Aquaculture is a growing industry with enormous potential. This is one of the fastest growing industries in the world, and although a relatively new industry in Australia, aquaculture already constitutes about one third of our seafood production. The industry is predicted to grow dramatically in the years ahead, to compensate for a shortfall in wild fisheries production. In short, fishery production has reached a plateau, yet there is a two-fold increase in demand for seafood. Our population is not only increasing rapidly, but there is also an increasing preference for seafood in the diet. Much of the world is expecting aquaculture to meet this widening shortfall, and Australia is in a prime position to become a major player in global aquaculture. This potential for aquaculture to supply the bulk of our seafood production in the not too distant future is attracting new operators to the industry.

In Australia the demand for aquaculture produce is high and this is also a big incentive, but aquaculture is also a lifestyle choice. The satisfaction of growing a crop of fish or crayfish is something that cannot be quantified but provides the drive and enthusiasm for many in this growing industry. Generally, aquaculture is not a stand-alone operation but part of an overall farm or property plan. Grazing, irrigating and hydroponics are common companion industries with one complementing the other.

When it comes to the global opportunities, Australian aquaculture also has a particularly strong card up its sleeve. Unlike many overseas countries, Australia does not have serious pollution or disease problems and our clean, green reputation converts to a high demand for our product overseas. The Australian Government in all its forms, from Local to State to Federal level, has policies in place to ensure the protection of the environment and the sustainable development of this industry.

These policies are numerous, constantly changing, vary from site to site and can be strict and confusing to new farmers, but the regulations ensure that Australian aquaculture produce is the cleanest, greenest, safest seafood that money can buy. We don’t have the disease and farm management problems that many overseas regions suffer from, and our farms are designed and regulated for best practice to minimise any problems and ensure the environment is not adversely impacted by aquaculture. AABio Aquaculture Consultancy Service offers our expertise and assistance to help meet all the regulations from all departments for those farmers wanting to enter this exciting industry. If you want a sustainable, best practice aquaculture operation then contact us. We can offer a large variety of services to existing or potential aquaculture farmers.
Thinking of buying a property with the intention of entering the aquaculture industry? Thinking of purchasing an existing aquaculture farm or just thinking of diversifying into aquaculture on your existing farm? Then a Preliminary Inspection and Consult is the best thing you can possibly do. For a minor fee ($600) we can inspect the property for you and advise on the potential of that site for aquaculture production and offer advice on potential benefits and problems for any species you would like to culture. We can indicate what’s possible and what’s not and indicate the difficulties and estimated costs of what you could do in the future. We have designed over 50 aquaculture farms so we have vast experience in the potential problems and potential solutions. A preliminary inspection and consult can give you the ease of mind to set you on the correct course and hopefully save you a heap of money and legwork by not reinventing the wheel or hitting regulatory obstructions.

It makes no difference as to the type of aquaculture or the combinations of species, etc. If you want to do yabbies and silver perch intensively or extensively in earthen ponds, or barramundi or eels in intensive recirculation tanks, we can assist you. Native fish hatcheries, both freshwater or marine, or trout and salmon farms - we can help and offer professional guidance at a realistic price. We are here to help you enter the industry as painlessly as possible, so send us an email or give us a call and let’s talk.
The next step for many is the Concept Proposal stage. You may want to conduct aquaculture on the property but are unsure of the aquaculture facilities you desire, where they will go, how much space they will take up or how they will affect the other facets of the farm. Or even if aquaculture will be permitted on that land, or whether the necessary permits will be issued for that situation.

We will draft a design of your facilities and generate site plans and base information on the aquaculture farm and all facilities required. This is the starting point where we alter and adjust the farm plans to suit your requirements. We draw them up send to you, you change this and that and we work out together what is required and desired. These are not detailed plans, just base information. This is a site plan of the property showing sheds, tanks, houses, ponds, dams and irrigation or hydroponic areas. Once we have the preliminary plans we consult with all the Governmental authorities to discuss the issues and ensure that all potential problems are considered in the final plans. We contact and or meet with any and all of the relevant authorities for your development, these may include: Local Council, Department of Land and Water Conservation, Environment Protection Agency, National Parks and Wildlife, Department of Environment and Climate Change, Water Resources, your Local Drinking Water Authority, Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, Regional Planning Department, Department of Agriculture, DPI Fisheries Department, Maritime Services, State Food Safety Authority, or equivalent departments for your location.

This work entails finding out the issues and allows design of the facility to alleviate potential problems and ensure that all stakeholders are involved and on side - to ensure a speedy approvals process if you decide to proceed to the next step. This fast Initial Project Concept gives you the confidence and information needed to decide to enter the industry or not. It allows you to find out what’s ahead, the problems if any and what you need to do and spend in the future. This takes all the questions out of the equation and gives you peace of mind.
Full farm design & lodging of applications

This is where we fully design the farm as an aquaculture facility. Detailed plans are required of all facilities and the farm as a whole. This will include detailed plans of all tanks, ponds, drains, irrigation areas, crop production or hydroponic systems, etc. This is the application process that requires detailed plans that alleviate all department concerns and attempts to ensure the aquaculture facilities are commercially viable and sustainable without any negative impacts to the environment and the community. Every litre of water used on the farm needs to be accounted for, and all sizes and dimensions of every pipe or fitting is covered. It is essential that facilities are designed correctly and in line with best aquaculture practice. This will make it a whole lot easier for you in the future.

A full Statement of Environmental Effects will be completed identifying all the environmental impacts of the development and the steps we have taken to protect the environment and ensure that the aquaculture development is sustainable, commercially viable and a community asset. We have been designing aquaculture facilities for over 25 years so our knowledge and experience is a major benefit to you and one of the main reasons so many people use our service. We can effectively be the applicant for you, supplying all the information and applications needed for all departments. You don’t need to do anything except read and watch what we do on your behalf. We fill in all applications, answer all questions and deal with all the hassles. On your behalf we fill in and submit all applications for all approvals, licenses and permits for your aquaculture and hydroponic/irrigation/grazing farm, etc. Alternatively, you may have the time and enthusiasm to do it all yourself and we can just work on an hourly basis to assist you with the process. We are flexible and can work with you to assist in any capacity you need.
Additionally
We can create business plans and production projections based on the proposed aquaculture development, on existing facilities or the potential for the expansion of existing facilities. These plans and projections are critical if bank finance is involved or if you are thinking of purchasing an existing aquaculture facility.

Comment
Aquaculture is a great industry, it’s a clean, safe, honest way to make a living. It’s not easy to get started all by yourself, but with our help you will be up and running in no time at all.