Spawning of the Clams

A new aquarium industry is set to develop in the Top End with the successful breeding of Giant Clams at the Darwin Aquaculture Centre (DAC).

The Minister for Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources, Kon Vatskalis, today handed over the first batch of Giant Clams raised at the DAC to Nhulunbuy entrepreneurs Brian and Barb Koennecke.

“Fisheries and aquaculture production in the Territory is worth about $50 million per year. The Government is very pleased to be able to assist with the development of a potential new business in the industry,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“This is a great result for staff at the Darwin Aquaculture Centre (DAC) who have been able to not only get the clams to spawn, but have successfully grown the microscopic eggs into juvenile clams.

“We have managed to raise around 400 clams which is an encouraging first result. DAC will now do more spawnings to fine tune the method.”

Nhulunbuy entrepreneurs Brian and Barb Koennecke sought the help of the department to provide technical assistance to spawn and rear giant clams for the aquarium market.

Mr Koennecke supplied DAC with local breeding stock clams and these were used to produce the fertilised eggs that have now been grown through to juvenile clams.

“Mr and Mrs Koennecke plan to sell hatchery produced juvenile clams to the aquarium market so people can keep these beautiful creatures at home,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“The Giant Clams from the Nhulunbuy region display an array of amazingly electric colours that often seem to glow, and would take pride of place in any home aquarium.

“My Department is pleased to be able to assist a possible new business venture in the Northern Territory and we look forward to seeing this initiative develop further.”

The Darwin Aquaculture Centre provides assistance to many people with business ideas and continues to undertake research into new areas of commercial production of marine species.

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