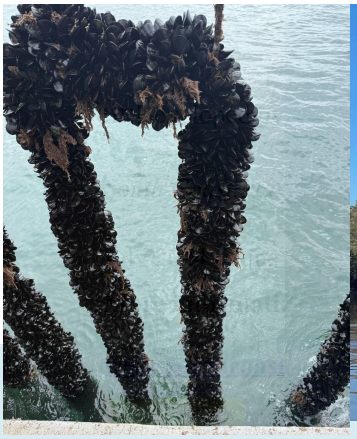

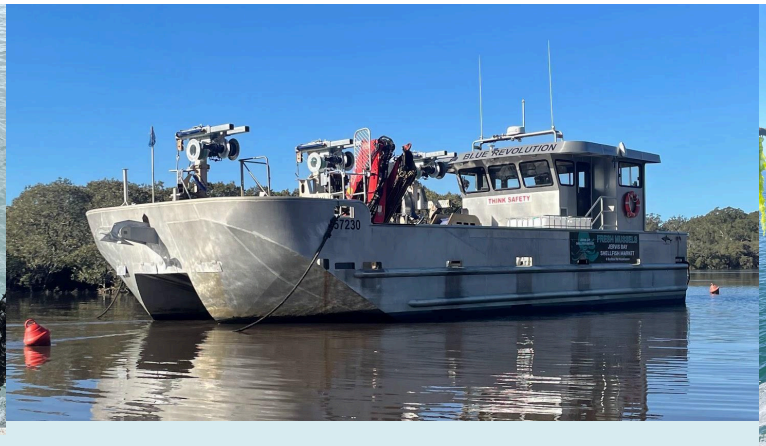


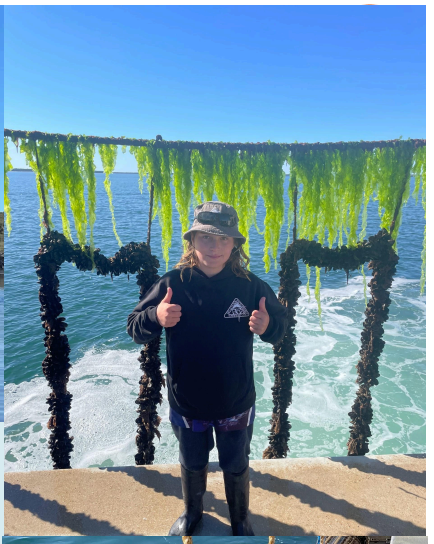

# ANNUAL

# ENVIRONMENTAL

# MANAGEMENT

# REPORT

July 2024 - June 2025


**Developed by South Coast Mariculture**

**More information**

www.southcoastmariculture.com.au

*Cover images: Varied Operations at South Coast Mariculture Leases 2024/ 2025*

## Declaration of Compliance

| | |
|---|---|
| **Project Name** | **Jervis Bay Commercial Shellfish Aquaculture Leases** |
| **Project Application Number** | **SSI-5657-Mod-1** |
| **Description of Project** | **Commercial Shellfish Aquaculture in Jervis Bay** |
| **Project Address** | **Shed 5, 6 Bolton Road, Huskisson, NSW 2540** |
| **Proponent** | **South Coast Mariculture Pty Ltd** |
| **Title of Compliance Report** | **South Coast Mariculture Annual Environmental Management Report July 2024 – June 2025** |
| **Date** | **1 September 2025** |

I declare that I have reviewed relevant evidence and prepared the contents of the attached Compliance Report to the best of my knowledge:

• the Annual Environmental Management Report has been prepared in accordance with all relevant conditions of consent;

• the Annual Environmental Management Report has been prepared in accordance with the Compliance Reporting Post Approval Requirements;

• the findings of the Annual Environmental Management Report are reported truthfully, accurately and completely;

• due diligence and professional judgement have been exercised in preparing the Annual Environmental Management Report and

• the Annual Environmental Management Report is an accurate summary of the compliance status of the development.

Notes:

• Under section 10.6 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 a person must not include false or misleading information (or provide information for inclusion in) a report of monitoring data or an audit report produced to the Minister in connection with an audit if the person knows that the information is false or misleading in a material respect. The proponent of an approved project must not fail to include information in (or provide information for inclusion in) a report of monitoring data or an audit report produced to the Minister in connection with an audit if the person knows that the information is materially relevant to the monitoring or audit. The maximum penalty is, in the case of a corporation, $1 million and for an individual, $250,000; and

• The Crimes Act 1900 contains other offences relating to false and misleading information: section 307B (giving false or misleading information – maximum penalty 2 years' imprisonment or 200 penalty units, or both).

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name of Authorised Reporting Officer** | **Alexia Foster-Bohm** |
| **Title** | **Environmental Officer** |
| **Qualification** | **Masters of Environmental Management** |
| **Company** | **South Coast Mariculture** |
| **Company Address** | **Shed 5, 6 Bolton Road, Huskisson NSW 2540** |

## Executive Summary

This report details the performance of the South Coast Mariculture marine aquaculture leases between 1st July 2024 and 30th June 2025. The report complies with State Significant Infrastructure Approval SS1-5657-Mod-1 that an Annual Environmental Management Report be submitted to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Energy.

For the purposes of this report, the South Coast Mariculture leases will be referred to as:

AL 15/001 = Callala North Lease
AL 15/002 = Callala South Lease
AL 15/003 = Vincentia Lease

The report covers a range of activities including construction and deployment; operation and maintenance; environmental monitoring and biosecurity; research; transport of spat; marine fauna interactions; navigational interactions; compliance with standards and performance measures and community engagement.

The report highlights compliance with consent conditions and provides examples of where and when standards were exceeded. The report also identifies any non-compliance issues during this review period.

During this reporting period, there was:

- One instance of a naturally occurring algal bloom of the Rizosolenia species in August 2024 which left the mussels unmarketable in Jervis Bay until November due to the bitter taste.
- One unexpected and unexplained mussel mortality event in Twofold Bay, Eden in December 2024. This was likely due to temperature rise.
- continued stocking of Callala North lease (AL 15/001) with Blue Mussel spat *(Mytilus galloprovincialis)* and Callala South Lease (AL 15/002) with Sydney Rock oysters through the shared farming initiative.
- no new introduced pest/species identified on the lease;
- no aquatic fauna entanglement incidents:
- seven marine fauna interactions recorded within and around the SCM marine lease (AL 15/001); only seals, dolphins and penguins were observed. No whales were observed.
- operational training of interested staff in HACCP, Food Safety Program, Contributing to

Workplace Health and Safety & First Aid Training in addition to other workplace training including the NSW Shellfish Program induction training and Marine Pest Alert workshop

- one intensive beach clean-up with Ocean Watch: Tide to Tip
- employment of 60 people - 26 full-time, 2 part-time and 32 casual staff members at South Coast Mariculture and employment of 8 staff - 4 full time, 3 part time and 1 casual at Blue Harvest

This report also outlines any incidents related to operational matters that occurred on the South Coast Mariculture leases during the reporting period including:

- Zero infrastructure malfunctions.
- Marine fauna monitoring with zero entanglements seven recorded sightings within and around the lease area.
- There have been no formal complaints registered in FY2024-FY2025
- No major incidents recorded in Sea Flux

# Contents

## Figures

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## List of Abbreviations

| | |
|---|---|
| BAP | Best Aquaculture Practices |
| EMP | Environmental Management Plan |
| HACCP | Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point |
| IALA | International Association of Lighthouse Authorities |
| IEA | Independent Environmental Audit |
| NSW DPI | New South Wales Department of Primary Industries |
| NSW DPIE | New South Wales Department of Planning and Environment |
| JBMP | Jervis Bay Marine Park |
| NSW RMS | New South Wales Roads and Maritime Service |
| SCM | South Coast Mariculture Pty Ltd |
| SDS | Safety Data Sheets |
| SRO | Sydney Rock Oyster |
| UoN | University of Newcastle |
| UTS | University of Technology Sydney |
| WH&S | Work Health and Safety |

# 1. Introduction

South Coast Mariculture Pty Ltd (SCM) has achieved significant progress in establishing extensive commercial aquaculture leases (Figure 1) in the marine embayment of Jervis Bay, NSW, under the State Significant Infrastructure Approval SSI–5657 granted by Fisheries NSW, a division of the NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI), through the NSW Government Department of Planning and the Environment (NSW DPIE). According to the aquaculture permit, AP2554 issued by NSW DPI, South Coast Mariculture (SCM) is licensed to cultivate various marine bivalves on the lease, including-

- Akoya (Pearl) (*Pinctada imbricata*)
- Blue Mussel (*Mytilus galloprovincialis* and Mytilus planulatus)
- Commercial Scallop (*Pecten fumatus*)
- Doughboy Scallop (*Mimachlamys asperrima*)
- Native Oyster (*Ostrea angasi*)
- Sydney Rock Oysters (Diploid) (*Saccostrea glomerata*)

South Coast Mariculture (SCM) has collaborated extensively with NSW DPI, as well as with local, state, and federal government agencies, community groups, private enterprises, and a wide range of stakeholders. This collaborative approach ensures that all aspects of planning, development, infrastructure, operations, and environmental management related to SCM's leases comply with the recently updated conditions of **SSI–5657-Mod-1** (as of 20 March 2025). The goal is to create a development that not only meets regulatory standards but also delivers environmental benefits, enhances community well-being, and supports the broader sustainability of the Jervis Bay region.

Jervis Bay is one of only a few coastal embayments in NSW well-suited to extensive aquaculture, alongside Port Stephens and Twofold Bay. Port Stephens is recognized for its thriving edible oyster industry, supported by ideal environmental conditions and deep-rooted aquaculture expertise. In contrast, Twofold Bay is known for its large-scale Blue Mussel farming, which utilizes the bay's unique marine ecosystem to sustainably produce this high-value species (Joyce et al., 2010).

Each of these sites offers distinct opportunities shaped by their ecological features and existing industry practices. Jervis Bay, with its clear waters and strategic location, presents a strong foundation for SCM's innovative aquaculture initiatives—designed to drive regional economic development while preserving environmental integrity.

The success of SCM's Commercial Extensive Aquaculture Leases depends on maintaining the high

quality of the surrounding marine environment. SCM prioritizes robust environmental management practices to protect biodiversity and water quality and enforces high standards of animal welfare to ensure the ethical treatment of cultured species.

As part of its commitment to sustainability, SCM adheres to the globally recognized Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP)—endorsed by the Global Food Safety Initiative and the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative. These standards guide SCM's efforts in food safety, environmental stewardship, and long-term ecosystem health.

Transparency underpins SCM's operations. Through open and honest communication with stakeholders, the company fosters trust, accountability, and shared commitment to responsible aquaculture. SCM aims to set a high standard for sustainable seafood production—supporting regulatory compliance, community prosperity, and the protection of our marine environment.


***Figure 1: Regional Map of Jervis Bay and the locations for the current South Coast Mariculture Commercial Extensive Aquaculture Leases (Source: Fisheries NSW 2012).***

## *1.1 Current Lease Site Locations*

The SCM leases (Figure:1 & 2) occupy a total area of 50 hectares between the coordinates:

- AL15/001 (Callala North) - 20 hectares (Coordinates: -35° 1' 11.899" 150° 42' 39.666"; -35° 1' 27.615" 150° 42' 53.655"; -35° 1' 33.944" 150° 42' 43.147"; -35° 1' 18.228" 150° 42' 29.158");

- AL15/002 (Callala South) - 20 hectares (Coordinates: -35° 1' 38.188" 150° 42' 21.156"; -35° 1' 53.796" 150° 42' 35.324"; -35° 2' 0.206" 150° 42' 24.887"; -35° 1' 44.597",-150° 42' 10.720"); and

- AL15/003 (Vincentia) - 10 hectares (Coordinates: -35° 3' 35.483" 150° 41' 13.244"; -35° 3' 42.122" 150° 41' 21.910"; -35° 3' 49.960" 150° 41' 13.027"; -35° 3' 43.321" 150° 41' 4.361").

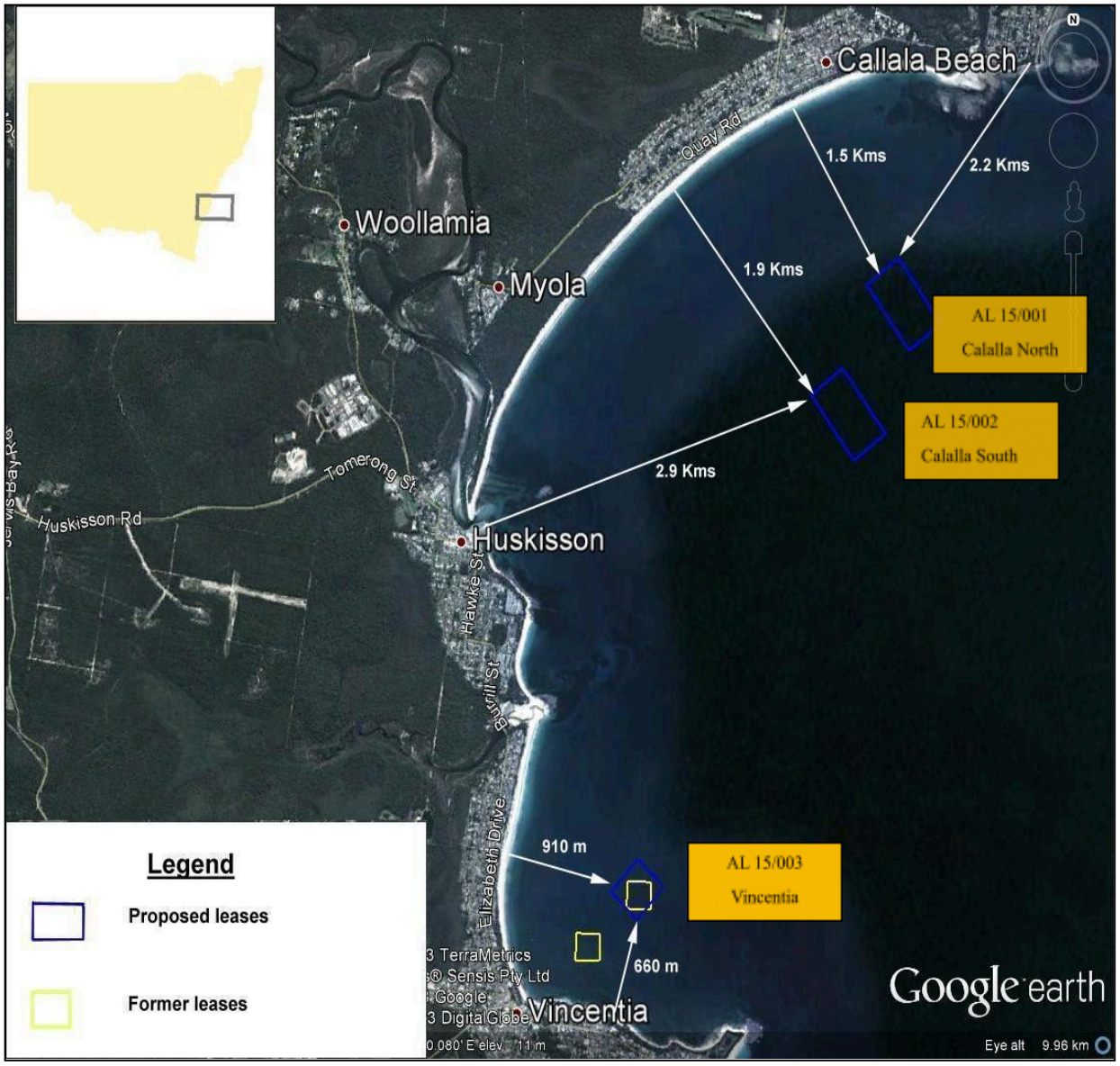


***Figure 2: Location of the Existing Commercial Shellfish Aquaculture Leases (shown in blue) (Source: Fisheries NSW, 2013).***

The Callala Leases (north and south) are located approximately 1.5 km and 1.9 km southeast of Callala Beach, respectively. The Vincentia Lease is approximately 660 m north of Orion Beach in Vincentia (Figure 2).

In compliance with consent condition E7 of the State Significant Infrastructure Approval SSI-5657-Mod-1 the Annual Environmental Management Report will assess the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the South Coast Mariculture Commercial Extensive Aquaculture Leases, evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation, monitoring and management measures, and make modifications to the operation of the leases in accordance with the report findings.

The annual environment report will consist of the following information:

- The standards and performance measures that apply to the development;
- Description of the operations that have been carried out during the reporting period;
- Annual water and benthic monitoring report;
- Non-compliance report and actions taken to meet compliance
- Annual marine fauna interaction/observations report;
- Annual navigation incidents report;
- Annual complaints report;
- Annual diseases, parasites and pests report;
- Annual structural integrity and stability report and;
- Details of monitoring results with commentary on any effects of the development compared to relevant guidelines, pre-lease sampling or control sites and an analysis of any trends or key findings.

# 2. SCM Commercial Extensive Aquaculture Lease Operational Status

## *2.1 Vincentia AL15/003*

The Vincentia lease AL15/003 has not yet been developed. As part of the recent request for modification of leases, NSW DPI and SCM have recently gained approval from NSW DPHI and the Minister of Planning and Public Spaces to modify the activities approved under SSI-5657-Mod-l (APPENDIX:A Notice of Decision: Modifications to the Jervis Bay Mussel Farms Relocation and Expansion, NSW DPI, 2025). The proposed modification involves the relocation of this lease from Vincentia to Callala Beach (Figure: 3).

## *2.2 Callala South AL15/002*

The Callala South lease AL15/002 has been developed under Stage 3 Full Commercialisation March 2023 and will be further modified based on the recent request for modification.

The current lease will be relocated slightly northwest of their current position and an expansion of these leases from 20 to 25 ha. The proposed leases will still be within the Habitat Protection Zone of Jervis Bay Marine Park (JBMP) as are the current approved lease sites (Figure: 3).

### *2.3 Callala North AL15/001*

The infrastructure for the Callala North lease AL15/001 was initially installed in June 2019. This infrastructure includes 6-meter screw anchors positioned at the end of each system, connected to lengths of chain and polypropylene, with support buoys attached along each backbone rope. Additionally, four navigation buoys are placed at the corners of the commercial lease area.

In May 2020, the lease was first seeded with wild-caught *Mytilus galloprovincialis* spat translocated from Twofold Bay lease AL06/002. Commercial harvesting commenced in November 2020 after three years of mussel farming on 20 lines. South Coast Mariculture (SCM) then initiated Stage 3 Full Commercialisation during FY22-23 to develop the lease further. This involved installing 25 new lines between AL15/001 and AL15/002 to enhance farming capacity.

During FY23-24, SCM continued normal farming operations as seeding *Mytilus galloprovincialis*, along with routine inspections and maintenance of the infrastructure at both Callala North (AL15/001) and Callala South (AL15/002).

As part of the most recent modifications (APPENDIX A: Notice of Decision: Modifications to the Jervis Bay Mussel Farms Relocation and Expansion, NSW DPI, 2024), the lease AL15/001 will be relocated northwest and expanded from 20 hectares to 25 hectares (Figure: 3).

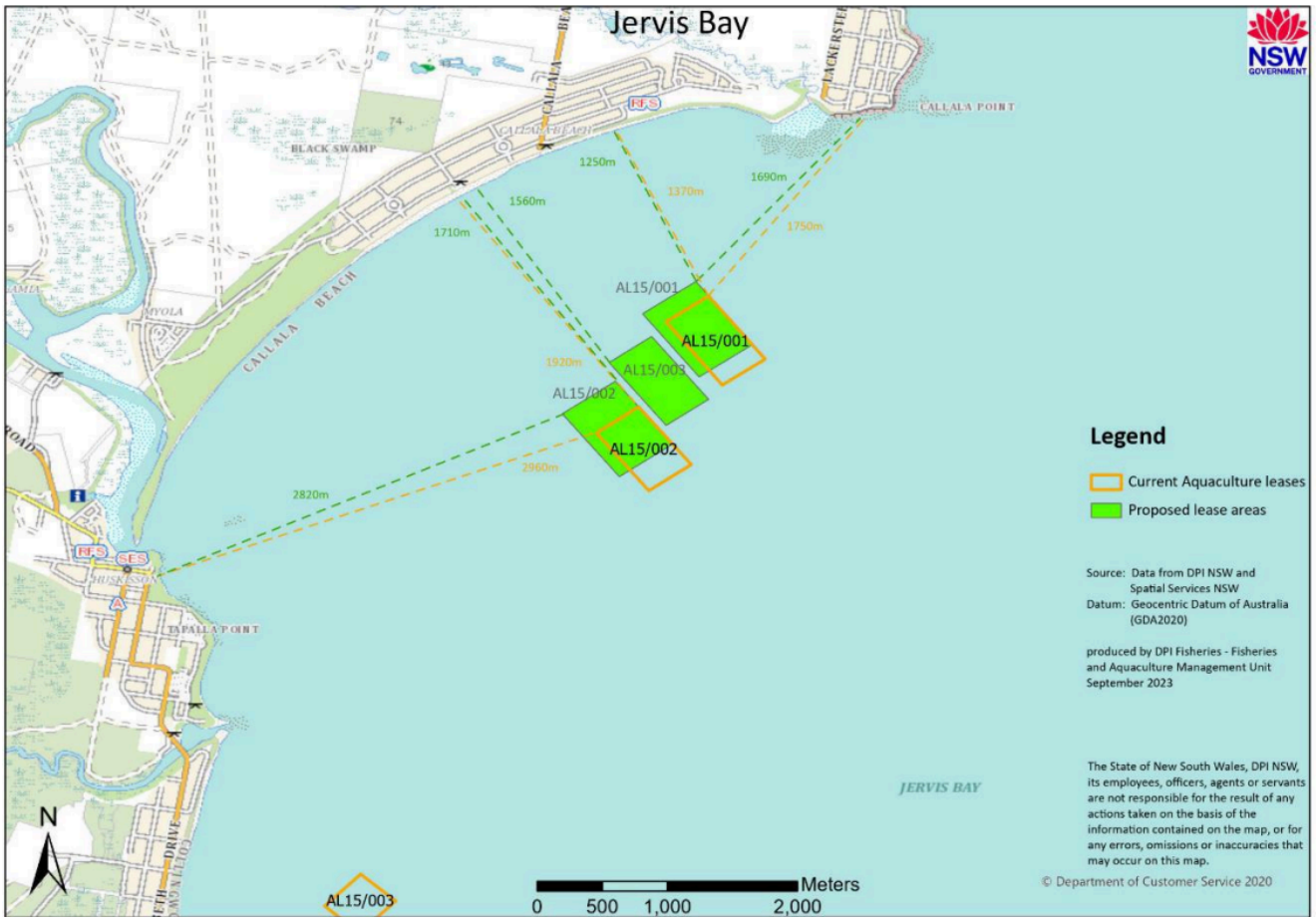


***Figure 3: Map of Jervis Bay showing the current location (orange outline) and proposed location (green-filled polygons) of the three leases (Source: NSW DPI, 2024).***

## 2.4 Deployment

Based on the forecast of operations in the Annual Report FY24-25, there has been one active deployment project, being the small scale oyster fattening trials using the SEAPA baskets. Growth rates were evaluated over a 2-4 month period and were carried out from February 2024 in Twofold Bay and from August 2024 in Jervis Bay. The status of these trials have been discussed further in Section 4 of this report.

In line with NSW DPI Translocation protocol (Appendix: B), no mussel or oyster spat was translocated from SeaGen Aquaculture hatchery in Newhaven, Victoria as intended in the previous annual report. Initially, the mussel brood stock to be used for the production of this spat was sourced from Twofold Bay and Jervis Bay. Animal Biosecurity NSW DPI conducted histopathological analysis before the breeding program but the broodstock was deemed unfit for translocation.

### *2.5 Forecast of operations for the next reporting period*

SCM will incorporate new deployments in FY 2025-2026 as follows:

1. South Coast Mariculture will conduct the deployment of new lease infrastructure and decommissioning under the granted modification request to relocate and expand the mussel farm (Appendix A). All other relevant Environmental Management Plans will also be updated considering this modification.
2. Under conditions C14A and C14B of the State Significance Infrastructure Approval SSI-5657-Mod-1 DPIRD will implement a Screw Anchor Management Plan including management actions for all screw anchors left in-situ after the longline infrastructure has been removed.
3. Under conditions D4A and D4B of the State Significance Infrastructure Approval SSI-5657-Mod-1 DPIRD will implement a Genetic and Spatfall Monitoring Program. These conditions were included to better understand the spatial and seasonal distribution of mussel spat within Jervis Bay, including the genetics of the population. The outcomes of the program will contribute to the knowledge of the species being cultivated, to determine if the recent proliferation of mussels within the bay is being driven by the farm or natural cycles. These conditions were included due to two main concerns raised during the community consultation process (A) is the mussel species (Mytilus galloprovincialis) being cultivated is a local or introduced species; and (B) if the mussel farm is contributing to higher than normal mussel settlement in Jervis Bay. DPIRD will form a Community Group comprising stakeholders who have expressed concern about genetics and spatfall. The group will include South Coast Mariculture, key associations, traditional owners, and Aboriginal groups. DPIRD will collaborate with the group as the monitoring is undertaken. This group will also be the first point of community contact for the dissemination of information from the project.
4. Experimentation will continue to understand the effect of variation in the orientation of buoys on production levels during heavy weather conditions. It will also determine if any visual pollution caused by exposed buoys is controlled for residents of Callala Beach.
5. Experimentation will continue on the oyster fattening trials to determine if a lower density and younger year class make a difference to the growth rates and condition of the oysters.

## 3. Outcomes and actions from the previous Annual Environmental Report (July 2023-June 2024)

As per the Department's feedback- Annual Review of the 2023 – 2024 report, the Annual Report FY23-24 was considered generally satisfied resulting in no outcomes and the actions to be addressed from the previous annual report.

***Table 1. Actions identified from Independent Environmental Audit (Source: SCM, 2024)***

| Action Identified | Audit Details | Details of Corrective Action | Completed Status and Date |
|---|---|---|---|
| Condition E6 of SSI5657 | The proponent shall submit a report to the Secretary demonstrating that they have actively attempted to work with local businesses, community groups, local aboriginal communities, or other local bodies to incorporate regional tourism and local employment and/or training opportunities into the Project. Initially, this non-compliance is against NSW DPI and SCM as the current proponent is responsible for corrective action closeout. | Prepare and submit a report to the Secretary demonstrating that they have actively attempted to work with local businesses, community groups, local aboriginal communities, or other local bodies to incorporate regional tourism and local employment and/or training opportunities into the Project. | Final Report to be submitted upon completion in 2025. |

# 4. Operations and Maintenance

## *4.1 Mussel Stock Management*

The Callala North lease was initially stocked in May 2020 with spat transported from Twofold Bay. Since then, the majority of mussel spat used in the operations has been sourced from Twofold Bay as per the translocation protocol shown in Appendix B and some spat is wild caught in Jervis Bay. SCM plans to maintain this sourcing strategy, as the approval to translocate broodstock from the Victorian hatchery was not granted under the NSW DPI Translocation Protocol.

The spat stocking from July 2024 proceeded as follows:

*Table 2: Callala North Lease (AL 15/001) mussel stocking records July 2024 - June 2025 (Source: SCM, 2025)*

| Shipment Logbook Number/ Tracking Code | Date of Shipment | Source Estuary | Source Lease | Weight (kg) | Destination Estuary | Destination Lease |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 19760 | 26.03.2025 | Twofold Bay #52 | AL 08/098 | 8 bags | Jervis Bay #25 | AL 15/001 |
| 19761 UAL4VK | 09.04.2025 | Twofold Bay #52 | AL 08/098 | 3200 | Jervis Bay #25 | AL 15/001 |
| APEMXF | 12.05.2025 | Twofold Bay #52 | AL 08/098 | 4000 | Jervis Bay #25 | AL 15/001 |

| Tracking Code | Source Estuary | Source Lease | Weight (kg) | Harvest Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| NA | Jervis Bay | AL15/001 | 800 | Yet to be harvested |

Spat collection and transportation adhered strictly to the guidelines outlined in the NSW Blue Mussel Spat Translocation Procedure (Appendix: B). NSW DPI and other regulatory bodies were notified 48 hours before spat harvesting where feasible as disruptions caused by sudden weather fluctuations, directly impact both spat harvesting and seeding processes.

Unfortunately SCM experienced two significant events which impacted the harvest and supply of mussels, hence no spat translocation data is available prior to January 2025.

- In August last year in Jervis Bay Rizosolenia was found - a diatom species found in marine plankton which creates an algal bloom. Rizosolenia leaves a bitter taste in mussels which made it unmarketable until November 2024.
- In December 2024 in Twofold Bay, Eden there was an unexpected mortality event. This was reported to DPI as per our Emergency Protocol and Disease, Parasite and Pest Management Plan. Spat was also sent away for testing, which had no conclusive results. Temperature rise was suspected.

Since January 2024 spat translocation has resumed and there have been no instances of disease outbreak or pest infestations.

We note that SCM were committed to maintaining high standards of farming practice during the

2024-2025 FY and continue to adhere to procedural guidelines and monitoring.

### *4.2 Oyster Stock Management*

South Coast Mariculture have continued conducting small-scale oyster fattening trials which began last reporting year across the Jervis Bay and Twofold Bay leases. The experiment was proposed to gain a better understanding of growth rates and oyster condition. The Sydney Rock Oyster (SRO) are located in Jervis Bay and Pacific Oyster and SRO are located Twofold Bay, both of which are grown in SEAPA oyster baskets (Figure 4 and 5).

SCM is working with SEAPA, an NZ based company, to create modifications to the design of the frames used within the baskets as manufacturing failures have resulted from bad weather events and several swells. This new design also hopes to manage the challenges associated with biofouling which will be better suited to the rugged Australian coastal environment.

SCM have fostered a shared farming approach with three companies who supply their oysters to SCM for the final stages of growth before harvest. The trial ran for the first six months of 2024 in Twofold Bay and in Jervis Bay from August 2024.

Observations from this year have shown that growth rates were not achieved as hoped. Likely reasons include that there may be too many oysters per basket and that the older oysters may be struggling to adapt to a new environment. Moving forward, SCM are proposing to host younger year classes who have a smaller growth rate and look to decrease the density to see what happens. These trial results will be discussed in the 2025-2026 Annual Report.

SCM uses an application called the Mussel App which uses AI and records growth rate data.

***Figure 4 and 5: Seapa Oyster baskets used for oyster fattening trials at Jervis Bay and Twofold Bay***

*(Source: SCM, 2025)*

### 4.1.2 Translocation Status for Hatchery Based Spat in Victoria

In line with NSW DPI Translocation protocol, no mussel spat was translocated from SeaGen Aquaculture hatchery in Newhaven, Victoria this reporting year. Initially, the mussel brood stock to be used for the production of this spat was sourced from Twofold Bay and Jervis Bay. Animal Biosecurity NSW DPI conducted histopathological analysis before the breeding program but the broodstock was deemed unfit for translocation.

## *4.3 Harvest*

### 4.3.1 Mussel harvesting

Harvesting operations at the first stocked Callala North lease (AL15/001) began in November 2020. During harvest, the longlines are lifted from the water using the vessel davits and winches, and the mussels are harvested from the grow-out lines, tumbled to eliminate fouling, and sorted to exclude damaged specimens and any extraneous material. The stripped ropes and buoys are carefully stored for cleaning and subsequent redeployment. Any organic waste accumulated during harvesting is retained onboard and later disposed of onshore or used as part of a byproduct strategy which processes shell and meat into pet food.

The harvested mussels are gathered into large harvest bags on the deck of the work vessel, Blue Revolution (Figure 6). Once the desired quantity of mussels has been harvested, they are transported to South Coast Mariculture's Processing Facility in Huskisson for further processing and packaging for market distribution.

Each harvest is allocated a unique Product Receival Number (PRN) as documented in the harvest docket, ensuring comprehensive traceability of the product. This docket includes crucial details such as the origin of the product and pertinent environmental factors like water temperature and the condition of the harvested mussels.

This structured approach to harvesting and documentation determines the quality assurance and traceability standards of the mussel farming operations at Callala leases.

***Figures 6 and 7: Large one tonne mussel bags and example of good condition mussels (Source: SCM 2025)***

***Figures 8 and 9: Example of mussels growing on rope (Source: SCM, 2025)***

Based on previous learnings at South Coast Mariculture our key challenges and issues we face which delay our harvesting operations are processing capacity, rainfall events and algal blooms.

Remedial actions

- The new KIX mill allows us to harvest based on request and based on yield because we can continue to cook mussels for other markets at the same time as the processing facility.
- The KIX mill also allows us to harvest through rainfall closures as it sterilises the product and therefore we can cook it anytime based on demand.
- In 2023/2024 we also doubled our wet storage tank capacity which significantly boosted the efficiency of harvesting and processing operations. It allows for mussels to be harvested the day before processing and dispatch, and also allows us to harvest prior to anticipated high rainfall events. Overall this allows for greater flexibility and equips us to be more responsive to weather conditions.

### 4.3.2 Oyster Harvesting

Oyster harvesting began in 2024. This is done by unhooking and collecting SEAPA oyster baskets from the longline infrastructure. Like the mussels, each harvest is allocated a unique PRN as documented in the harvest docket, ensuring comprehensive traceability of the product.

***Figure 10 and 11: Oyster harvesting and taking measurements to assess oyster condition (Source: SCM, 2025)***

### *4.4 Mussel and Oyster Line Infrastructure*

The mussel line and oyster infrastructure at South Coast Mariculture's Callala North (AL 15/001) and Callala South (AL 15/002) leases undergo regular inspections since its initial deployment. Each workday, SCM staff conduct visual inspections upon arrival at both leases to identify and address any infrastructure issues that may require maintenance.

Weekly routine inspections are systematically carried out, and necessary maintenance activities are promptly executed as needed. This includes checking and maintaining various components of the infrastructure such as buoys, anchors, ropes, chains, connectors, cardinal markers, and weather buoy infrastructure. In the event of damaged or dislodged farm infrastructure reported by members of the public or marine parks and reaching the shore, our team promptly retrieves it at the earliest opportunity.

All maintenance activities are meticulously documented using Seaflux, a cloud-based vessel management software that comprehensively records site-specific and operational activities. Seaflux also serves as the repository for training logs, incident reports, and any other farm-related observations, ensuring thorough documentation and accountability.

### *4.5 Biofouling Removal*

The lease infrastructure is naturally colonised by a range of marine biofouling organisms, including algae, ascidians, and barnacles. The removal of this biofouling is important to reduce resistance to currents and wave action which may jeopardise the integrity of the infrastructure e.g., stress moorings.

Buoys and ropes removed from the lease during harvest are cleaned onboard (Figure 12) and dried at the equipment yard before being re-deployed for spat stocking. Any organic waste generated onboard is collected to be disposed of at landfill facilities.

***Figure 12: Example of oyster SEAPA basket to be cleaned due to biofouling (Source: SCM, 2025)***

### *4.6 Waste Management*

SCM manages the disposal of all domestic waste originating from the wheelhouse, general marine farm waste such as ropes and ties as well as organic waste generated during harvest and processing. In previous years mostly all of the organic waste generated from the harvest and processing (i.e. broken mussels) was sent to landfill. Now roughly 30% of this is byproduct which is redirected to the KIX mill for turning into meat powder or mussel shell grit as outlined in Table 3.

Another great recycling initiative that SCM have achieved is donating old and unusable buoys to the Sydney Zoo. We are told that the Lions and Elephants are the biggest fans.

To maintain effective waste management practices, all waste storage containers undergo weekly inspections. These inspections ensure that containers are utilized efficiently, and that waste is securely contained until disposal.

SCM realises that efficient waste management is crucial to minimising environmental impact and complying with regulatory standards.

***Table 3: Summary of waste generated by the South Coast Mariculture operations 2024-2025 (Source: SCM, 2025).***

| Waste Type | Quantity | Date | Method/Place of Disposal |
|---|---|---|---|
| Domestic Waste from Wheelhouse and General Marine Farm Waste | 10 kg per week on average | During harvest and lease operations FY 2024- 2025 | Brought to shore for landfill |
| Organic waste from Harvest and Processing | 5 tonnes (annual estimate) | During harvest and processing operations from November 2024 onwards | KIX Mill for byproduct processing |
| Organic Waste from Harvest and Processing | 10 tonnes (annual estimate) | FY 2024/25 | Landfill |

In pursuit of sustainable practices, SCM consistently evaluates the types of surplus materials generated and prioritises recyclable packaging wherever possible to minimise the volume of materials destined for landfills.This approach aligns with our broader efforts to reduce environmental impact and promote responsible waste management practices within the mussel farming industry.

### *4.7 Land-Based Operations*

- South Coast Mariculture operates a mussel and oyster processing facility at 6 Bolton Road, Huskisson where the harvested product is cleaned, graded, and packed for the market.
- Jervis Bay Shellfish Market at Unit-1, 6 Bolton Road Huskisson is a local shellfish market, making fresh shellfish available to locals on most days since December 2021.
- SCM also operates an office and storage space for lease infrastructure components, gear and vehicles at 1A Erina Road, Huskisson.
- Blue Harvest has a site office, storage shed and maintenance shed at 4 Bolton Road, Huskisson.

### 4.7.1 Advancements at the SCM Processing Facility-

1. SCM has successfully installed a KIX mill onsite (commissioned in November 2024) to process various by-products from the cook-up line, out-of-spec products (i.e. broken shells) from the live and cooking lines, and byssal threads extracted during the debyssing process. This machine has given SCM the opportunity to diversify its product range. This milling process operates under controlled temperatures and processing cycles, producing dehydrated products including dried or powdered meat and/ or shell based products. South Coast Mariculture are now a proud producer of the following bio products:

    - Pet Food: True Grit Mussel Shell Grit - A calcium supplement made from granulated mussel shell for poultry supporting a stronger eggshell, healthier bones and better overall nutrition.

    - Pet Food: Mussel Meat Powder - A premium, all-natural dog supplement made from 100% milled blue mussel meat which is rich in protein, omega-3 fatty acids, and essential vitamins and minerals which supports joint health, skin and coat condition, digestion and overall wellbeing.

    The KIX mill initiative has significantly contributed to SCM's efforts in maximising byproducts, resource utilisation, minimising waste and emphasises our sustainable farming approach and processing practices.

2. SCM have worked in collaboration with the University of Newcastle (UoN) this reporting period to optimise the KIX mill operations. The University continues to conduct a thorough desktop audit of mussel and oyster proteins, mega-3 fatty acids, and calcium carbonate content. A detailed analysis and characterisation of mussel and oyster meats, shells, and powders are currently still being performed and are due to be finalised in late 2025. Our partnership with the UoN is designed to facilitate the development of highly refined products that meet stringent purity standards and our collaborative efforts underscores SCM’s commitment to leveraging scientific expertise and innovation in the seafood industry.

## *4.8 Equipment and Vessel Maintenance*

The SCM farm team and contracted personnel conduct regular checks, visual inspections, and detailed examinations on all machinery and equipment using Seaflux, a cloud base vessel management software which regulates all data entry for vessel safety and maintenance logs (Table 4). It enables efficient implementation of maintenance schedules, comprehensive reporting, and facilitates the establishment of

safety benchmarks and leadership initiatives among the crew. This application assists SCM to foster a proactive safety culture and ensures that equipment is maintained efficiently.

There has been one reported incident on the boat this reporting period. The initial actions taken and the corrective actions suggested have been reported in Seaflux.

***Table 4: Summary of documentation recorded via Seaflux for equipment and vessel maintenance (Source: Seaflux, 2025)***

| Vessel logs | Fundamental documentation |
|---|---|
| **Safety** | Safety Equipment Checks include watertight hatches, electric bilge pumps + alarms, VHF radio, anchoring equipment, charts publication + navigation equipment and gantry ropes.<br>Safety Drills include anchors, emergency procedure engine failure, fire, grounding collision, pollution, and anchor drill |
| **Maintenance** | The maintenance schedule for lights, emergency batteries, grease gun etc. |
| **Health and safety checks** | Incident, Accident and Medical Register, Hazard Register, Health and Safety Meetings and Dangerous Goods, Register. |

## 5. Chemical Use, Disease, and Introduced Pests

### *5.1 Chemical Use*

As per previous annual reports, no chemicals have been applied to the marine leases operated by South Coast Mariculture (SCM). However, at the SCM Processing Facility, all water disinfection and cleaning procedures strictly follow NSW Food Authority guidelines.

Seawater entering the wet storage tanks is disinfected using UV lamps and ozone. Once the tanks are emptied, they are cleaned with a food-safe, chlorine-based detergent, followed by sanitisation using a food-safe sanitizer. Only potable water is used throughout these processes.

Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for all chemicals used in equipment and machinery cleaning and maintenance are readily available onsite. Additionally, SCM keeps a separate inventory of chemicals and sprays used for routine maintenance tasks.

These practices ensure compliance with food safety standards and reflect SCM's strong commitment to safe and effective cleaning throughout its processing operations.

## *5.2. Disease and Introduced Pests*

### 5.2.1 Mussel Production

The risk of endemic diseases and parasites impacting the mussels on our leases is assessed as very low. To proactively manage this risk, South Coast Mariculture has implemented several preventative measures to safeguard the cultured stock:

- Prior inspection of spat health before stocking.
- Adherence to the NSW DPI Blue Mussel spat translocation biosecurity protocol (Twofold Bay to Jervis Bay) (refer to Appendix: B).
- Rigorous biofouling management practices.
- Maintaining appropriate stocking densities to optimise health and growth conditions.
- Regular inspection of mussel health during harvesting and stocking operations.
- Collection of samples for laboratory examination, where applicable.
- Strict maintenance of personnel and farm equipment hygiene standards.

During harvesting and stocking activities, mussels are routinely inspected to assess their health and survival rates. Spat received from Twofold Bay is thoroughly examined in accordance with the NSW DPI Blue Mussel Spat Translocation Biosecurity Protocol, both before and after harvest or restocking. This process enables the timely detection of any mortalities linked to unexpected environmental factors.

All relevant data is recorded and managed through the Marine Farming app and Seaflux, ensuring full traceability and compliance with regulatory requirements. These practices underscore SCM's commitment to the health, sustainability, and responsible management of its mussel farming operations.

### 5.2.2 Oyster Production

SCM uses an online digital platform which holds the Oyster Shipment logbook for translocation of oysters. It also lists the risks for all of the different estuaries and if they are open or able to ship between estuaries and our leases. Like mussels, we manage the introduced species by visual inspection of stock and staff are to inform their managers of any unusual species, take photos and record the date, time and location of findings. Some of our staff have recently completed Pest Alert training run through Marine Parks which identifies marine pest species and what to do if these are found. All staff are to adhere to the Disease Parasite and Pest Management Plan like they follow for mussel operations.

### *5.3. Disease and Parasites*

The health status of the stock has been regularly inspected, including the potential occurrence of disease and parasites. There has been no significant disease or parasitic event on the South Coast Mariculture Callala North and South lease during the reporting period of 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025 for both mussel and oyster production.

Naturally occurring barnacle over-catch continues to be an issue that negatively impacts the appearance and marketability of the mussels. Barnacle over-catch is scraped off the mussels at the SCM land-based processing facility before the sale so that the mussel appearance meets consumer quality specifications. Alternatively this product is sent to the KIX machine to be used for shell grit and meat powder. The incidence of barnacle over-catch continues to be monitored through production and processing records.

### *5.4. Stock Mortality and Disease*

There have been no notable instances of disease outbreaks on the South Coast Mariculture leases at Callala North (AL 15/001) and Callala South (AL15/002).

In December 2024 there was an unexpected instance of stock mortality in Twofold Bay Eden. This was reported to DPI in accordance with the Disease, Parasite and Pest Management Plan. Testing was completed by an accredited lab which showed non conclusive results however suspected this was due to a temperature rise. Translocation of mussels resumed again in January 2025.

SCM will continue to proactively monitor stock mortality to ensure the health and integrity of its mussel farming operations.

### *5.5 Transfer of Spat*

All transfers of juvenile seed stock (spat) to South Coast Mariculture's marine leases have strictly adhered to the NSW DPI Blue Mussel Spat Translocation Protocol, as stipulated by the conditions of aquaculture permit AP2554. This protocol includes specific guidelines for pre-translocation inspections, pre-deployment treatment of spat in Jervis Bay, reporting requirements, and documentation for shipment.

NSW DPI Fisheries Officers have conducted multiple inspections of spat translocations and have confirmed that SCM consistently complies with the protocol's requirements.

We note that the translocation of spat stopped from Twofold Bay to Jervis Bay between December 2024 and the end of January due to the unexplained mortality event.

### *5.6 Introduced Pests*

The potential spread of marine pests through ballast water and vessel hull biofouling is a recognised concern (Commonwealth of Australia, 2009). Transferring cultured spat, particularly in their early developmental stages, to grow-out farms poses risks of introducing invasive species that may hitchhike on the spat. Such introductions can significantly impact local ecosystems and native species (McKindsey et al., 2007).

To mitigate these risks, South Coast Mariculture (SCM) ensures that all service vessels and infrastructure sourced from outside New South Wales (NSW) comply with the National Biofouling Management Guidelines for Commercial Fishing Vessels (Commonwealth of Australia, 2009). If a vessel originates from a port known for significant marine pest issues, SCM conducts a risk assessment and implements appropriate mitigation measures to prevent the translocation of pests.

From July 2024 to June 2025, SCM did not introduce any new vessels to the lease sites from outside NSW, thereby minimising the risk of introducing marine pests through vessel movements.

Naturally, SCM's lease infrastructure has been colonised by various marine biofouling organisms, including algae, ascidians, molluscs, and barnacles. Regular inspections are conducted to monitor biofouling organisms and detect any potential pest species early. Over the past year, no new pest species have been observed, and regular inspections have not reported any invasive species.

SCM have also previously  worked in collaboration with the University of Newcastle (UoN) through an honours projects, which extensively sampled the area and confirmed the absence of pests or invasive species associated with SCM's leases in Jervis Bay. This year two staff attended a training day through Marine Parks which look specifically at pest species. SCM are ongoingly committed to maintaining biodiversity and environmental stewardship within our aquaculture operations.

### *5.7 Training*

SCM has consistently delivered regular on-the-job training for its operations and processing staff to ensure alignment with the goals set out in the Environmental Management Plan. This training covers several key areas:

- **Waste Management:** Ensuring correct handling and disposal practices.
- **Chemical Handling:** Training in the safe management and use of chemicals in accordance with regulatory requirements.
- **Stock Health and Pest Identification:** Two staff members recently completed a Biosecurity Seminar through Marine Parks which identified marine pests in the Jervis Bay area. SCM were provided with new booklets and marine pest alert posters for our office and vessels which can assist staff with identifying pest species.
- **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs):** SOP's are prepared for all necessary activities and are stored on the SeaFlux app promoting consistency and compliance with established protocols.

In addition, four staff members have been certified as **Approved Samplers** under the NSW Food Authority's Shellfish Program. This certification followed comprehensive water and meat sampling training delivered by the University of Tasmania.

SCM has also implemented specialised training to meet specific workplace needs, including:

- **Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Training:** Supporting food safety and industry compliance.
- **Food Safety Program Training:** Maintaining high standards in food handling and processing.
- **First Aid Training:** Providing staff with essential emergency response skills by completing refresher training courses as necessary

- **Workplace Health and Safety (WH&S) Training:** Crew have regular WH&S meetings to address any worksite concerns and to promote a safe and secure work environment.

# 6. Monitoring

## *6.1. Water Quality and Benthic Monitoring Program*

The Water Quality and Benthic Environment Monitoring Program has been implemented by South Coast Mariculture to assess and mitigate potential impacts from the operations and is consistent with consent conditions issued under SSI-5657. The program includes monitoring of water quality, seabed surveys, sedimentary characteristics (including TOC), benthic macroinvertebrates and fish; samples and video footage taken from the leases.

A summary of the Baseline Benthic Survey (July 2019), update 1 (August 2020) and update 2 (July 2022) were summarised in the previous annual report. We note that the Benthic Monitoring Program

was put on hold during this years annual reporting as SCM seek approval for the relocation and extension of leases at Jervis Bay. As stated in the Modification Report the Water Quality and Benthic Monitoring Program (WQBMP) annual reporting will continue (as per condition C.4) once the third lease is in operation. The sampling program will be embedded in the design of the Spatfall Monitoring Program and will take into consideration other factors as required.

### *6.2 Water Quality Monitoring Sensor Weather Buoys*

Weather buoys were located at Jervis Bay and Twofold Bay leases in December 2022 and March 2023, retrospectively under the NSW Flood Sector Development Funding Initiative with SCM and the University of Technology Sydney. This real-time data is publicly available via these links Jervis Bay Weather Buoy and Twofold Bay Weather Buoy. As part of SCM's monitoring duties weather buoys are checked regularly when visiting the leases and any maintenance is carried out as required. Sensor calibrations occur in collaboration with the University of Technology every 3 - 6 months to ensure that real-time data is accurate.

***Figure 13 and 14: Regular maintenance of Water Quality Monitoring Sensors deployed in Jervis Bay and Twofold Bay Leases (Source: SCM, 2025)***

A study was carried out earlier this year by the University of Technology, Sydney to understand if real time salinity sensors were a better indication of harvest closure than rainfall data. A report called *Investigation water quality for the optimal production, sustainable management and expansion of aquaculture in south-eastern Australia,* is currently being drafted to report on the findings.

The University deployed two ocean-going real time temperature and salinity sensing buoys in Jervis Bay and Twofold Bay, and collected weekly water quality information which was then modelled and analysed.

While the report is still being finalised, the results have been quite promising, in that very low levels of pathogenic bacteria from all terrestrial animal faecal sources was found, following rainfall events, as well as relatively few Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) events. Salinity as measured by the sensor was a better predictor of the likelihood of the presence of pathogenic bacteria than rainfall in both locations. After rainfall, levels of pathogenic bacteria dropped significantly by day 3. It was also found that, had a salinity-based harvest area management plan been in place, one rainfall closure could potentially have been avoided. Further discussion on the findings will be addressed in the next annual report once the report has been finalised.

# 7. Marine Fauna Interactions

## *7.1 Marine mammals*

Since the installation of infrastructure in June 2019, SCM has diligently monitored all marine fauna interactions within its shellfish leases and have adhered to the Marine Fauna Interaction Management Plan which outlines the marine fauna interaction protocols, monitoring program and observer protocol. SCM's operations team—drawing on significant experience in marine wildlife management within aquaculture environments—has been fully briefed on the plan. All team members have undergone appropriate training to ensure adherence to the plan's protocols and procedures.

We also continue to be a part of the SCM Marine Fauna Interaction Committee which comprises representatives from NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, NSW DPI, and SCM itself. This collaborative effort ensures a multi-agency approach to managing and mitigating impacts on marine wildlife associated with shellfish aquaculture operations.

There have been seven recorded observations of marine fauna within the lease area during this period as shown in Table 5 below. We note that due to the nature of operations and not wanting to disturb any animals staff were unable to capture clear photography of their observations for the Sea Flux reports.

There is a local Jervis Bay Marine Mammal Research group (MMR) that monitors marine mammal numbers in and around the bay (www.marinemammalresearch.com). SCM has previously been in contact with MMR to suggest a possible collaboration of data gathering to improve understanding of marine mammal movement in JB. If SCM were to notice any unique mammal encounters, for example turtles, then we would provide this sighting to the MMR group to improve their data records.

***Table 5: Summary of marine fauna interactions with the SCM leases July 2024 – June 2025 (Source: SCM Sea Flux, 2025).***

| | |
|---|---|
| 12/8/2024<br><br>One adult Australian Fur Seal<br>Observation: Resting/ passive behaviour<br>Nature of Interaction: Seen from SCM vessel<br>Lease Operation Stage: Fully stocked<br>Location: Lease 1<br>Entanglement: Nil<br>Actions: Reported to Jervis Bay Marine Parks |  |
| 14/10/2024<br><br>Two adult Australian Fur Seals<br>Observation: Resting<br>Nature of Interaction: Seen from SCM vessel<br>Lease Operation Stage: Farm Assessment<br>Location: One seen at the end of Lease 2 and one spotted at Lease 1<br>Entanglement: Nil<br>Actions: Reported to Jervis Bay Marine Parks |  |
| 14/02/2025<br><br>Australian Fur Seal<br>Observation: Resting<br>Nature of Interaction: Seen from SCM vessel<br>Lease Operation Stage: Floating<br>Location: Seen at the eastern end of Lease 2<br>Entanglement: Nil<br>Actions: Reported to Jervis Bay Marine Parks |  |

| | |
|---|---|
| 9/04/2025<br><br>Australian Fur Seal<br>Observation: Resting and playful behaviour<br>Nature of Interaction: Seen from SCM vessel<br>Lease Operation Stage: Very little stock on farm<br>Location: Playing near an end float at Lease 2<br>Entanglement: Nil<br>Actions: Reported to Jervis Bay Marine Parks |  |
| 7/05/2025<br><br>Two dolphins<br>Observation: Swimming and playing<br>Nature of Interaction: Seen from SCM vessel<br>Lease Operation Stage: Broodstock and final seeding<br>Location: Callala, sample site 15<br>Entanglement: Nil<br>Actions: Reported to Jervis Bay Marine Parks | Nil photo provided |
| 11/06/2025<br><br>Penguin<br>Observation: Happily swimming around the mussel lines<br>Nature of Interaction: Seen from SCM vessel<br>Lease Operation Stage: Oyster baskets<br>Location: Lease 1<br>Entanglement: Nil<br>Actions: Reported to Jervis Bay Marine Parks | Nil photo provided |
| 30/6/2025<br><br>Juvenile Fur Seal<br>Observation: Resting<br>Nature of Interaction: Seen from SCM vessel<br>Lease Operation Stage: Checking cardinal markers<br>Location: Near west cardinal mark on Lease 2<br>Entanglement: Nil<br>Actions: Reported to Jervis Bay Marine Parks |  |

### *7.2 Marine Turtles*

No marine turtles were observed during this reporting period as within or in close proximity to the SCM leases.

### *7.3 Marine Mammal Entanglement*

There have been no reports of entanglements of marine mammals in SCM lease infrastructure during this reporting period.

## 8. Standards / Performance Measures and Environmental Targets / Strategies

Under consent conditions outlined in SSI-5657, the SCM operations team has formulated an Environmental Management Plan (EMP). This plan delineates management practices and procedures aimed at upholding standards and meeting performance measures pertinent to the SCM marine aquaculture lease development.

The EMP encompasses various sub-plans that provide detailed guidance on specific activities aligned with applicable standards and performance measures. Version 3 of the EMP was updated and approved by the Department in September 2021 to ensure ongoing compliance with SSI-657 consent conditions and operational standards for SCM's aquaculture leases. EMP Appendix 1 Construction Deployment Plan and Traffic Management Plan was updated (Version 4.2) in 2023 during the commercialisation of Al15/001 and Al15/002 leases.

Under the SSI Modifications to relocate and expand the leases (SSI-5657-Mod-1) SCM will be updating the Environmental Management Plan and subplans (Appendices) to reflect these changes.

Independent environmental sampling efforts have been conducted at key intervals: a Baseline survey in 2019 before lease development, an Update-1 Survey in 2020, and an Update-2 Survey in 2022 (Appendix: A) following lease development and stocking activities. These surveys have consistently indicated no significant impacts on benthic invertebrate ecology or water column chemistry within SCM marine leases or at control sites. Considering this, SCM plans to restart conducting a subsequent survey upon approval of the requested modification to SCM leases. This approach ensures continued monitoring and assessment of environmental impacts.

We also note that SCM is Best Aquaculture Practice (BAP) certified. Each year the company heavily invests in an audit of the company's facilities which focus on four key pillars. These are - environmental

performance, social accountability, food safety and animal health and welfare. This audit also assesses our company's performance against many of our consent conditions.

## 9. Navigational Interactions

SCM has collaborated closely with NSW RMS to ensure safe delineation of the Callala North (AL 15/001) and Callala South (AL 15/002) lease areas, prioritising navigational safety.

The corner points of both leases are marked with IALA-compliant Spar Buoys, each designated with specific buoy color combinations and day shapes:

- North cardinal buoy: Continuous fast flashes
- East cardinal buoy: Three fast flashes
- South cardinal buoy: Six short fast flashes followed by one long flash
- West cardinal buoy: Nine fast flashes

Upon recommendation from RMS, SCM has implemented a Quick (Q) flashing speed for Lease 1 (AL15/001) at Callala and a Very Quick (VQ) flashing speed for Lease 2 (AL15/002) at Callala. This differentiation aids vessel navigation and identification between the two leases.

Additionally, midway along each lease, there are two yellow light buoys. These buoys utilize a flash character of 5 quick flashes every 20 seconds to distinguish them from the cardinal buoys, further enhancing navigational clarity and safety in the area.

We note that the number of cardinal marks and lights will reduce when the farm is shifted. This will be discussed further as part of the next annual report.

### *9.1 Navigation Incidents*

No navigational incidents have occurred during this reporting period within SCM leases.

## 10. Structural Integrity and Stability

The infrastructure at Callala North (AL 15/001) and Callala South (AL 15/002) leases has been systematically monitored as per the Structural Integrity and Stability Program detailed in SCM's

Environmental Management Plan (EMP). Regular inspections of the lease infrastructure have been conducted weekly throughout the reporting period. These inspections focus on identifying faults, damage, excessive biofouling, and ensuring the security of lines and buoys.

Particular attention has been given to conducting inspections following severe weather events to mitigate risks such as marine fauna entanglements and navigation hazards. Detailed service inspections are carried out after each severe weather event to comprehensively assess all aspects of the infrastructure, including cardinal marks, anchors, and ropes.

Throughout the reporting period, no instances of excessive or unusual biofouling have been observed. This consistent monitoring and proactive maintenance approach ensures the structural integrity, stability, and environmental safety of the aquaculture operations in the Callala leases.

# 11. Compliance

The following actions have been undertaken to ensure compliance with the consent conditions of the State Significant Infrastructure Approval SS1-5657-Mod-1.

## *11.1 Training*

SCM personnel including employees, contractors and subcontractors, have received appropriate induction training and have the required skills and qualifications to fulfil their respective roles competently.

Minimum environmental training has included:

- An induction onto the SCM marine aquaculture leases and land-based sites;
- A briefing on the importance of conformity with the environmental policy, procedures and requirements of the Environmental Management Plan (EMP), as well as their roles and responsibilities;
- Specialised environmental training and instruction required for undertaking allocated tasks, especially in regard to compliance with the environmental conditions of the SSI-565Mod-1 consent;
- Other specific training and instruction requirements including emergency response and operation of specific equipment; and
- Regular meetings which have included discussions on safety issues, risk assessments and controls.

### *11.1.1 Site Meetings, Toolbox Meetings and Contractor Meetings*

Daily tasks related to SCM's marine aquaculture leases are regularly addressed through site, toolbox and safety meetings which involve either staff, contractors, subcontractors or other consultants.

During these meetings, specific environmental management topics such as waste management, biosecurity protocols, water quality monitoring, marine fauna interactions and infrastructure maintenance are discussed and actioned upon. Meetings and photos are documented using the Seaflux application. This ensures that our environmental responsiblities are effectively managed and we are complying with our regulatory requirements

### *11.2 Environmental Monitoring*

A benthic monitoring program has been developed and implemented to meet condition D12. Independent benthic and water quality sampling and analysis has been carried out annually to provide baseline data plus comparative data following the stocking of the lease. Water quality, benthic fauna, sediment chemistry and particle size have been analysed as part of these surveys over previous years and will continue after modifications have been made to our approval.

### *11.3 Review of Environmental Management Plans*

Version 3 of the Environmental Management Plans (EMP) received approval from the Department in September 2021 following a comprehensive review process, both internally and by the Department.

As per the recent approval to the modification of leases at Callala Under SS1-5657-Mod-1 a request to review and add Environmental Management Plans has been made under the recent approval SS1-5657-Mod-1 (Notice of Decision dated 20 March 2025). The conditions of our approval request SCM to update the Environmental Management Plan to include:

- A **Screw Anchor Management Plan** prior to the relocation of leases for screw anchors left in-situ after the longline infrastructure has been removed.
- A **Spatfall Monitoring Program Report** to better understand if the increase in mussels observed in Jervis Bay are the result of the lease or as the result of natural ‘boom’ and ‘bust’ cycles. The results of this monitoring program will be shared annually.
- A **Heritage Management Plan** to be prepared in consultation with Heritage NSW and to include a contingency plan, reporting procedure for the management of Unexpected Finds and Human Remains and details of maritime induction training for workers and how these will be maintained.

- Updates the **Community Stakeholder Plan** to include details of how the Spatfall Monitoring Program will be communicated to the community.
- Additions to the **Compliance Report** i.e. preparing this document in accordance with the Compliance Reporting Post Approval Requirements (Department, 2020) and must include details and reasons for any significant delay in harvesting mussels prior to spawning and details of remedial actions taken to prevent this from re-occuring. The report must also identify what measures will be implemented over the year to improve environmental performance of the development.

Both the Heritage Management Plan and Community Stakeholder Plan were submitted to the Department of Planning in July. As at 26 August 2025 the updated Community Stakeholder Plan has been approved and will be made available on the South Coast Mariculture website. The approved versions of these documents will be made publicly available in the 25/26 financial year via the SCM website to ensure all stakeholders and the public have access to the latest plans governing our aquaculture operations.

### *11.4 Annual Review of Jervis Bay Shellfish Program*

The 2024 Annual reviews of harvest areas in Jervis Bay have been conditionally approved for both Callala and Vincentia harvest areas, contingent upon compliance with NSW Shellfish Program requirements by the NSW Food Authority.

Due to the establishment of new lease locations, there will be adjustments in the sampling sites around Vincentia to concentrate more intensively on sites surrounding the Callala leases. The specific sample sites will be finalised and confirmed by the NSW Shellfish Program during the upcoming reporting period.

This strategic shift in sampling locations aims to ensure thorough monitoring and compliance with regulatory standards, and operational transparency in SCM’s aquaculture activities in Jervis Bay.

### *11.5 Best Aquaculture Practices Certification*

SCM achieved recertification on 15 August 2025 under the Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP) in Australia by satisfying the criteria outlined in the "Mollusk Farm Standard" Version 1.2, February 2023. This certification underscores SCM's adherence to international benchmarks in environmental stewardship, social responsibility, animal health and welfare, and food safety practices.

### *11.6 Independent Environmental Audit*

As per the SSI-5657-Mod-1 approval conditions (E11), an independent environmental audit (IEA) is required every 3 years to ensure that there continues to be independent oversight across farm operations. We note that there is no requirement for an IEA this financial year but is required for the next reporting year and will be shared publicly once completed.

### *11.7 Non-Compliance*

During the fiscal year 2024 - 2025, SCM did not receive any non-compliance issues from external auditing bodies or regulating authorities. Non-compliance is defined as a failure to meet a specified legal, specified, or policy requirement. In the event of any detected non-compliance, SCM adheres to defined corrective actions, which are measures implemented to eliminate the root cause of the non-compliance and mitigate any associated environmental impacts.

### *11.8 Measures that will be implemented over the next year to improve the environmental performance of the development.*

Over the next year South Coast Mariculture aim to focus on the following environmental improvements:

- Continue our contributions towards a zero waste economy specifically through minimising bi-product waste and organic matter which is processed through the KIX mill. Both our True Grit and Mussel Supplements for dogs are examples of unfavourable mussels and/ or shells that would have otherwise gone to landfill.
- SCM wish to continue and expand our eco-friendly and sustainably sourced pet food supply. We will continue our trials with Bega Valley Eggs to determine the effectiveness of the True Grit Mussel Shell Grit so that chicken farmers have eco-friendly choices that produce high quality eggs.
- SCM aim to shift and expand the leases over the next financial year. Updates will be made to our Environmental Management Plan to reflect key changes under the Modifications and expansion to the mussel farm to ensure that we are managing the project effectively.

## 12. Community Consultation and Engagement

### *12.1 Community Consultation*

Public consultation was undertaken in February 2024 in relation to the modification application SS1-5657-Mod-1. The Notice of Decision dated 20 March 2025 (Appendix 1) is made publicly

available on the NSW Planning Portal and outlines the key issues identified by the community during the consultation period and the key considerations and recommendations made by the Department. As a result a number of changes have been made to our lease conditions which reflect community views as previously discussed in Section 11.3 of this report.

An updated version (version 4) of the Community Stakeholder Communications Plan was submitted to the Department of Planning in July 2025 with a number of amendments. This comprises an update to the formation of a new community group who have expressed concern about the genetic identity of farmed mussels and whether mussel spatfall and recruitment has been increasing in Jervis bay.

Throughout this reporting period, SCM's management team and onsite staff have actively engaged with community stakeholders to ensure transparency and to foster positive relationships. On the 14th April the Callala Beach Progress Association organised a meeting with the Callala residents and the divers community to discuss the mytilus galloprovincialis as an endemic or introduced species. SCM briefed the group with a presentation of the scientific findings and reports which have been prepared by the Department of Primary Industries. Each meeting with the Progress Association has been used to discuss a particular topic of concern among the community. SCM have a lot of supporters in the group and we wish to continue fostering our relationship with them through regular conversations.

Additionally, SCM's management team has maintained ongoing communication with several state and federal government departments and bodies. This is to ensure that we are not only meeting our regulatory requirements but also to maintain a good working relationship.

- NSW Department of Primary Industries
- NSW Roads and Maritime Services
- NSW Food Authority
- NSW Port Authority
- Marine Parks Authority
- Royal Australian Navy

SCM's commitment to community engagement, environmental stewardship, and responsible aquaculture practices, ensures its alignment with local and national regulatory frameworks while fostering beneficial relationships with stakeholders.

### *12.2 Engagement with Community*

The South Coast Mariculture team has had regular informal interactions with local members of the

community at the Wollamia and Huskisson wharf where people often enquire about the SCM marine aquaculture leases and the mussels.

### Website and Social Media

We also keep the community informed on a regular basis through our website and social media platforms. As part of trying to simplify our business we have unified our website under Blueharvest.com.au. Our historical websites (such as www.southcoastmariculture.com) redirects you to the current Blue Harvest website. On our website you will find our environmental management plans, reporting documents, and statutory approval documents, as stipulated by Condition E13 of SCM's operational requirements. We will continue to add documentation in accordance with the modifications to the leases as they become available.

The Jervis Bay mussel story has been published extensively in the media with segments on ABC's Landline, on local television and radio and on the BBC Reel – giving great exposure to the project, to Jervis Bay and the greater Jervis Bay region. SCM have had interviews with ABC Country and ABC Illawara to discuss the topic of increased spatfall in Jervis Bay.

### Work experience

South Coast Mariculture has worked with local schools to support student work experience and educate locals about mussel aquaculture and the marine environment. Two local students from Vincentia High School have gained deckhand and Coxswain experience during term time and the school holidays with the operations crew (Figures 15, 16 and 17). On a few occasions we have had school children enquire about work experience. SCM take any opportunity we can to offer work experience to locals.


***Figures 15, 16 and 17: Taj our local student who has gained deckhand experience (Source: SCM, 2025)***

We have regular tours at 6 Bolten Road on request to show schools and universities around the processing facility. This financial year we have had Scott's College, St John's College and Wollongong University attend a tour around the processing facility.

**Community Sponsorship**

SCM are dedicated to supporting a range of community initiatives which are outlined below:

- SCM have been sponsoring sports teams for a number of years. This year we have sponsored the Eden Tigers Rubgy League, Bay and Basin Bombers and Bay and Basin Dragons (NRL) (Figure 18).
- We also sponsor Vincentia Bay Primary School and Huskisson Primary School through their fundraising programmes.
- We sponsor Marine Rescue and their annual Duck Derby Fundraiser.
- SCM donated money to assist with the establishment of the Jervis Bay Arts Trail. We also showed their artwork in our Jervis Bay Shellfish Market.


*Figure 18: Eden Tigers team*

**Beach Clean Ups**

SCM have collaborated with Ocean Watch Australia again this year through an initiative which looked to recycle damaged aquaculture infrastructure such as floats and oyster baskets. We also took part in another Tide to Tip beach clean up (Figure 19). This event took place on 7 March 2025 at Callala Beach. This is always a massive effort among SCM staff and is an example of our continued efforts to protect the marine park and surrounding beaches. The volume of rubbish collected is shown in Table 6 below.


*Figure 19: Tide to Tip Beach Clean up day. (Source: SCM, 2025)*

***Table 6: Volume of rubbish collected during Beach Cleanup events conducted by South Coast Mariculture at Jervis Bay (Source: SCM 2025).***

| Date of Clean-up | Destination | Volume of rubbish collected |
|---|---|---|

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 07.03.2025 | Callala Beach and Frank Lewis Way | 55kg |

All of the above examples reinforces South Coast Mariculture's collaborative efforts and willingness to have a positive impact on the community. We pride ourselves in handling community interactions with transparency and positivity and aim to address any complaints received in a professional manner.

## 13. Feedback and Complaints

In compliance with condition E5 of the State Significant Infrastructure Approval SS1-5657-Mod-1, the Community Stakeholder Communication Plan for the SCM marine aquaculture leases details the following:

- Identification of relevant community and other stakeholders;
- Details of procedures and mechanisms used to inform the community (including local aboriginal communities) and stakeholders of the developments progress and other issues;
- Processes to receive and manage feedback and complaints; and
- Phone, email and mail contact details for the development including a 24-hour contact number.

Local Councils have been informed of the procedures so that on receipt of any complaints they can redirect issues to the appropriate regulatory departments.

South Coast Mariculture's Feedback and Complaints Handling Protocols include:

- A contact number and a site contact person who manages complaints;
- A feedback and complaints register;
- Proposed mitigation measures and follow-up with the complainant;
- Contingency measures when repeated complaints are received including provisions for additional monitoring and amelioration measures;
- Compliance performance agreements with residents; and
- Reporting procedures to relevant government agencies or Council.

Feedback and complaints about the SCM marine aquaculture leases, land-based sites or company operations is registered via the following options:

- Mail: 1A Erina Road, Huskisson 2540 ; 6 Bolten Road, Huskisson 2540.
- Phone the Hotline: 1300370443 or local number 02 90710132 **Please note that our phone number has recently changed.*
- Email: Blue Harvest Website 'Contact Us' page

### *13.1 Feedback and Complaints Register*

A feedback and complaints register has been maintained by South Coast Mariculture and is regularly reviewed to determine the most appropriate response.

We aim to record whether the complaint was associated with an 'incident' or occasional operating procedure i.e. if it was an incident resulting from normal operating procedures then reviewing this procedure with other relevant parties and if it's an occasional procedure, we aim to work with other parties to come up with an agreement regarding procedures, timetables, duration and intensity.

The register lists information such as the following for feedback and complaints:

- Date;
- Person/s receiving the complaint;
- Name, address and contact phone number of the person(s) making the complaint;
- Specific details of the nature of the feedback or complaint; and
- Action undertaken in response to the feedback or complaint.

The Annual Environmental Report must provide a summary of the feedback and complaints. We note that we have not received any formal complaints and feedback to add to the Complaints Register this reporting year.

### *13.2 Complaints and Feedback Received During Reporting Period*

***Table 7: Complaints & Feedback Register of South Coast Mariculture (Source: SCM 2025).***

| Date | Name | Contact details | Nature of feedback/complaint | Action taken |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |

Detailed action is listed on the SCM Feedback and Complaints Register on our website, noting no new complaints this year.

## 14. References


- Ajani, P. et al., University of Technology Sydney, 2025. *Investigating water quality for the optimal production, sustainable management and expansion of aquaculture in south eastern Australia.* Sydney, Australia.

- Commonwealth of Australia (2009) National Biofouling Management Guidelines for Commercial Fishing Vessels. Commonwealth of Australia.

- Joyce, A., Rubio-Zuazo, A.M. and Winberg, P.C. (2010) Environmental and Socioeconomic Considerations for Aquaculture in Jervis Bay, NSW. Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, Canberra.

- McAlpine, K. (2023). Biofouling Patterns on Blue Mussels in a Temperate Aquaculture Setting (Jervis Bay). Thesis submitted to the Discipline of Environmental Science and Management, University of Newcastle., pp. 1-86.

- McKindsey, C.W., Landry, T., O'BEIRN, F.X. and Davies, I.M. (2007). Bivalve aquaculture and exotic species: a review of ecological considerations and management issues. Journal of Shellfish Research, 26, pp. 281-294.

- Platell, M., Gaston, T. and Raoult, V. (2020). BASELINE: Characterisation of the water and seabed environment of the proposed mussel farm in Jervis Bay. Report to South Coast Mariculture., pp.1-56.

- Platell, M., Gaston, T., & Raoult, V. (2021). Update 1: Characterisation of the water and seabed environment of the recently developed mussel farm in Jervis Bay. Report to South Coast Mariculture., pp. 1-48.

- Platell, M., Gaston, T., & Raoult, V. (2023). Update 2: Characterisation of the water and seabed environment of the recently developed mussel farm in Jervis Bay. Report to South Coast Mariculture., pp. 1-28.

## 15. Web References

*Web Reference 1*

Benthic Surveys

https://www.southcoastmariculture.com.au/sustainability/environmental reporting

*Web Reference 2*

Marine Flex Ltd

https://www.marineflex.com/screw-in-anchor-technology

*Web Reference 3*

Xylem

https://www.xylem.com/en-au/

*Web Reference 4*

SeaGen Aquaculture

https://www.seagenaquaculture.com/

*Web Reference 5*

Jervis Bay Weather Buoy

https://public.eagle.io/public/dash/gnnu7ol42v7pn2x

*Web Reference 6*

Twofold Bay Weather Buoy

https://public.eagle.io/public/dash/ylrdodlwb2nu15r

*Web Reference 7*

Marine Farming app

https://beta.musselfarm.co.nz/

*Web Reference 8*

Seapa

https://seapa.com.au/

# 16. Appendices

## *Appendix: A: Notice of Decision Modifications to the Jervis Bay Mussel Farms Relocation and Expansion*

# Notice of decision

## Section 2.22 and clause 20 of Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

| | |
|---|---|
| **Application type** | State significant infrastructure modification |
| **Application number and project name** | SSI-5657-Mod-1<br>Jervis Bay Aquaculture Facility |
| **Proponent** | Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development |
| **Approving authority** | Minister for Planning and Public Spaces |

**Decision**

The Executive Director under delegation from the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces has, under s.5.25 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (**the Act**) approved the modification subject to conditions.

A copy of the [instrument of modification is available here.

A copy of the Planning Secretary's assessment report is available here.

**Date of decision**

20 March 2025

**Reasons for decision**

The following matters were taken into consideration in making this decision:

- all information submitted with the modification application during the assessment and information considered in the Department's assessment report;
- the reasons given by the approval authority for the grant of the original approval;
- the findings and recommendations in the Department's assessment report;
- the objects of the EP&A Act;
- advice received from government stakeholders concerning the modification; and
- the views of the community about the project (see **Attachment 1**).

The findings and recommendations set out in the Planning Secretary's assessment report were accepted and adopted as the reasons for making this decision.

The key reasons for approving the modification are that the modification:

- supports the growth and expansion of the marine aquaculture industry in NSW, consistent with the Marine Waters Aquaculture Strategy;
- will benefit the local and NSW economy by generating five construction jobs and 15 additional operational jobs, as well as increasing the production and sale of mussels locally and interstate;
- will consolidate farm operations to a single location off Callala Beach, improving navigational safety and community amenity, particularly in relation to visual impacts;
- adopts a screw anchor system for the longlines, which is recognised as industry best practice;
- responds to the current state of knowledge regarding the species of Blue Mussel found on the NSW east coast by including the species *Mytilus.planulatus* on the list of approved species to be farmed and committing to further research into the species and distribution of Blue Mussels in Jervis Bay;
- will improve operational efficiencies through the realignment and expansion of the longline infrastructure;
- clarifies the co-ordinates for the lease areas to ensure the farm is outside the Department of Defence's Beecroft Weapons Range, protecting the safety of employees; and
- weighing all relevant considerations, the modification is in the public interest.

**For full pdf see:** *The Major Projects Planning Portal (Jervis Bay-Bay-Aquaculture-Facility)*

## *Appendix: B Current NSW Spat Translocation Protocol*

NSW GOVERNMENT | Department of Primary Industries

Sam Gordon
Director
South Coast Mariculture Pty Ltd
PO Box 6115
Griffith ACT 2603

Our Ref: ACF20/253, RDOC22/60904

Dear Sam

**Re: NSW Blue Mussel spat translocation protocol (Twofold Bay to Jervis Bay)**

I refer to your email request dated 7 April 2022 requesting modifications to the NSW Blue Mussel spat translocation protocol (Twofold Bay to Jervis Bay) that applies to your Class A aquaculture permit (AP2554).

NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) has considered your request and has approved the requested modifications. Please find attached a revised version of the NSW Blue Mussel spat translocation protocol (Twofold Bay to Jervis Bay) which now applies to your Class A aquaculture permit (AP2554).

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 4916 3845.

Yours sincerely

Graeme Bowley
Snr Policy Officer, Aquaculture
21/4/2022

NSW Department of Primary Industries - Fisheries
Port Stephens Fisheries Institute
Locked Bag 1, Nelson Bay NSW 2315 Tel: 02 4916 3900
ABN 199 483 254 63 www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/aquaculture