



Our Ref: SFG ASX Announce Pareto Mandate (448)

14 September 2015

ANNOUNCEMENT 448

Company Announcements Office  
Australian Securities Exchange  
Level 6  
20 Bridge Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

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(including this page)

Dear Sir

### **Seafarms Group Signs Funding Mandate with Pareto Securities**

Seafarms Group Limited (ASX:SFG) (**Company or Seafarms**) is pleased to announce that it has mandated Pareto Securities (Pareto) – the leading global investment bank in the seafood/aquaculture industry – as the Company's Lead Advisor. Pareto will assist Seafarms in securing the funding required for Stage 1 of Project Sea Dragon -the 10,000 hectare tiger prawn aquaculture facility which the Company is planning to develop in northern Australia at a cost (projected in the pre feasibility study) of approximately \$1.4 billion

The Company has been developing Project Sea Dragon (the **Project**) for more than four years. The Project was awarded major project status by the Northern Territory and Australian governments in July 2015. The Company recently commenced the bankable feasibility study and the process to obtain all regulatory approvals and licences required to construct and operate Project Sea Dragon. This work is expected to be complete by late 2016.

Pareto Securities (**Pareto**) is a global independent full service investment bank with offices in 11 countries, including Australia, with over 400 staff. Pareto has a strong focus on resource sectors and extensive capital markets expertise in financing projects with equity and fixed income instruments. Within the global seafood industry, Pareto has a strong presence having executed the equivalent of ≈AUD 3 billion worth of equity capital market transactions for seafood companies since 2006. Pareto is also the leading advisor in the seafood bond market having raised in excess of the equivalent of ≈AUD 1 billion in bond financing for seafood companies since 2007.

Pareto is:

- The largest Nordic investment bank in the seafood sector (including the bond market for seafood companies);
- The leading financial partner for companies in the global Atlantic salmon industry;
- A strong supporter of the seafood industry and host of various international seafood conferences including one of the largest seafood conferences in Bergen, Norway, and the New York City Seafood investment Forum;
- A leading provider of seafood research coverage including in-depth industry analyst reports and equity research coverage for companies such as Marine Harvest, Lerøy, Salmar, Bakkafrøst and Austevoll Seafood;
- Involved in all relevant investment banking services including;
  - Corporate finance & advisory services;
  - Equity capital markets;
  - Debt capital markets;
  - Project finance;
  - Asset and contract brokerage;

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- Able to bring a strong client base into financing a wide range of projects;
- Well positioned to support Seafarms and Project Sea Dragon, having completed more than 350 transactions in equity and debt raisings, mergers & acquisitions and new listings over the past 18 months.

With Pareto's assistance, Seafarms is confident that an appropriate and flexible financing package for Stage 1 (1,080 hectares) can be secured.

The financing may involve a combination of options including:

- a) Equity raising;
- b) Equity directly into the Project;
- c) Mezzanine financing; or
- d) Bond and/or bank debt.

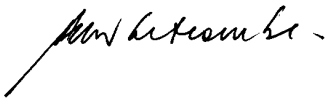
Pareto has been in discussions with Seafarms over the past 6 months and believes that Seafarms strategy to industrialise prawn farming in terms of scale, aquaculture facilities and practices has similarities to the growth story and value created in salmon farming. Pareto will be visiting the project and operational sites over the coming week.

Pareto has the industry experience and a proven track record to be the right partner for Seafarms in securing the right funding package for Project Sea Dragon.

Please telephone Harley Whitcombe on (08) 9321 4111 with any queries.

Yours faithfully

**Seafarms Group Limited**



Harley Whitcombe  
Director and Company Secretary

### **About Seafarms Group**

Seafarms Group Limited (ASX: SFG) is an ASX listed holding company with two separate subsidiary companies operating in non-conventional commodities: aquaculture and carbon. Seafarm Operations Limited operates aquaculture operations and CO2 Australia Limited the carbon and environmental operations.

For further information refer the company's web site: [www.seafarms.com.au](http://www.seafarms.com.au)

### **About Seafarm Operations Limited**

Seafarm – a new Australian agri-food company – operates, builds and invests in sustainable aquaculture production platforms producing high-quality seafood. Seafarms is currently Australia's largest producer of farmed prawns – growing, processing and distributing the well-known Crystal Bay Prawns™ premium brand. The company is one of Australia's largest aquaculture enterprises and is also developing Project Sea Dragon – a large-scale, integrated, land-based prawn aquaculture project in northern Australia designed to produce high-quality, year-round reliable volumes for export markets.

For further information refer the company's web site: [www.seafarms.com.au](http://www.seafarms.com.au)



### **About CO2 Australia Limited**

CO2 Australia is a diversified environmental services business, with core competencies in environmental approvals, land management and carbon project management. CO2 Australia has a national reach and provides services across a diverse range of private and public sector clients around Australia.

For further information refer the company's web site: [www.co2australia.com.au](http://www.co2australia.com.au)



### **About Pareto Securities**

Pareto Securities is an independent full service investment bank with a leading position in the Nordic capital markets and a strong international presence within the energy, resources, shipping and seafood sectors. Pareto Securities is headquartered in Oslo, Norway, with more than 410 employees located in offices in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, United Kingdom, France, USA, Canada, Singapore, Australia and Brazil. Pareto offers complete investment banking services including: Corporate Finance and advisory services, equity capital markets, debt capital markets, research coverage, project finance and asset & contract brokerage. Pareto has global placing power with the majority of capital raised for clients from investors based in the US, UK, Continental Europe and Asia.

For further information refer the company's web site: [www.paretosec.com](http://www.paretosec.com)

