

Investment Opportunities in Victorian Marine Aquaculture



Victoria, a state of Australia, boasts some of the world's finest and most sought after seafood. It has an excellent reputation, both domestic and international, based on its reliable supply of quality produce for over 150 years, clean waterways and developed infrastructure.

Growing Victoria's aquaculture future

Private sector investment in Victorian aquaculture today is estimated at more than \$150 million and includes world-class examples of coastal abalone, offshore shellfish and freshwater fin-fish production facilities.

The current offshore shellfish industry farms mussels at sites in both Port Phillip Bay and Western Port utilising 469 hectares of water.

A further allocation of sites is planned with the state government making available a further 440 hectares within existing aquaculture reserves.

This allocation will present considerable scope for expansion of the industry and the introduction of further market-driven investment in the production of aquatic species.

The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) is the lead agency implementing Government policy on aquaculture development in Victoria. Under the *Fisheries Act 1995*, DEDJTR manages the aquaculture industry in accordance with prescribed management plans.

The opportunity

The Victorian Government will be offering Crown lease sites within seven aquaculture fisheries reserves (Reserves) across Port Phillip Bay and Western Port in 2017. The sites are expected to create the opportunity for substantial new investment and a significant increase in shellfish production.

The opportunity for investors is across seven Reserves in Port Phillip Bay and Western Port. Forty one secure leases, totalling 440 ha of Victoria's high quality water, will be on offer. All areas have a proven commercial shellfish production history.

Investors are invited to apply for new aquaculture sites through a streamlined State Government process. Successful investors will be awarded long-term registered Crown land leases for 21 years and aquaculture licences.

The sites will be allocated through a standard government tender process.

Number and size of aquaculture sites available for allocation.

Location & site name	No. of sites	Area per site (ha)	Total site area per reserve (ha)
Port Phillip Bay			
Pinnacle Channel	13	27	351
Dromana	2	4	8
Beaumaris	2	5	10
Grassy Point	8	3	24
Bates Point	2	5	10
Kirk-Point Werribee	10	2.5	25
Western Port			
Flinders	4	3	12
Total	41		440

Why invest in Port Phillip Bay and Western Port?

Port Phillip Bay and Western Port are the home of offshore marine aquaculture in Victoria. Industry has been established for over three decades and has a proven track record of producing premium quality seafood.

Worldwide, the bays are renowned for blue mussels and abalone. There are already a number of successful operations in the bays and in 2014/15 the Victorian mussel aquaculture industry produced 1014 tonnes of mussels, worth over \$3.0 million. Today it is one of the largest mussel production areas in Australia with considerable scope to expand.

The key benefits of investing in aquaculture in Port Phillip Bay and Western Port are:

- clean oceanic and bay water;
- protected waters and coastal temperatures that are ideally suited to growing shellfish;
- ideally located to supply the strong domestic demand for seafood in Victoria;
- research facilities and successful commercial shellfish hatchery;

- sophisticated service industry and an extensive transportation network via road, rail, sea and air;
- nationally competitive prices for access to energy; and
- best practice commitment to maintaining environmental standards.

Victoria is the only place in Australia that has areas of water available of this quality and size, which are close to markets, employment and infrastructure.

Anticipated timeline 2017

From April 2017: Investor information available on Tenders Vic web site. Public information at DEDJTR web site.

May 2017: Tender open for lodgement and registered investors notified by email.

July 2017: Tender closes. DEDJTR evaluates submissions.

July - August 2017: Tenderers notified of result.

Marine aquaculture industry in Victoria

With more than 30 years of history, aquaculture is one of the most innovative and prominent growth industries in Victoria. Growth in the bivalve shellfish sector (mainly mussels) is expected to increase substantially with access to new sites in marine waters. Production from the abalone sector has increased substantially and is continuing to grow rapidly as existing facilities expand.

To view advanced tender information and receive email notification of tender opening register at <https://www.tenders.vic.gov.au>

For general information

- email: john.mercer@ecodev.vic.gov.au
- or call (03) 5258 0218.

For more information

Visit: agriculture.vic.gov.au/fisheries/aquaculture

DEDJTR will regularly update the Tender Vic website with new information, as it becomes available, about the lease allocation process.

© The State of Victoria 2017.

Published by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, April 2017

This publication is copyright. No part may be reproduced by any process except in accordance with the provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968*.

Authorised by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, 1 Spring Street, Melbourne 3000

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia licence. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au/deed.en>

Accessibility

If you would like to receive this information/publication in an accessible format (such as large print or audio) please call the Customer Service Centre on 136 186, National Relay Service/ TTY 133 677, or email customer.service@ecodev.vic.gov.au

Disclaimer

This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

For more information about DEDJTR go to economicdevelopment.vic.gov.au or phone the Customer Service Centre on 136 186.