

Checklist: Information required to be submitted at the time of application for aquaculture operations

Background

1. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 2019 require specific information to be provided with a Marine Park application before the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (Reef Authority) considers the application to be properly made.
2. The following checklist provides the minimum information requirements to be submitted with any application for Marine Park permission for aquaculture operations. These checklists are not exhaustive and, in some cases, the Reef Authority may require further information from the applicant to address specific aspects of the proposal. Please note: information about the applicant (such as ACN if a company, ABN for a trading name, postal address, email address and phone number) is also required when submitting an application.
3. Submitting the required minimum information at the time of application reduces the need for the Reef Authority to seek further information from applicants during the assessment process. This leads to more efficient assessment timeframes.
4. Applicants may also be required to obtain a permission under Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) and/or *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld) and/or State Fisheries legislation. Should this legislation apply to your application, you should initiate these processes with the appropriate regulator prior to an application to undertake aquaculture operations within the Marine Park.

Permit requirements

5. Permits are necessary to ensure that aquaculture operations, including the collection of any broodstock are conducted in manner that minimises harm to the environment and the effects on public appreciation within the Marine Park. In granting a Permit, the Reef Authority must be given sufficient information on the nature and scale of the aquaculture operation, the sensitivity of the receiving environment and a prediction of the impacts from the activity on the environment. Using this information, the Reef Authority will be able to determine if the aquaculture operation will be able to assess the risks and address the mandatory assessment criteria and will consider which conditions are necessary when granting a Permit.
6. The assessment pathway for aquaculture operations is outlined in [Applications for Joint Permissions](#).
7. The [Application Checklist for Facility Permission](#) may also be relevant if any structures are proposed to be installed within the Marine Park.
8. The Application Checklist for Interventions may also be relevant for any proposed activities that are consistent with the Intervention Policy.
9. The Application Checklist for taking of Protected Species may also be relevant for any proposed activities that include the take of protected species.
10. An Environmental Management Charge (EMC) may be applied to commercial operations within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.
11. The assessment timeframes depend on the risk involved and the extent and quality of the information provided by the applicant. In general, applicants who provide greater detail in their risk and impact assessment and are proactive in preventing or mitigating those risks and impacts will benefit from a more efficient permit assessment process.
12. For most new aquaculture operation applications, applicants **will be required to publicly advertise** their proposed activity. Applicants will be advised of this requirement after the application has been appropriately made.

Relevant policy and guidelines

13. [Policy on Great Barrier Reef interventions](#)
14. [Policy on managing activities that include the direct take of a protected species from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park 2005](#)
15. Environmental Impact Management - Permission System

Reference documents

16. [Outlook Report 2024](#)
17. [The Reef 2050 Plan](#)
18. [Queensland Aquaculture Strategy 2024–2034](#)

Relevant definitions

19. **Aquaculture Operations** has the same meaning as that within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003.
20. **Fishing or collecting** has the same meaning as that within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003.
21. **Commercial** means the activity constitutes, or has sufficient connection with, the provision of goods or services for reward (either monetary or non-monetary). This includes activities that are carried out with a view to profit or an intention to make a profit but may also cover goods or services for non-monetary reward such as free publicity or free trips on a boat.
22. **Non-commercial** means the activity does not constitute, or have sufficient connection with, the provision of goods or services for reward (either monetary or non-monetary). Non-commercial activities must not be carried out with a view to profit or an intention to make a profit but also must not cover goods or services for non-monetary reward such as free publicity or free trips on a boat.
23. **Extensive aquaculture** means aquaculture that does not include the addition of feed.
24. **Intensive aquaculture** means aquaculture that includes the addition of feed.
25. **Small-scale aquaculture operation** means an aquaculture operation, including all facilities that encompasses less than 10 hectares.
26. **Large-scale aquaculture operation** means an aquaculture operation, including all facilities that encompasses more than 10 hectares.
27. **Broodstock** means the taking of adult breeders for aquaculture purposes (either commercial or non-commercial).
28. **Contemporary standards** means reports, methods, guidelines, plans that are considered by a suitably experienced person to belong to current period and achieve an agreed level of quality or used as a measure or norm for comparative evaluations.

Application information checklist

Application information requirements vary depending on the type of activity proposed. Please refer to the relevant section below. Conducting an aquaculture operation (new or continuation application):

1. Land-based aquaculture, with discharge into the Marine Park, no Great Barrier Reef Marine Park collection of broodstock
2. Land-based aquaculture, with discharge into the Marine Park, with Great Barrier Reef Marine Park collection of broodstock
3. Intensive Marine aquaculture, no Great Barrier Reef Marine Park collection of broodstock
4. Intensive Marine aquaculture, with Great Barrier Reef Marine Park collection of broodstock
5. Extensive Marine aquaculture, no Great Barrier Reef Marine Park collection of broodstock
6. Extensive Marine aquaculture, with Great Barrier Reef Marine Park collection of broodstock

1. Land-based aquaculture, with discharge into the Marine Park, no Great Barrier Reef Marine Park collection of broodstock

1. Refer to [Facility Permission Checklist](#) and contemporary standards for water quality.
2. Any application must include information regarding the source of broodstock to be held within the aquaculture facility.
3. Any application must include an operations manual that includes information on water filtration, volumes and frequency of water proposed to be discharged into the Marine Park, husbandry and management of biosecurity.

2. Land-based aquaculture, with discharge into the Marine Park, with Great Barrier Reef Marine Park collection of broodstock

4. Each application must include all the information as required for items 2 and 3 above.
5. Any commercial application for collection of broodstock within the Marine Park must have a current Primary Commercial Fishing Licence with the appropriate symbol if the animal is a managed fish stock under Queensland fisheries legislation. Applicants must note restrictions on fishing and collecting within legislation and statutory documents such as Plans of Management.
6. If the targeted broodstock proposed to be collected from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is not part of Queensland's managed fish stocks the application must include current collection permission under Queensland fisheries legislation.
7. If the targeted broodstock proposed to be collected is a Protected Species under the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 2019, the application must demonstrate consistency with the Protected Species Policy, Guidelines and provide all information required by the Protected Species Permission Checklist.
8. Refer to [Facility Permission Checklist](#) and contemporary standards for water quality.

3. Intensive Marine aquaculture, no Great Barrier Reef Marine Park collection of broodstock

3.1.1. Small-scale and large-scale Intensive Marine Aquaculture

9. Any application must include information regarding the source of stock to be grown within the aquaculture facility. Justification for stock sourced outside of the Marine Park will need to be provided.
10. Any application will be required to supply information on any nutrient enrichment of the water, organic enrichment of the benthos, potential impacts on naturally occurring corals, seagrass, fish and mammals including introduction of disease, virus and parasites and genetic contamination of wild stocks, and information regarding the attraction of predators, commensals and other species to areas where they do not aggregate normally.
11. Any stakeholder engagement and/or consultation that has been undertaken prior to application submission.
12. Refer to [Facility Permission Checklist](#) and contemporary standards for water quality.

4. Intensive Marine aquaculture, with Great Barrier Reef Marine Park collection of broodstock

13. Each application must provide all information as required for items 9-12 above.
14. Any commercial application for collection of broodstock within the Marine Park must have a current Primary Commercial Fishing Licence with the appropriate symbol if the animal is a managed fish stock under Queensland fisheries legislation. Applicants must note restrictions on fishing and collecting within legislation and statutory documents such as Plans of Management.
15. If the targeted broodstock proposed to be collected from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park is not part of Queensland's managed fish stocks the application must include current collection permission from Queensland fisheries legislation.
16. If the targeted broodstock proposed to be collected is a Protected Species under the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 2019, the application must demonstrate consistency with the Protected Species Policy, Guidelines and provide all information required by the Protected Species Permission Checklist.
17. Refer to [Facility Permission Checklist](#) and contemporary standards for water quality.

5. Marine aquaculture, without the addition of feed, no Great Barrier Reef Marine Park collection of broodstock

18. Refer to [Facility Permission Checklist](#) and contemporary water quality discharge guidance.
19. Any application must include information regarding the source of stock to be grown within the aquaculture facility. Justification for stock sourced outside of the Marine Park will need to be provided.



6. Marine aquaculture, without the addition of feed, with Great Barrier Reef Marine Park collection of broodstock

20. Refer to [Facility Permission Checklist](#) and
21. any application will be required to supply information on any nutrient enrichment of the water, organic enrichment of the benthos, potential impacts on naturally occurring corals, seagrass, fish and mammals including introduction of disease, virus and parasites and genetic contamination of wild stocks, and information regarding the attraction of predators, commensals and other species to areas where they do not aggregate normally.