

Check your bait – protect South Australia from white spot disease

Recreational fishers can help ensure local waters are protected from aquatic animal disease such as white spot disease (WSD), a viral disease that affects penaeid prawns and causes mass mortalities in prawn populations.

This follows the detection of WSD in Queensland on a number of commercial prawn farms on the Logan River in late 2016, as well as in a small number of wild prawns and crabs from Moreton Bay in South East Queensland. Movement restrictions were put in place to prevent the entry of this virus to South Australia via Livestock Movement Restriction Notices which are published in the SA Government Gazette.

There are restrictions on the movement of live or dead uncooked prawns, other crustaceans and polychaete worms from the movement control area (see map below), into South Australia. This ban includes but is not limited to:

- school, tiger and banana prawns
- shrimp
- crab
- yabby
- polychaete worms (e.g. bristle worms)

The ban also includes fittings and equipment.

White spot disease has never been detected in South Australia, however the import ban is a vital biosecurity precaution to protect the state's \$908 million commercial fisheries and aquaculture industries.

What you can do to help

Recreational fishers can help ensure local waters are protected from WSD, *by using only disease free bait and berley.*

Bait guide for South Australian waters – what can be used and how.

- Suitably irradiated prawns and polychaete worms from within the WSD restricted area of the Logan River estuary

- If catching your own prawn or crab bait in South Australia, use it only in the water from where it came. You could be fined if caught depositing species not native to the area you are fishing in.
- Other bait types such as locally caught pilchards, pipis and squid are not affected by WSD.

How to help prevent the entry of WSD into South Australia.

- Do not order any live or dead uncooked crustaceans or bait worms that have originated from the QLD WSD Movement Restriction area from non-approved processors or producers.
- Dispose of any bait or berley supplies that are not sourced from safe areas into landfill or at quarantine stations across South Australia.
- Don't use imported store-bought prawns for human consumption as bait. Although safe for human consumption, they have the potential to spread aquatic animal diseases when used as bait. If caught you can be fined.
- Don't use leftover, uncooked seafood as berley or bait – including prawn heads, shells, or meat. Such materials should be safely disposed of through the normal household collection service.
- Never release live bait other than into waters where it was originally caught. You could be fined if caught depositing non-native species into state waters.

There are **NO human health issues** associated with white spot disease and prawns are safe to eat.

Boat hygiene is good biosecurity

- Keep your fishing gear, boat and trailer clean. Make sure that any debris or biological material (such as seaweed is removed. This tends to accumulate in areas such as wheel arches, on footwear and fishing tackle).
- Use soapy water to clean your boat and trailer, fishing rods and other equipment and allow them to completely dry before using them at another locations.

Reporting WSD:

If you think you have found or seen WSD; **photograph** it, **collect** it (refrigerate or freeze) and **report** it to the PIRSA Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline: 1800 675 888 (available 24 hours).

Further information

More information on the Queensland outbreak is available at: www.outbreak.gov.au or www.pir.sa.gov.au/whitespotdisease

