

Long-term White Spot surveillance plan

Fact sheet

NSW Department of Primary Industries has coordinated the eradication of White Spot at three prawn farms in the Clarence River estuary since the first report of suspected disease in early February 2023.

A Control Order restricting the movement of all raw, uncooked decapod crustaceans from the area is in force until June 2025 to manage the risk of any further spread of the disease.

Following decontamination activities at the affected farms, a two-year surveillance program will be needed to show White Spot has been successfully eradicated.

Results from two years of surveillance are required for NSW to meet the standards required by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and declare the area is free from White Spot.

The surveillance plan has been designed to meet national and international criteria and expectations to support a self-declaration of freedom if all test results during the defined surveillance period are negative.

If White Spot is detected during this two-year surveillance program, NSW DPI will need to consider the findings to decide whether further surveillance is warranted.

All testing will be conducted at the Animal and Plant Health Laboratory at the Elizabeth MacArthur Agricultural Institute in accordance with the recommendations outlined by WOAH.

When the surveillance program is complete, and assuming all results for surveillance are negative for White Spot, NSW DPI will prepare a report to support the self-declaration of freedom and submit to the WOAH.

Wild prawn surveillance

NSW DPI will catch and test prawns from seven separate areas inshore and offshore from the Clarence River Control Zone in the marine environment beyond the break walls at the mouth of the Clarence River including:

- Marine environment 50km north of the mouth of the Clarence River
- Marine environment 50km south of the mouth of the Clarence River
- Clarence River near the intake and discharge points of prawn farms
- Key tributaries associated with prawn farms
- Lake Wooloweyah and
- Clarence Broadwater.

NSW DPI will catch and test a total of **194 prawns** or other crustacea from each area, twice a year, with samples taken at least three months apart.

Prawn farm surveillance

NSW DPI will provide prawn farm owners and staff with information about White Spot, notification requirements and movement controls.

Owners and staff are required to report any abnormal clinical signs or dead crustaceans to NSW DPI or the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline 1800 675 888.

Border zone surveillance

Commercial prawn species will be collected for testing from Ballina and Coffs Harbour Fishermen's Co-ops in March each year.

National WSSV Surveillance Program

NSW DPI will catch and test prawns from Richmond River and its estuary in March each year as part of the national surveillance program which has been underway since 2016.