

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Attention: News Editor

### **Shellfish on the menu**

Scallops, oysters and opportunities were on the program when aquaculture industry representatives took a long look at developments in Western Australia's shellfish aquaculture at a forum in Albany on Friday 21 June.

Presentations covered recent research findings, innovations, government priorities, indigenous involvement, investment strategies and marketing in the sector.

The WA Aquaculture Shellfish Industry Forum was presented by the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) in partnership with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, the Aquaculture Council of Western Australia and the Albany Shellfish Hatchery.

Presenters came from the public and private sector in Western Australia and interstate. The forum's afternoon session invited input from the 120 delegates on the future of shellfish aquaculture, including potential challenges and their solutions.

GSDC Chair Ross Thornton said the presence of the Albany Shellfish Hatchery made the Great Southern a natural choice for the forum.

"Although the hatchery is in the Great Southern, it is playing a key role in building the momentum of shellfish aquaculture in other regions of Western Australia," Mr Thornton said.

"Gathering informed people for this forum in the Great Southern provides a unique perspective on the reach of the shellfish industry from the state's south to its far north.

"The forum has outlined opportunities, challenges and responses that will support the development of the sector in years to come," Mr Thornton said.

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