

BIOSECURITY UPDATE TO THE FISHING BAIT/BERLEY INDUSTRY

Requirements for crustaceans and bait worms from South East Queensland to South Australia

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENT RESTRICTION NOTICE IN RELATION TO DECAPOD CRUSTACEANS (ORDER DECAPODA) AND POLYCHAETE WORMS (CLASS POLYCHAETA) ENTERING SOUTH AUSTRALIA

White spot disease (WSD) is a highly contagious viral infection that affects crustaceans and can also be carried by polychaete worms. In commercial prawn farm operations it can result in 100% mortality within days of the first visible signs of the disease. WSD was detected on a number of prawn farms on the Logan River and in prawns and crabs from Moreton Bay in South East Queensland in late 2016 and 2017.

The disease is not known to occur in South Australia, however a widespread outbreak of WSD could pose a serious threat to the state's freshwater and marine crustacean populations. To ensure the damaging virus is not introduced into South Australia a number of biosecurity measures are now in place. This includes the gamma irradiation treatment of potentially infected product and segregated marketing requirements.

Restrictions on the movement of live or dead decapod crustaceans and polychaete worms originating from a designated area in Queensland's Logan River and Moreton Bay regions have been extended. They include all waters or commercial aquaculture crustacean farms located in the designated WSD control area of south-east Queensland.

As a result of successful on-farm control measures conducted in Queensland against WSD and extensive surveillance work in Queensland and New South Wales; the movement restriction area allows the specific movement of suitably treated (cooked or gamma irradiated) product, along with specified exempt product (subject to additional risk reduction measures).

View the latest Declaration of a Livestock Movement Restriction in relation to White Spot Disease in the [South Australian Government Gazette](#) No. 46, Thursday, 19 September 2019, pp. 3305–3340.

The updated Notice, declared under the *Livestock Act 1997*, prohibits the movement of the following species into South Australia:

- live or dead crustaceans of the Order Decapoda including prawns, shrimps, crabs and yabbies unless they are cooked or irradiated
- live or dead polychaete worms, including bristle worms.

The restrictions also apply to the movement of any fittings/equipment used in connection with the cultivation or commercial catch of decapod crustaceans and polychaete worms from the affected area, unless they have been suitably cleaned and disinfected.

Information for bait and berley suppliers

It is important that bait and berley suppliers are aware of the significant risks of introducing potentially infected bait supplies from the affected region into South Australia. It is an essential legal requirement that bait and berley retailers *do not accept any supplies from non-approved processors or producers* in the specified WSD movement restriction area in SE Queensland. The following requirements apply:

Cooked or gamma irradiated (see the Notice for detail) prawns and polychaete worms from within the WSD restricted area in SE Queensland are permitted for use as bait in South Australian waters if accompanied by the required documents.

South Australian bait and berley suppliers need to have an Import Permit approved by the South Australian Chief Veterinary Officer, which will stipulate conditions for entry into the state. Applications should be e-mailed to PIRSA.BiosecuritySA@SA.gov.au or phone 08 8207 7900.

Applicants must provide their details including name, address and contact details (e-mail, phone, fax & mobile). Details on the volume, type of product, delivery address and proposed delivery schedule are also required. Allow five working days for processing of application and issuing of permit (if permitted).

Separate movement conditions occur within Queensland for movement of treated and untreated product. For further information on approved treatment providers and movement conditions contact:

Mark Kruk
Restricted Area Movement & Security (RAMS) Officer
White Spot Disease Program, Biosecurity Queensland
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
T: 07 3087 8862 M: 0477 300 819 E: mark.kruk@daf.qld.gov.au W www.daf.qld.gov.au
41 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000.
GPO Box 46, Brisbane, QLD 4001

Maximum penalty for breaching the South Australian Livestock Movement Restrictions Notice is \$20,000.

Contact

If you receive non-compliant consignments of bait or berley from the WSD Movement Restriction Area or want to report suspicion of WSD in SA contact:

PIRSA Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline 1800 675 888 (24-hours)

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

www.outbreak.gov.au or www.pir.sa.gov.au/whitespotdisease

MAP OF WHITE SPOT DISEASE MOVEMENT RESTRICTION AREA IN SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND

