

# *Albina, margaritifera* and Winged Pearl Oyster Conference in Perth, Western Australia, 1998<sup>1</sup>

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## Executive summary

### Workshop background

In recent years the development of the non-*maxima* pearl oyster industry in Western Australia has been impressive. This rapid expansion has brought about a genuine need to discuss research findings, market information and government policy to facilitate the industry's growth. Not since 1996 has the non-*maxima* pearl industry come together to discuss R&D matters, and hence the opportunity for this workshop.

### Workshop objectives

The workshop was aimed to provide a forum to examine the research, development and policy needs of the emerging non-*maxima* pearl industry. The workshop objectives were to:

- Facilitate discussion between pearl farmers and government agencies.
- Collate and communicate research needs of industry.
- Provide a forum for discussion of hatchery technology, marketing, policy and industry development.

These objectives were achieved through the non-*maxima* pearl industry workshop that was held in Fremantle. Over 40 delegates, representing all industry sectors, attended the workshop which was held on the 31st October 1998 at Miss Mauds Function Centre.

### Workshop outcomes

The main outcomes of the Workshop were:

- Research and development priorities identified by industry,

- Key issues identified for the future development of the industry,
- Results of recent research on hatchery technology and farm management,
- Increased communication and cooperation between the various members and sectors of the industry, and
- Formation of the Amwing research committee to facilitate the development of research needs identified.

The industry participants identified the following top six research and development priorities for Western Australian non-*maxima* pearl industry as a whole:

- Colour morphology of oyster and its relationship to pearl quality
- Disease profile
- Assessing the genetic differentiation of stocks
- Development of 'code of practice'
- Development of economic models
- Stock assessment survey



1. Editor's note: Another AMWing conference was recently held in Perth in October, 1999, and will be reported by Dan in the upcoming POIB.  
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