



Australian Government

Great Barrier Reef  
Marine Park Authority

## 2004 GBRMPA Aquaculture Compliance Audits

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) has completed its 2004 compliance-auditing programme for aquaculture facilities operating pursuant to the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Aquaculture) Regulations 2000*.

The GBRMPA undertook five aquaculture audits from late February to May 2004.

The objectives of the audit were to:

- monitor the compliance of the aquaculture facility (via water sampling and analysis) with respect to the conditions of the Marine Park Permit;
- provide the operator with information that would benefit the operation and environmental outcomes;
- assess the actual or potential environmental impact of the permitted aquaculture facility; and
- evaluate the effectiveness of the GBRMPA aquaculture permit in preventing unacceptable environmental impact.

### Phillips and Phillips Pty Ltd

An annual compliance audit was undertaken on the Phillips and Phillips Pty Ltd aquaculture facility at Mourilyan on 24 February 2004 by the GBRMPA. The facility is a 12.6 ha Barramundi farm with 5.2 ha of effluent treatment ponds.

The audit consisted of two components, the compliance audit of Permit G02/2486.2 and the regulatory review of the GBRMPA permitting system, pursuant to *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Aquaculture) Regulations 2000*. A water quality-monitoring program was conducted as part of the audit to determine the quality of the aquaculture waste discharged to the Moresby River as required under Permit G02/2486.2.

The Permittee was compliant with 25 of the 28 Permit conditions. It is recommended that the Permittee continue to monitor background water quality conditions in the Moresby River. This should be accompanied by a detailed account of meteorological conditions and adjacent land use practices that contribute to the water quality of the Moresby River to assist the Permittee in developing a greater understanding on the influences of adjacent land use and meteorological influences on farm operations.

It is expected that the Permittee will be able to address all non-compliances against Permit G02/2486.2 with the assistance of the GBRMPA.

### Coral Sea Farms

A compliance audit was undertaken on the Coral Sea Farms Pty Ltd aquaculture facility at Lucinda from 29 March to 1 April 2004 by the GBRMPA. The staff onsite were very cooperative in assisting the GBRMPA during the audit. The level of enthusiasm and interest into continual site improvement through information sharing and the trialling of new effluent treatments by the staff were encouraging.

The facility is a 44 ha prawn farm with 32 ha of prawn grow out ponds and 12 ha of effluent treatment ponds. Once the aquaculture waste passes through the treatment pond it is released via the discharge outlet to the Seymour River.

This audit consisted of two components, the compliance audit of Permit G01/300 and the regulatory review of the GBRMPA permitting system pursuant to the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Aquaculture) Regulations 2000*. A water quality-monitoring program was conducted as part of the audit to determine the quality of the aquaculture waste discharged to



the Seymour River as required under Permit G01/300. The Permittee was compliant with 19 of the 22 Permit condition.

The Permittee has addressed several of the non-compliances and the GBRMPA has reviewed and modified the permit to achieve greater consistency with the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency (QEPA) and modified provisions to reflect actual as opposed to predicted operational and assimilative capacity on site. The GBRMPA and Coral Sea Farms are working together with the shared objectives of continual improvement.

### **LGP (Hamilton Prawn Farm)**

A compliance audit undertaken on the LGP Holdings Pty Ltd Hamilton Prawn Farm aquaculture facility on 8 March to 11 March 2004.

The facility is a 242.5 ha prawn farm consisting of 192.5 ha of grow out ponds and 50 ha of treatment ponds producing the black tiger (*Penaeus monodon*), banana prawn (*Penaeus merguensis*), kuruma prawn (*Penaeus japonicus*) and brown tiger prawn (*Penaeus esculentus*). A water quality-monitoring program was conducted as part of the audit to determine the quality of the aquaculture waste discharged to an unnamed tributary of Eden Lassie Creek near Proserpine. The facility operates under a Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Aquaculture) Regulations 2000 Permit G02/3195.1.

The Permittee was compliant with 22 of the 25 Permit conditions. The areas of non-compliance were largely related to the collation of discharge monitoring data. It is expected that the Permittee will be able to address all non-compliances against Permit G02/3195.1 with the assistance of the GBRMPA.

### **Pacific Reef Fisheries**

An audit was undertaken on the Pacific Reef Fisheries (Australia) Pty Ltd Alva Beach aquaculture facility by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) in the period 19 April to 22 April 2004 inclusive. The facility is a 68 ha prawn farm, discharging to Little Alva Creek.

The Permittee was compliant with 18 of the 27 permit conditions. Non-compliances generally relate to non-environmental issues such as book keeping and information gaps resulting from equipment failure. The GBRMPA will work with Pacific Reef Fisheries to address these matters and work towards bettering operational procedures for continual improvement of site operations to ensure no harm occurs to the receiving environment. Australian Prawn Farm

An annual compliance audit was undertaken on the Australian Prawn Farms Pty Ltd aquaculture facility at Notch Point south of Sarina from 4 May to 6 May 2004 by the GBRMPA.

The facility is a 33 ha of prawn grow out ponds and 20 ha of settlement ponds. Once the aquaculture waste passes through the treatment pond it is released via the discharge outlet to a small tributary of Mosquito Creek.

The Permittee was compliant with 17 of the 22 Permit conditions. It is expected that the Permittee will be able to address all non-compliances against Permit G00/564 with the assistance of the GBRMPA. As part of the regulatory review process, it is expected the GBRMPA will change the current permit to include an average and maximum discharge limit which will better reflect the existing variability in background conditions. This limited permit amendment should address the non-compliances.

