



INFORMATION FOR CONSULTATION

Application for the variation of an Aquaculture Licence and for the grant of an Aquaculture Lease

Nathan Boothan **Abrolhos Islands**

File Ref	fA1366887
Date of Application	14 October 2025
General Location	Houtman Abrolhos Islands
Total Area of Proposed New Sites	1.302 hectares over two sites in the Easter Group and Southern Group of the Abrolhos Islands
Consultation Period	06 January 2026 – 3 February 2026
Further Information	Contact Clara Alvarez at the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) on aquaculture@dpird.wa.gov.au .

Proposal

Nathan Boothman (Boothman) holds Aquaculture Licence IDCA1657 which authorises coral aquaculture at two sites, comprising a total of 5.477 hectares, in the Easter Group at the Houtman Abrolhos Islands.

Under IDCA 1657, Bothman is authorised to culture a range of locally occurring coral species and live rock.

On 14 October 2025, Boothman made an application to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) to vary IDCA 1657.

Boothman proposes the following:

- Removal of existing Site A (2.067 hectares) (refer to **Plan 1**) in the Easter Group;
- Addition of a new 0.143-hectare site in the Easter Group (Site A) (refer to **Plan 2A**); and
- Addition of a 1.159-hectare site in the Southern Group (Site C) (refer to **Plan 2B**).
- Removal of Stolonifera and Corallimorphia corals
- Addition of *Coelastrea spp.*, *Favites spp.*, *Goniopora spp.*, *Pachyseris spp.*; and *Porites spp.* to IDCA 1657.

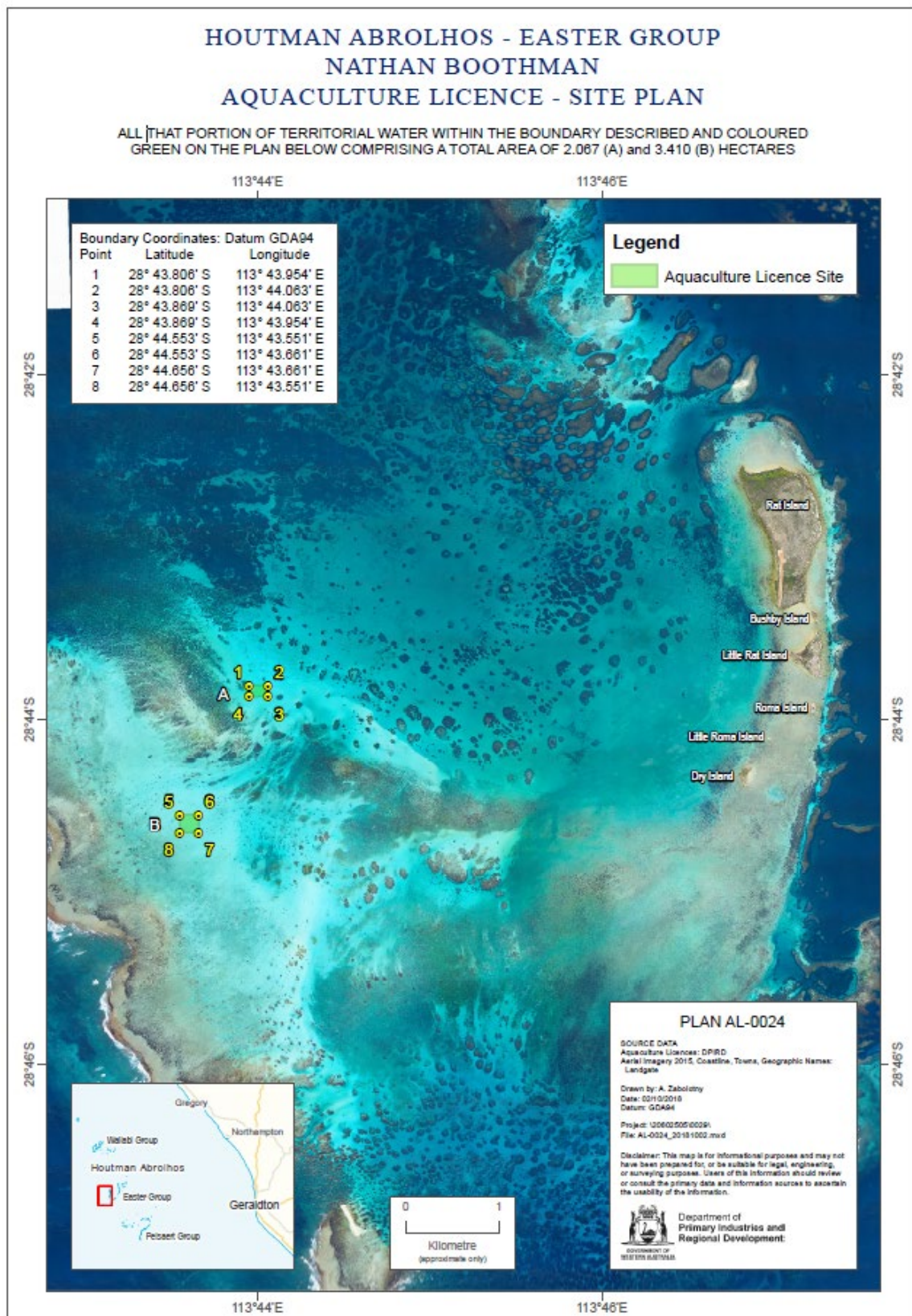
Subject to the grant of the Variation application, IDCA 1657 will authorise the following:

- Sites A (0.143 hectares) and B (3.410 hectares) in the Easter Group and Site C (1.159 hectares) in the Southern Group for the purposes of aquaculture; and
- the culture of a range of locally occurring coral species, including the addition of *Coelastrea spp.*, *Favites spp.*, *Goniopora spp.*, *Pachyseris spp.*, and *Porites spp.*, and live rock.

Boothman also made an application for an aquaculture lease for the sites that will be subject to the licence, if the variation is granted.

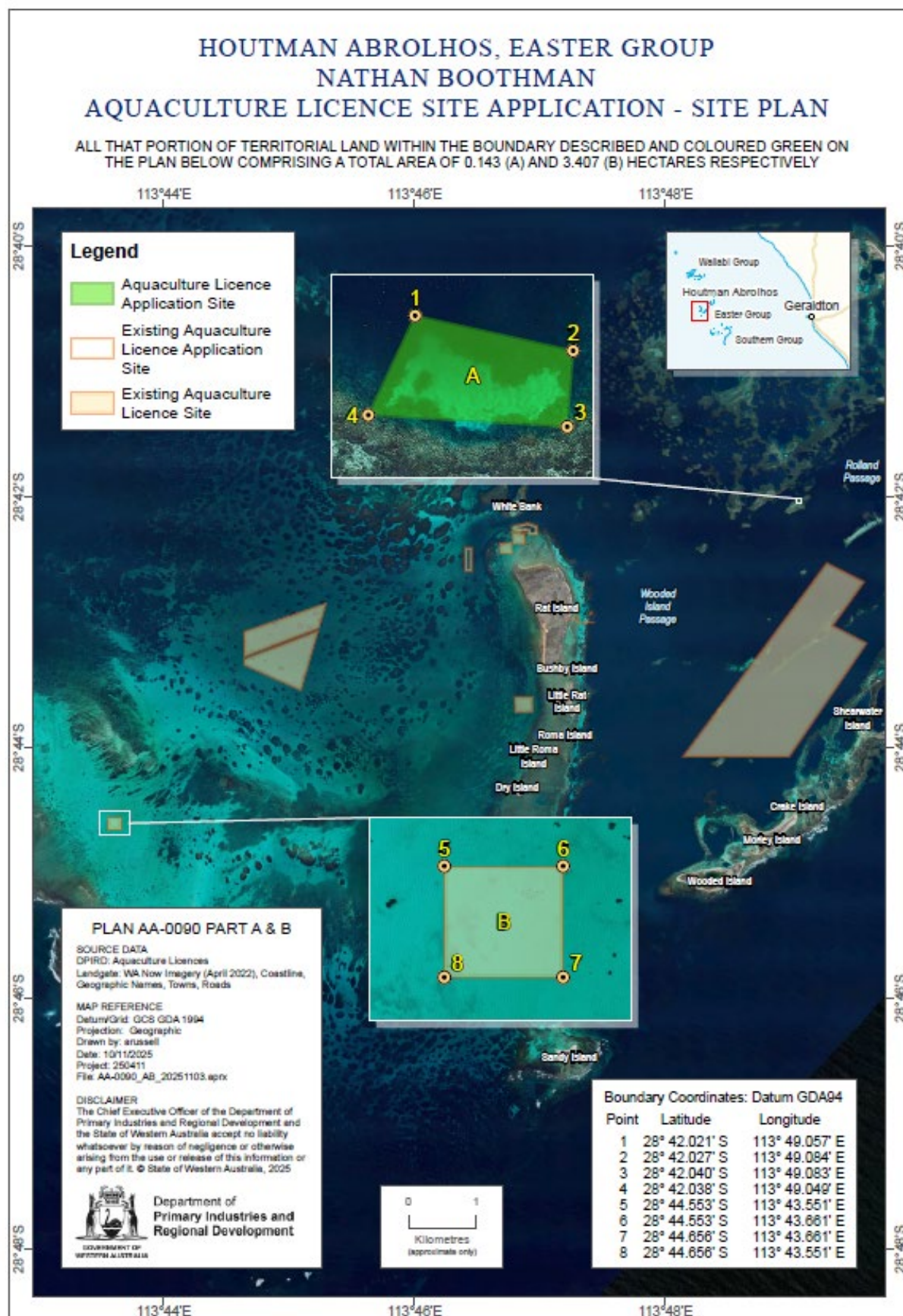
Location

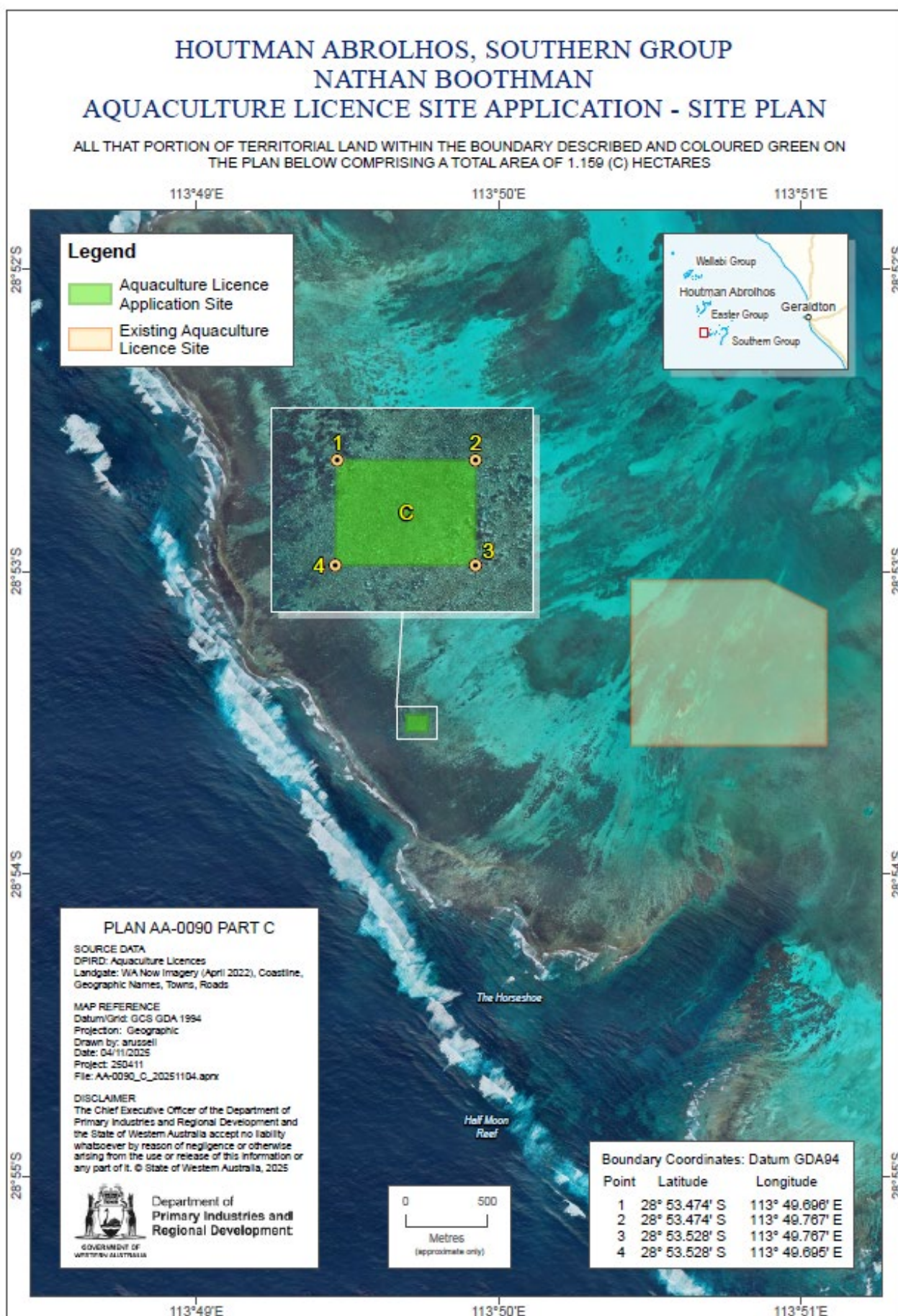
Existing sites under IDCA 1657 – Plan 1



Proposed Application Sites – IDCA1657

Plan 2A





Source of Stock

Boothman has an existing exemption that allows the collection of coral broodstock.

Only coral originating from the Abrolhos Islands will be permitted to be grown at the sites, as currently is the case under IDCA 1657.

Methods

Coral fragments and live rock will be mounted on racks that are anchored to the seabed. The fragments will be cut from broodstock using bone shears, scissors or scalpel and glued onto substrate.

Boothman proposes to use two types of substrates, frag disks and live rock, which are mounted on racks above the seabed and held in place by live rock ballast or anchor. Floats and ropes may be used to suspend racks off the seabed.

For the culture of live rock, Boothman proposes to create rock using a mix of legally sourced organic and inorganic material. Live rock will be either situated on the seabed or suspended above the seabed on rack systems or enclosed plastic cray pots.

Rocks and Coral Fragments will be tagged so they can be differentiated from wild populations.

Management and Environmental Monitoring

Boothman has an existing Management and Environmental Monitoring Plan (MEMP), which was updated to remove existing Site A in **Plan 1** and to incorporate the proposed Sites A and C in **Plans 2A and 2B** in the Easter Group and Southern Group.

Video transects of benthic habitats will be conducted prior to the placement of aquaculture and to use as a reference if required in the future. Once gear is in place, video transect lines will be repeated annually and compared against the baseline reference.

Risks

The environmental impact of the proposed aquaculture activity is considered low due to its small footprint (a total of 1.302 hectares across two sites). The small footprint, and the location of the proposed new sites is not expected to result in significant impact on other users.

The proposed species occur naturally in the Abrolhos Islands. Given that all coral produced for grow-out will be the progeny of endemic broodstock, the risk of the introduction of disease is low.
