Project Sea Dragon
Case study of a large-scale prawn aquaculture project in Northern Australia

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Outline

- What is Project Sea Dragon?
- Grow-out facility:
  - Site selection
  - Design
  - Triggers for environmental assessment
  - Water discharge case study
  - Outcomes of approval including conditions
What is Project Sea Dragon?

- Stage 1 - 14,000t of black tiger prawns
- Future stages - up to 100,000t
Grow-out Site Selection Process

Key Considerations:

- Located in north Australia
- Availability of freshwater and marine water
- Large land area
- Preference for modified land
- Avoidance of environmental values
- Away from the Great Barrier Reef
- Avoidance of sites of Aboriginal cultural significance
Grow-out Site Selection Process

“...Legune Station has one of the highest levels of economic and environmental attributes required for the sustainable development of large-scale land-based marine aquaculture in northern Australia” (CSIRO, 2012)
Design - Stage 1
Legune Grow Out Facility
Environmental Approvals for Legune

- Submitted applications for approval in mid-2015
- Notice of Intent and EPBC Act Referral
- Determined that assessment was required at the level of EIS under the:
  - Northern Territory *Environmental Assessment Act*
  - Australian Government’s *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- NT EPA finalised the Terms of Reference in November 2015
Environmental Assessment

- 22 months
- Environmental, social, economic and cultural assessments
- Large document
- Water discharge case study
Water Quantity

420 ML per day discharge
Water Quality

- Define baseline
- Set WQO’s
- 22 WQ sampling events (1 per month for 22 months)
- Helicopter
Hydrodynamic Modelling

- Model Tracer
- Conservative assessment
- 420 ML/day
- Concentrations as for SeaFarms Ingham farm
Project Approvals

- Approvals in March 2017 and May 2017
- NT EPA Assessment Report
  - 13 recommendations
- Commonwealth EPBC Act Approval
  - 16 conditions
Project Approvals

- Approval achieved in 22 months

- The average time from referral to approval is 37 months (source: DSEWPAC)
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