

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Shellfish forum report on-line

A report summarising June's WA Shellfish Aquaculture Industry Forum is now available on-line through the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC).

The forum was presented in Albany by the GSDC in partnership with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, the Aquaculture Council of Western Australia and the Albany Shellfish Hatchery.

GSDC Chief Executive Officer Bruce Manning said the fully-subscribed forum was a significant event in the development of shellfish aquaculture in Western Australia.

"The establishment in 2017 of the Albany Shellfish Hatchery set the foundation for the long-term development of shellfish aquaculture," Mr Manning said.

"The forum played a key role by informing industry participants and public agencies about the state of the sector and its potential for growth.

"Aquaculture is now a major employer in some south coast communities, including Bremer Bay, and offers a stable alternative to seasonal work.

"Anyone interested in shellfish aquaculture and wanting to know more can now access the Stakeholder Summary Report to explore the outcomes of the forum," Mr Manning said.

The forum drew 120 delegates from government, private enterprise and not-for-profit organisations. Presenters came from the public and private sectors in Western Australia and interstate.

The report covers the day's topics including: a research and development overview; the role of government; innovation; investment issues; models for marketing, packaging and distribution; and indigenous involvement.

The summary also notes the key outcomes of the forum's small group workshop session on potential responses to the industry's opportunities and challenges.

The summary is available at [www.gsdc.wa.gov.au/information/current-publications](http://www.gsdc.wa.gov.au/information/current-publications).

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