

INSPECTION FORM No. 001/06

Product	Mother of Pearl (from <i>Pinctada maxima</i>)
Country of Origin	AUSTRALIA
Inspection Date	23 May 2006 and 6 November 2006
Place	Blue Seas Pearling Factory and Blue Seas Hatcheries Pty Ltd – Broome and Deep water Point, NW Australia
Check of official documents concerning the activity	Pearling General Regulation Approval 44S Pearl Oyster Pearling (Wildstock) licence Pearl Oyster Pearl (Seeding) Licence (Hatchery) Pearl Oyster Hatchery (nursery) Licence Pearl Oyster Hatchery License (for prorogation) Issued under WA Pearling Act 1990 receipt number 2006-1618, 1619, 1620, issued on 5 January 2006
Wild stock harvesting (wild specimens) quota (TAC)	27,500 specimens (license provided to the Blue Seas Pearling Company, Broome, WA)
Fishing area	Zone 2 and 3 WA
Authority holding the original documents	P.P. Rogers (director) Pearling Act 1990 (Section 23 & 26), Fishery Direction, Western Australia Government
Note	The pearl oysters fishery from the wild stocks is managed by Department of Fishery of the WA Regional Government, following the scientific assessment regularly made by CSIRO, for ensuring a sustainable and durable use of the resource. The pearl oyster hatcheries are regularly inspected and controlled by the same Authority, using the local inspectors from Broome Regional Fisheries Office. Further regulations issued by the Minister for Fisheries of the Kimberley, Pilbara et Gaiscone are in place, but they are included in those managed by the Department of Fishery of the WA Regional Government.
Pearl oysters quota from the Company's hatcheries	20,000 specimens from the Blue Seas Hatcheries Pty Ltd based in Broome (owned by Blue Seas Pearling Company, Northern Freemantle, WA)
Authority holding the original documents	P.P. Rogers (director) Pearling Act 1990 (Section 23 & 26), Fishery Direction, Western Australia Government
Note	Additional 60,000 pearls oysters were provided by the hatchery in Broome, reaching a total of 80,000 in 2006.
Other specimens	none
Authority holding the original documents	
Note	
Observations	The farm is based in the Kimberly area, one of the most iconic of the Western Australia, where just few activities able to reach a fine balance between the conservation of natural environment and cultural heritage and the economic development are allowed to stay. The Company, the last 5 years, had a total yearly production ranging from 10 to 15 tons of pearl oysters, equal to about 50,000 to 70,000 oysters. The variability was caused by many factors, including the effects of natural conditions, like strong hurricanes. The pearl oyster farm of the Blue Seas Pearling, located in Deep Water Point (Dampier Peninsula, NW Australia) fully implements all parameters concerning the environmental care and all other specific issues regulated by the Regional Government of WA and by the Australian Federal Government. The light submerged structures for the pearl oysters are located in a vast marine area off the farm facilities, laboratories and offices. That area has optimal environmental conditions, transparent seawaters, pristine and very rich benthic communities, and a variety of pelagic fauna including sharks and marine turtles. The coastal area is also pristine, with sandy and rocky beaches, sand banks and mangroves, all in perfect natural conditions. The small quantities of physical wastes are all duly managed; the small quantities of wastewaters are fully treated before discharging them offshore with a short

	<p>pipeline, following the details provided by the WA Government.</p> <p>The inspection included also the vessel used as a laboratory for implanting the nucleus of the pearls in the oysters, as well as the smaller vessels for the diving assistance and the pearl oysters cleaning operations and all were strictly following very carefully all the environmental cares and rules. The Company is already using most of the discards and is firmly engaged in eliminating the small quantities that are not actually used, following a multi-year improvement plan.</p> <p>The Company has also plans for progressively reducing the harvesting of wild stocks, increasing the hatchery numbers, but this depends on the improvement capabilities of the hatcheries, in Deep Water Point and in Broome.</p> <p>The inspection included also interviews with the local workers and the crew and all individuals were very happy of their managers, revealing a friendly working environment. There was no sex discrimination, the participation of native Australians (aboriginal) is welcome, and several are already working there. All workers are under regular contracts, according to the local regulations, and the Company already adopts the ILO/UNO recommendations. No child work is admitted.</p> <p>The inspection was extended to the Department of Fishery and the Department of Industry and Resources of the WA Regional Government in Freemantle and Perth, for checking the original documents and the regulations. The Government officers welcomed my inspection, remarking that nothing similar happened before, even for other well-known certifications for fishery products.</p>
Inspector	Dr. Antonio Di Natale - Marine Biologist
Signature	