines) an opportunity for the public to comment on the EIS will be available for a minimum period of 28 days.

The object of these Guidelines is to identify those matters that should be addressed in the EIS. The Guidelines are based on the initial outline of the proposal in the Notice of Intent (NOI). The Guidelines, however, are not necessarily exhaustive. They should not be interpreted as excluding from consideration any matters which are currently unforeseen that emerge as important or significant from scientific studies or otherwise during the preparation of the EIS and the public consultation process.

## **3. Description of Proponent**

The proponent is Marine Harvest (Gibsons Ltd, trading as Marine Harvest).

## **4. Description of Proposal**

### **What**

This is the third of Marine Harvest's three proposed barramundi sea cage farms in the Northern Territory. The first farm was established at Port Hurd (Bathurst Island) in 2000 as a pilot project. The second proposal is at Port Patterson (Bynoe Harbour) and is subject to a separate environmental assessment.

The proposed farm will have the capacity to produce 3500 tonnes of fish per year. The site will be stocked with juvenile barramundi supplied by the Darwin Aquaculture Centre (Channel Island) from local wild caught broodstock. The juvenile barramundi will be transferred to the proposed farms when they are approximately 100 mm long, and take 18 months to reach harvest size of approximately 3 kg.

The stock will be fed a pelletised food from automatic feeding stations. Feeding will be monitored to ensure as little wastage as possible in the form of uneaten pellets.

The stocking density of the proposed farms has an upper limit of 45 kg of fish per cubic metre. This is based on a fully stocked cage of 3 kg fish. However the fixed net dimensions and harvesting programs are likely to keep the stocking density below that level.

The proposed farm will be based on plastic circles of 86 metre circumference. Steel net mesh will be used to house the fish. These steel nets have proven to be able to exclude crocodiles and sharks and not entrap any predators. The holding nets will be 8 m deep with a side wall of 4.5 metres. All nets will have a minimum seabed clearance of 2 m. Anchors for the mooring system will be Steel anchors. At one end of the unit is a work platform for use by field staff and to hold the automatic feeding system.

### **Where**

The proponent intends to develop one site in Snake Bay, (Melville Island).  
Coordinates as below:

Snake Bay -

|   |              |               |
|---|--------------|---------------|
| A | 11° 26.00' S | 130° 42.10' E |
| B | 11° 26.18' S | 130° 41.98' E |
| C | 11° 26.79' S | 130° 42.82' E |
| D | 11° 26.51' S | 130° 43.15' E |

### **When**

Development of this project will occur on completion of the approval process.

### **Project Details**

#### **The Process**

Juvenile fish from endemic brood stock will be reared under the auspices of the Darwin Aquaculture Centre to 100mm in length. Each cohort will be transported for on-growing into the sea pens at Snake Bay. Support services for the production unit will be accommodated on a work platform secured to the unit. Feeding will be effected automatically from the platform. Operational staff will conduct food conversion, growth rate, net integrity and cleanliness and environmental monitoring. Monitoring will include visual observations by diving. Cleaning as required will control fouling of the nets. Harvested fish will be transported to Darwin live, by well boat, or killed and chilled prior to transportation. At the depot in Darwin, fish will be graded and packed whole, on ice, or further processed for distribution to the markets.

The following waste products will be produced by the proposal:

### ***Wastes to Water***

Wastes to water are expected from

- artificial feed that is not consumed by stock;
- fish faeces;
- parasite control treatment; and
- waste water from the occupation of the site by staff.

### ***Solid Wastes:***

Solid wastes are expected from:

- Feed bags;
- Dead stock (morts); and
- Waste associated with the occupation of the site by staff.

### ***Noise, Light, Air***

Expected noise sources are:

- Outboard motors;
- Feeding equipment; and
- Harvesting operations.

Lighting associated with habitation of the site by staff, and operations are expected.

## **5. Administration Details**

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Copies of the Final Guidelines will be posted on the DIPE website [www.ipe.nt.gov.au/enviro](http://www.ipe.nt.gov.au/enviro).

Copies of the EIS will be available to the public for purchase from the proponent.  
**Comments on the EIS should be forwarded to the nominated Project Officer.**