



Department of
**AGRICULTURE
 FISHERIES &
 FORESTRY -
 AUSTRALIA**



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ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2001/30

**IMPORT RISK ANALYSES: NON-VIABLE BIVALVE MOLLUSCS AND
 NON-VIABLE FRESHWATER CRAYFISH
 PROGRESS REPORTS**

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) provides stakeholders with progress reports on, and the next steps in, the import risk analyses (IRAs) of non-viable bivalve molluscs and non-viable freshwater crayfish. We also provide an opportunity to comment on changes to the membership of both risk analysis panels. Comments by 7 December 2001 would be appreciated.

Commencement of IRAs of non-viable bivalve molluscs and non-viable freshwater crayfish were announced in Animal Quarantine Policy Memorandum (AQPM) 1998/37 and AQPM 1997/102, respectively. Due to the commitment of resources to addressing the WTO salmon case and the prawn IRA, progress on these IRAs has been delayed. Following recent staff recruitment, we are now progressing both these IRAs.

As a result of changed circumstances of risk analysis panel members, including within Biosecurity Australia, it is necessary to amend the membership of both panels. The Executive Manager of Biosecurity Australia will finalise the panels following consideration of stakeholder comments.

Non-viable bivalve mollusc IRA

The changes you may wish to comment on are: Dr Peter Beers to replace Dr Sarah Kahn as the new panel Chair, and Dr Robert Adlard and Dr Ramesh Perera to replace Dr John Norton and Dr Brett Edgerton. The two existing members Dr Judith Handler and Ms Paula Shoulder, will continue on the panel. The new panel comprises:

Name	Organisation
Dr Peter Beers (chair)	Biosecurity Australia
Dr Judith Handler	Tasmanian Dept of Primary Industries, Water and Energy
Dr Robert Adlard	Queensland Museum
Ms Paula Shoulder	Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry - Australia
Dr Ramesh Perera	Biosecurity Australia

Peter Beers is Manager, Aquatic Section, Animal Biosecurity and has expertise in aquatic animal disease, quarantine legislation, import risk analysis, international standards and WTO/SPS obligations. He was heavily involved in the Canadian

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salmon defence and the accelerated IRAs which developed the policies for salmon and marine finfish. He has also assisted in developing Biosecurity Australia's IRA guidelines and methodology.

Robert Adlard is a recognised expert in bivalve disease and has a practical understanding of industry issues, with particular knowledge of disease issues in NSW.

Ramesh Perera has expertise in aquatic animal disease, import risk analysis and is familiar with the oyster aquaculture industry in South Australia and Tasmania. He coordinated a risk analysis on importation of Pacific oyster spat from Tasmania to South Australia, was also involved in the Canadian salmon defence and the subsequent accelerated IRAs which developed the policies for ornamental finfish. He is familiar with WTO/SPS obligations and international standards.

Dr Sarah Kleeman who recently joined Biosecurity Australia, will provide technical secretary support to the panel. Sarah recently completed doctoral research in the field of protozoan diseases of bivalve molluscs, including development of diagnostic tools.

Biosecurity Australia is interested in holding public meetings to discuss the IRA, in particular to identify:

- . the products that are currently imported, or may potentially be imported, that fall within the scope of the IRA and may present a risk of introducing pests and diseases of quarantine concern
- . the pest and disease hazards associated with the importation of those products;
- . the pathways by which those hazards may be introduced to and establish in Australia;
- . the potential direct and indirect consequences on recreational fisheries, commercial fisheries, aquaculture, the environment generally and any other relevant effects of those hazards establishing in Australia.

We would like to hear from any groups or individuals with an interest in participating in such meetings.

Subsequent to any meetings, the panel will prepare a technical issues paper for public comment. The paper will identify the main pest and disease issues to be considered in the IRA. It will not cover risk assessment or risk management for these pests and diseases; this is addressed in the following consultation step, the draft IRA report.

Non-viable freshwater crayfish IRA

The changes you may wish to comment on are: Dr Peter Beers will resume the chair in place Dr Bernard Robinson; Dr Rachel Bowater and Dr Vanessa Findlay replace Dr Grant Rawlin and Dr Brett Edgerton; and Dr Brian Jones be added to the panel as an additional member. The existing member, Associate Professor Louis Evans, will continue on the panel. The new panel comprises:

Name	Organisation
Dr Peter Beers (chair)	Biosecurity Australia
Associate Professor Louis Evans	Curtin University of Technology
Dr Brian Jones	Western Australia Department of Fisheries
Dr Rachel Bowater	Queensland Department of Primary Industries
Dr Vanessa Findlay	Biosecurity Australia

Rachel Bowater has expertise in disease diagnosis of aquatic animals and links with aquaculture and fisheries industries, particularly with regard to redclaw crayfish aquaculture.

Brian Jones has considerable experience and knowledge of freshwater crayfish diseases having worked with southern hemisphere freshwater crayfish diseases since 1975. He published a series of papers on freshwater crayfish diseases, biology and aquaculture in the 1980s. Brian was a member of the National Taskforce on Imported Fish and Fish Products in 1995-96 and has recent experience in undertaking IRAs, particularly as a peer reviewer for the accelerated IRAs.

Vanessa Findlay has general expertise in aquatic animal disease, quarantine legislation, import risk analysis, international standards and WTO/SPS obligations. She was also part of the team completing the salmon IRA as part of the WTO Canadian salmon case.

We also plan for Robert Heard to provide technical secretary support to the panel. Robert has considerable experience in intensive animal production, quarantine operations and veterinary chemicals in aquaculture. Robert was a member of the National Taskforce for Chemicals in Aquaculture.

The technical issues paper was released on 17 May 1999 (AQPM 1999/31) and three comments were received. Issues raised included detailed technical editorial comments and clarification of the species included in the scope of the IRA. These issues will be addressed in the draft IRA. Biosecurity Australia has also released (AQPM 2000/42) the results of experimental work that it commissioned from the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science in Weymouth, United Kingdom, on the susceptibility of the crayfish plague fungus *Aphanomyces astaci* to heating and freezing. Copies of the "Summary Final Report: Effects of exposure to high and low temperatures on the survival of the crayfish plague fungus *A. astaci* in vitro and in vivo" are available from the AFFA website or from Biosecurity Australia.

Biosecurity Australia is interested in holding public meetings to discuss the technical issues paper, the results of the *Aphanomyces astaci* experimental studies and other issues relevant to the IRA that stakeholders may wish to raise. We would like to hear from any groups or individuals with an interest in participating in such meetings.

Subsequent to any meetings the panel will prepare a draft IRA report for public comment.

Curriculum vitae of all newly proposed panel members are available on request from the contact officer indicated below.

Biosecurity Australia invites comment on the panel changes by 7 December 2001.

Please pass this circular to other interested parties whom you may know of, and who should advise Biosecurity Australia if they wish to be included in future communications on this matter. All inquiries should be directed to the officer whose contact details appear below.

Confidentiality

Respondents are advised that, subject to the Freedom of Information Act 1982 and the Privacy Act 1988, all submissions received in response to Animal Biosecurity Policy Memoranda will be publicly available and may be listed or referred to in any papers or reports prepared on the subject matter of the Memoranda.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reveal the identity of a respondent unless a request for anonymity accompanies the submission. Where a request for anonymity does not accompany the submission the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of his or her identity for the purposes of Information Privacy Principle 11 of the Privacy Act.

The contents of the submission will not be treated as confidential unless they are marked 'confidential' and they are capable of being classified as such in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

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