

Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome Incursion Response

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VERSION 1

AUTHORISED BY Director Animal Biosecurity

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Policy Statement

NSW Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services (NSW Trade & Investment) is committed to following a consistent response to new incursions of the declared disease Ostreid herpesvirus-1 micro-variant (OsHV-1 μ var). This virus is the cause of Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS). POMS represents a current and significant threat to the Pacific Oyster industry of NSW, causing stock mortality of farmed oysters and loss of income in estuaries where it has been confirmed.

Impacts of OsHV-1 μ var on the broader NSW oyster industry (including Sydney Rock Oyster farmers) include direct impacts of the disease (i.e. loss of stock and income by Pacific Oyster enterprises), and indirect impacts on normal business operations caused by formal Quarantine Orders that may be implemented to minimise the spread of the disease.

This policy outlines management actions and legislative provisions that may be used in response to suspected or confirmed OsHV-1 μ var outbreaks in NSW waterways.

Scope

This policy applies to all NSW Trade & Investment employees, including permanent officers, those under employment contract, term appointments (including secondments) or temporary arrangements including contractors and consultants involved in any part (including industry consultation) of a response to suspected or confirmed outbreak of OsHV-1 μ var. Specifically, this policy outlines the procedure relative to Part 6 Division 4 of the Fisheries Management Act (FM Act) 1994 for staff to follow in response to an outbreak of OsHV-1 μ var.

Requirements

1. Ostreid herpesvirus-1 micro-variant (OsHV-1 μ var), is listed as a declared disease in Division 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6B to the FM Act.
2. Reports of unusual mortality from the oyster industry are subject to disease investigation
 - a. Biosecurity NSW (a division of NSW Trade & Investment) will coordinate collection of samples of live affected oysters
 - b. Collected samples will be analysed for disease at the NSW Trade & Investment Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute Virology laboratory.
3. If OsHV-1 μ var presence is suspected or confirmed in the samples, the Minister for Primary Industries may, by powers provided in the FM Act under Section 183, by order, declare any area specified in the order to be a quarantine area. Orders declaring a quarantine area are to be:
 - a. published in the Gazette, or if considered urgent,
 - b. published in a newspaper, by radio or television in the area to which the order applies or on the department's website.

Procedures

1. Upon report of a suspected OsHV-1 μ var outbreak NSW Trade & Investment will:

- a. Obtain sample specimens for laboratory diagnosis following appropriate procedures (INT11/7208, INT11/7170, INT11/11823)
 - b. If laboratory investigation confirms presence of OsHV-1 μ var, consideration will be given to making a quarantine order under section 183 of the FM Act that would aim to minimise the spread of POMS by limiting the movement of oysters and oyster cultivation material, and where applicable, other forms of cultured stock and infrastructure.
2. Declaration of quarantine order:
- a. NSW Trade & Investment will prepare a draft quarantine order for the consideration of the Minister for Primary Industries (or delegate). The draft order will include recommended movement restrictions based on a full assessment of all available information relating to the specific disease incursion
 - b. Quarantine orders can only be made by the Minister for Primary Industries (or delegate)
 - c. When considering the provisions to be included in a quarantine order the following issues may need to be addressed:
 - i) The quarantine order may cover an entire estuary where OsHV-1 μ var is present, or is suspected to be present, including all of the waterways lakes, lagoons, inlet channels, creeks and tributaries
 - ii) The quarantine order may cover an area including a land-based facility such as a hatchery, nursery or research facility
 - iii) The quarantine order may prohibit movement of oysters, oyster cultivation material, other cultured species and culture equipment from the affected estuary to other estuaries in NSW that are not within a quarantine area
3. Refinement of movement controls in a quarantine order can be made and may take into account the following considerations:
- a. Outcomes of consultation with the NSW oyster industry and the impact that proposed biosecurity conditions and movement restrictions may have on oyster industry operations within affected and non-affected estuaries
 - b. All available information relating to biological and ecological impacts of the OsHV-1 μ var outbreak
 - c. Movement of oysters, oyster equipment, other cultured species and culture equipment from a quarantine area to an area outside the quarantine area will be considered on a case by case basis, after a full assessment of all available information regarding the disease outbreak
 - d. Where the Minister for Primary Industries (or delegate) specifies that movements from a quarantine area to an area outside the quarantine area are to be allowed under the provisions of a quarantine order:
 - i) The receiving area may be suspected of the presence of OsHV-1 μ var and,
 - ii) Based upon this suspicion, NSW Trade & Investment may develop a draft recommended quarantine order including recommended movement restrictions for the receiving estuary for consideration by the Minister (or delegate)
 - e. Decisions about the biosecurity conditions, movement controls and other provisions to be included in a quarantine order will be made on a case-by-case basis by the Minister for Primary Industries (or delegate) after thorough consideration of all available information.

Roles and responsibilities

- Minister for Primary Industries: has power under section 183 of the FM Act to declare an area to be a quarantine area because of the presence or suspected presence of a declared disease. Section 183(4) of the FM Act and clause 257B of the Fisheries Management (General) Regulation 2010 make provision for what can be included in a quarantine order.
- Chief Veterinary Officer: advises the Minister for Primary Industries with regard to declared disease decision making as appropriate.
- Biosecurity NSW: develops and recommends biosecurity provisions to be included in a quarantine order and coordinates disease response activities and management.

- Fisheries NSW: consultation/liaison with the NSW oyster industry and assistance during disease response operations including field activities.

Safety considerations

- Any injury must be reported immediately in accordance with the procedure - 'First aid in an EOC and the field'.
- Adequate WHS provisions e.g. sun protection, first aid kit, water, PPE must be taken on field events relating to POMS.
- Personnel must take care to avoid cutting themselves when removing or handling oysters or oyster infrastructure.

Delegations

- Current at time of publishing, as per NSW Government Gazette No. 47 (p1203)
 - S.183(1) - Executive Director, Fisheries NSW; Executive Director, Biosecurity NSW; Director, Aquaculture, Conservation & Marine Parks; Director, Commercial Fisheries; Director, Recreational & Indigenous Fisheries; Director Animal Biosecurity.

Legislation

- Fisheries Management Act 1994
- Fisheries Management (General) Regulation 2010
- Work Health and Safety Act and Regulation 2011

Related policies

- Policy TI-0-133 INT12/50085 Aquatic Fieldwork Hygiene
- Policy 0-062 [v2] Declaring notifiable animal diseases

Other related documents

- INT08/75558 – Water safety management system (Fisheries Compliance Operations)
- INT11/7170 – Procedure – POMS oyster collection, storage and transport of samples
- INT11/11823 – Procedure – POMS oyster surveillance visits
- Factsheet 1119 – Come Clean Go Clean – a step by step guide to vehicle wash down
- Australia's National List of Reportable Diseases of Aquatic Animals
- Primefact 1290 – Make 'clean' part of your routine
- INT13/39952 - Aquatic Hygiene Guidelines for DPI Fieldwork
- INT11/7208 POMS Surveillance - Sample Collection Procedure Georges River Farmed Oysters
- INT09/35787 Procedure - First Aid in an EOC and the Field

Superseded documents

This policy replaces:

- Nil

Revision history

Version	Date issued	Notes	By
1.0	22/08/2014	New policy developed in response to identified need	Aquatic Biosecurity and Risk Management

Review date

15/12/2016

Contact

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