



Government of South Australia

Department of Primary Industries
and Regions

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT 2007
SECTION 78

**APPLICATION FOR A MINISTERIAL PERMIT TO
RELEASE AQUATIC RESOURCES - STAGE 2**
(Refer to Policy for the Release of Aquatic Resources)

No fee applicable

01/07/2023 – 30/06/2024

With this completed application:

(Please tick when complete)

- If in a company name, I have attached an ASIC full company search extract, which lists all company directors (dated no older than 3 months).
- I have provided reports as required by condition of any previous permit, if applicable.
- I have attached a map of the proposed location for activity
- I have attached an additional project outline(s) (if undertaking research activity)
- I have attached other permits (if applicable)
- I have read the Objects of the Act provided in attachment and I believe my application supports these objectives.

All sections of this form must be completed. If additional space is needed, attach a separate page. Application Forms insufficiently or partially completed and not provided within two weeks of request, will be returned to the applicant.

Completed applications to:

PIRSA FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE

2 Hamra Avenue, West Beach. SA 5024

GPO Box 1625, Adelaide SA 5001

Telephone (08) 8207 5332 Facsimile (08) 8207 5331

Email PIRSA.MinisterialExemptionsandPermits@sa.gov.au

http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing/permits_and_exemptions

PERSONAL OR COMPANY DETAILS

Applicant (name the exemption is to be issued to):

Date of Birth (of applicant or nominated individual):

If applicant is a company, organisation, or association, please provide name of person who will be acting on behalf of the company (name and position title):

Note: If applicant is a company or organisation please attach an ASIC full company search extract (dated no older than 3 months) which lists all company directors. If acting on behalf of a company and not a director or company secretary you must provide evidence of authorisation.

ABN:(if applicable) ACN.....(if applicable)

Residential / Business Address:

Postal Address:

Telephone (W) (M)..... (H)

Fax: Email address:

Are you a fishery licence holder under the *Fisheries Management Act 2007* or an aquaculture licence holder under the *Aquaculture Act 2001*? If so, please supply details:

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Explanatory notes:

When a proposed release of aquatic resources doesn't comply with PIRSA's Release of Aquatic Resources Policy or the low risk criteria of the policy, an applicant must submit a comprehensive ecologically sustainable development risk assessment.

PIRSA will inform the applicant if when such a risk assessment is needed.

An ecologically sustainable development risk assessment does not have to be completed using this attached template, however, if a decision is made to complete it in another format, the risks identified below will need to be addressed.

Data - the use of quantitative data is preferred, but qualitative data may also be used in support of an application where quantitative data is limited or not available. Some translocations and releases may warrant directed research to generate data for the assessment.

Public interest - subject to legislation and policy, public notification may be required. Subject to the results of there may be a requirement for more detailed assessment of public opinion through

structured social surveys. Any surveys will be undertaken by the proponent at their expense. (Note this addresses the earlier reference to social surveys in the policy document without inadvertently mandating it.)

Subject to law - proposal to translocate aquatic resources into and within South Australia must comply with relevant State and Commonwealth laws. A species will only be considered as a candidate for translocation if possession of the species does not conflict with the restrictions imposed under the legislation. Such legislation may relate to the survival of a species or to the ecosystem in which it occurs or where the presence of the species could adversely affect the Australian environment. Proposals must also comply with bilateral or multilateral agreements that may exist for multi-state river basins.

Issues of scale - it is not possible, nor potentially relevant, to undertake a prior assessment of every proposed individual release of aquatic resources. Proposals perceived to involve greater risk may also require considerably more robust analysis and direct research to answer particular questions.

Uncertainty - assessment of potential risk is by its nature an uncertain process. The degree of uncertainty will vary between proposals and it may not be possible to answer all questions outlined in Appendices 3 and 4. The final decision will be a 'risk-weighted assessment' of the proposal as agreed in Commonwealth *Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment*¹.

Authoritative risk assessment - the risk assessment must be conducted by a person(s) recognised as having relevant expertise in assessing the risks posed by the proposed release of aquatic resources. It will be the responsibility of the proponent to organise and fund preparation of the risk assessment and demonstrate the assessor's expertise.

Background risk - where a particular situation or risk (e.g. disease presence, existence of a feral population, prior stocking or likelihood of introduction by other means) already exists in the stock receiving waters, it will be considered in assessing the impact on the receiving waters from the further translocation of the organism. Existing risk abatement regimes that mitigate the risks to the receiving waters will be considered when assessing the translocation proposal.

Risk thresholds - the extent to which risks are accepted and tolerated is likely to evolve with changing perceptions and an understanding of the risk and changes in the value of the areas that may be affected by the risks. In reflecting community values and the level of scientific certainty, the risk thresholds established by legislation usually define those risks that are unacceptable or intolerable, for example:

- Protecting social assets such as human health and recreation
- Protecting environmental assets such as endangered fish, areas of importance to indigenous flora and fauna etc
- Protecting economic assets by reducing the risk and the threat of ecosystem services
- Higher thresholds of risks will be set for specially protected areas such as the River Murray, the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary and a marine park, as well as areas of national significance (e.g. threatened ecological communities or waters that have threatened, endangered and protected species) under the EPBC Act.

Making decisions - decisions regarding translocation proposals are based on the risk being acceptable. This may not include restrictions on the numbers, sizes, origins, genotypes or other characteristics of the live aquatic resources in question, quarantine protocols, improvements to security of containment facilities and contingency planning.

¹ <http://www.environment.gov.au/about-us/publications/intergovernmental-agreement>

1. Likelihood of escape of parasites and pathogens

1.1. Will the transport medium and equipment be treated before and after release of aquatic resources? Please indicate what treatment will be used.

The transport medium (usually water and equipment used to transport the proposed aquatic resources for translocation) can harbour pathogens and parasites. Appropriate disinfection procedures and appropriately designed transport vessels may reduce the load of pathogens and parasites or reduce the likelihood of spillage en-route. Please provide details on chemical type, dosage rates and disposal methodology to ensure this activity complies with EPA legislations.

Important note for questions 1.2 – 2.3

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Questions 1.2 – 2.3 apply to closed and semi-closed systems only.
If the proposal relates to the release of aquatic organisms into a system that is defined as an open system, please disregard questions 1.2 – 2.3 and proceed to question 3.
A definition of each system is provided in Appendix 5.

1.2. How close and accessible are potential receiving waters?

The risk of escape from closed or semi-closed systems can be heightened where the system is in close proximity to a waterway. In addition, pathogens and parasites found in untreated effluent water may be transported via a watercourse to larger waterways that contain susceptible species. Please estimate the distance to potential receiving waters and identify their potential to transport organisms, including fish, pathogens or parasites.

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1.3. Is the receiving system fully enclosed and secure from unauthorised access?

Fully enclosed and secure systems can effectively reduce the risk of escape of aquatic organisms, pathogens and parasites. The level of physical security is also important as it prevents unauthorised access to property. Provide details of the security measures in place or proposed to be in place at the site.

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1.4. Based on knowledge of the facility’s waste water treatment and the capability of the life stages of released aquatic resources, are any life stages likely to be unwittingly released from the facility during operations?

Effective screening of waste water outflow or outflow is an important mechanism to prevent escape of the translocated aquatic resources. However, such screening needs to take into account all life stages of the translocated aquatic resources including eggs, larvae, fingerling, sub-adult forms. For both closed and semi closed systems describe the mechanisms in place to control the translocated aquatic resources and water throughout the system.

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1.5. Does the system have adequate contingency plans in the event of a technical failure?

Technical failures may result in unplanned release of water and or aquatic resources from the system. Please provide details of the contingencies and design elements that will be used to contain any aquatic resources and water in the case of technical failure.

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1.6. Have local environmental issues (e.g. 1 in 100 year flood levels, land subject to flooding) been considered in containment planning?

In the first instance, local environment issues may be discovered and responded to when applying for a planning permit to build a system to contain aquatic resources. Consult with your local council or Department for Environment and Water for further information about important environmental sites and environmental issues in your area.

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1.7. Are there any pathogens, parasite or unexplained mortality issues in the source waters or source system?

Provide details as to whether there have been any pathogens, parasite or unexplained mortalities in the source waters or system.

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1.8. What is the nature of any pathogen and parasite surveillance programs in the source area facility?

The health of organisms in an area is an important economic and environmental consideration. Programs to monitor mortalities, pathogens and parasites can include the regular screening of organisms and/or wastewater. Monitoring of organisms and/or wastewater can also allow an aquaculture venture to measure the effectiveness of their treatment system. Provide details of any monitoring programs that are undertaken in the source waters or system.

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1.9. What quarantine processes and/or treatments will the consignment be subject to?

Many aquaculture facilities considered the quarantining of new stock as best practice to manage the risks associated with particular species and source waters. Quarantine procedures can be obtained from AQIS at:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/import/arrival/clearanc-inspection>

Alternatively, quarantine procedures may be customised for the species.

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1.10. Are undesirable species (e.g. pathogens, parasites, blue green algae, etc.) likely to be translocated with the consignment that are not currently found at the stock receiving waters?

Translocating aquatic resources may cause pathogens or parasites present in the source waters to also be translocated. List pathogens and parasites present in the source waters and provide details as to whether any of these pathogens and parasites are likely to be transported with the consignment. Various publications on fish pathogens and parasites may assist the applicant in answering this question.

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1.11. Based on the answers to Questions 1.1 to 1.10, what is the likelihood of escape of translocated aquatic resources, as well as pathogens and parasites?

This question asks the applicant to consolidate responses to all questions in this section and provide summary argument on the likelihood of escape with particular reference to the effectiveness of proposed control measures at managing the risk of escape or release of translocated aquatic resources, including the threat of pathogen and parasite transfer.

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2. Consequence of escape when translocating aquatic resources, as well as parasites and pathogens

2.1. What aquatic resources (including pathogens, parasites and life stages such as gametes, fertilised eggs, juveniles, adults, etc.) are likely to escape?

This question requires the applicant to provide details of species that are likely to escape from the system. Adverse events may make it possible for the translocation of aquatic resources, pathogens and parasites to escape from the system e.g. system failure, flood, transport via waterbirds etc. Provide details of the life stages that may escape during an adverse event.

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2.2. In the event of an escape, how many individuals are likely to escape?

The consequence of a handful of species being released during an adverse event may be less than that of an event where thousands of the one species are released; however both escapes may constitute a risk. Please provide details of the number of organisms likely to escape.

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3. Likelihood of Survival

3.1. Is the natural and/or current range of the species/genetic stock of the species being released known?

A species' natural range is an area where that species is found prior to any translocation. The current range of a species may differ to its natural range through a number of reasons including habitat degradation or over-fishing. Genetic structure of a species may also differ between areas due to separation of a species through physical barriers.

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3.2. Are the water quality, habitat and food requirements known for the translocated aquatic resources and are they available at the stock receiving waters?

If the environmental and biological requirements of the species to be translocated exist at the stock receiving waters, the likelihood of survival is increased. The applicant should provide information demonstrating temperature, water quality, habitat and food requirements of the translocated aquatic resources and those that are found at the stock receiving waters. Some of the parameters that may be provided include temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH and salinity.

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3.3. Are suitable hosts for pathogens and parasites likely to be available at the stock receiving waters and are hosts required for the completion of all the lifecycle stages?

Many pathogens and parasites are opportunistic and infect a range of hosts at the stock receiving waters. Others are species-specific and can only affect a particular host during a particular lifecycle stage.

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3.4. Based on answers to Questions 3.1 to 3.3, what is the likelihood of survival?

In consideration of the responses made to questions 3.1 – 3.3 provide a detailed summary describing the likelihood of survival of the translocated aquatic resources, pathogens and parasites at the stock receiving waters.

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4. Consequences of Survival

4.1. Is the aquatic resource to be released endemic to, or currently present at, the stock receiving waters?

An aquatic resource endemic to the stock receiving waters poses a lower risk to the environment than non-endemic species. The presence of the released aquatic resources at the stock receiving waters indicates that survival of the aquatic resource in those waters is likely.

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4.2. Is the species likely to alter the physical environment and/or destabilise local plant communities?

Some aquatic resources may have an effect on the physical habitat in which they live, e.g. yabbies are known for burrowing, potentially causing seepage of ponds. Please also provide details of the behavioural characteristics and evidence as to whether the aquatic resource to be translocated is or is not likely to cause an effect on local plant communities at the stock receiving waters.

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5. Likelihood of Establishment

5.1. Are the environmental requirements of the completion of all stages of the life cycle known and are they available at the stock receiving waters?

Many aquatic resources require certain environmental conditions to successfully complete all stages of their lifecycle. For example, many warm water natives require a temperature increase to spawn. The applicant should demonstrate the environmental conditions required for the completion of all stages of the translocated aquatic resources and identified pathogens or parasites, and whether or not they are present at the stock receiving waters.

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5.2. Is the ability of the species to hybridise with local species known?

Hybridisation of species may occur where two separate species interbreed and produce offspring. Viable offspring, such as in some abalone species, or unviable offspring may be produced from this interbreeding. If a species can interbreed with another species at the stock receiving waters, then the likelihood of a hybrid population in that waterway increases. Please provide details as to whether or not the translocated aquatic resources will be able to interbreed with species at the stock receiving waters and in the case that this may occur, will the offspring be viable or unviable

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5.3. Based on the answers to Question 5.1 to 5.2, what is the likelihood of establishment?

In consideration of the responses made to questions 5.1 to 5.2 provide a detailed summary describing the likelihood of establishment of the translocated aquatic resources at the stock receiving waters.

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6. Consequences of Establishment

6.1. How natural is the stock receiving waters and is the level of disturbance suitable to the translocated aquatic resources?

The consequences of a non-endemic species establishing itself within a pristine area may be considered a greater risk than in an area where the waterway is degraded or has a number of non-endemic species already within it. Please indicate in your response the level of disturbance the waterway has been subject to and what these disturbances are e.g. snag removal, bank erosion, dredging, etc. Depending on the aquatic resources being translocated, some require a pristine habitat to survive while others may thrive in a disturbed environment. Please indicate if the level of disturbance is suitable to the translocated aquatic resources.

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6.2. Are there any threatened, endangered and protected species (TEPS) or threatened ecological communities at the stock receiving waters?

The applicant must consider whether the aquatic resources proposed to be translocated will pose a risk to other aquatic fauna/flora, which may include invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles. In the case where TEPS are located at the stock receiving waters, demonstrate whether the translocated aquatic resources will have an impact on them.

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6.3. Is the aquatic resource to be translocated subject to an eradication or minimisation program at the stock receiving waters?

It is important to ensure that where an aquatic resource is subject to an eradication program in a particular area that the translocation will not re-introduce the aquatic resource into the area. Information as to whether the species in subject to such a program can be obtained through your local NRM/PIRSA Office.

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6.4. Should the aquatic resource to be translocated establish at the stock receiving waters, is it likely that it can be eradicated?

There are many examples of translocations that have resulted in the establishment of feral populations. In most of these cases attempts to prevent their spread or eradicate them has not been successful. Please provide details as to whether it is likely that the aquatic resource to be translocated could be eradicated from the stock receiving waters.

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6.5. Based on the knowledge of its growth, reproductive characteristics and behaviour, is the aquatic resource to be translocated likely to displace local species in similar ecological niches?

The displacement of species through competition for similar ecological niches can be as damaging to biodiversity as predation or habitat destruction. Provide details as to whether any life stages of the aquatic resource proposed to be translocated may displace species found at the stock receiving waters.

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6.6. Based on knowledge of its behaviour and physical characteristics, is the aquatic resource to be translocated likely to be a significant predator at the stock receiving waters?

The possibility of predation by the aquatic resources being translocated on species found in the stock receiving waters must also be considered. Noting that most recreational species in South Australia are predatory by nature, provide details as to whether any life stages of the translocated aquatic resources may predate on species found at the stock receiving waters.

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6.7. Are the translocated aquatic resources being consigned of the same genetic stock as local populations?

The mixing of genetic stocks can reduce the genetic integrity of species. This, in turn, may reduce the species' resistance to disease or certain environmental conditions. It is, therefore, important that genetic stocks are not mixed in order to maintain genetic integrity with natural populations. Provide details describing the broodstock source for the aquatic resource to be translocated.

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6.8. What effects are any released pathogens or parasites likely to have at the stock receiving waters?

Some pathogens and parasites are host specific. Therefore the effects of these on other species in the stock receiving waters alter depending on the inhabitants of those waters. Provide details of the potential effects that any pathogens or parasites could have on species found at the stock receiving waters.

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6.9. Based on answers 6.1 to 6.8 what are the consequences of establishment of the translocated aquatic resources or pathogens and parasites?

Based on questions 6.1 to 6.8 what are the consequences of establishment of the translocated aquatic resources or pathogens and parasites at the stock receiving waters.

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7. Socio-Economic

7.1. What are the social or community impacts associated with the proposal to translocate?

Describe the social benefits that may be gained from the proposal to translocate aquatic resources, e.g. fish for tourism. Detail whether these social benefits will outweigh any of the social aspects of other activities in the proposed stock receiving waters e.g. damage to other recreational fisheries or aquaculture sites.

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7.2. What are the estimated economic impacts associated with the proposal to translocate?

Provide details of the economic impacts of the proposal to translocate aquatic resources. These may be positive effects such as an increase in regional employment and tourism or negative effects such as the cost of eradication and/or recovery programs.

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DECLARATION

Full Name of Applicant

I(Natural Person/ Director) *

of (Address)

Contact Telephone Number:

hereby certify that the contents of this application is to the best of my knowledge and belief true and accurate. I know that the information provided is to be used for the purpose of the administration of the Fisheries Management Act 2007 and if it is false or misleading in a material particular (whether by reason of inclusion or omission of any particular) I may be guilty of an offence.

Dated the(day) of (month), 20..... (year)

Signed:

Witnessed by:
(Full Name)

of
(address)

Signature of Witness:

* **Evidence may be required to prove authority to act on behalf of the company/organisation**