

# Shellfish Hatchery and Translocation Protocol

## Production and Translocation into NSW Waters of Sydney Rock Oyster (*Saccostrea glomerata*) spat produced by SeaGen Aquaculture Pty Ltd, at 10 Beach Crescent, Newhaven, Victoria, 3925

### Purpose

The following biosecurity conditions and requirements have been developed to minimise the risk of the introduction of diseases and pests from Victorian waters into NSW waters via the translocation of Sydney Rock Oyster (*Saccostrea glomerata*) spat (juvenile seed stock) produced by SeaGen Aquaculture Pty Ltd at their hatchery at 10 Beach Crescent, Newhaven, Victoria, 3925 to Sydney Rock Oyster grow-out leases in NSW.

### Scope

Sydney Rock Oyster spat produced by SeaGen Aquaculture Pty Ltd at the source hatchery at Newhaven, Victoria, will only be permitted to be placed into NSW waters where it can be demonstrated that the spat have been produced and translocated in accordance with the following protocol.

Sydney Rock Oyster spat produced under this protocol may only be imported into NSW by persons or entities ('the shipper') authorised to farm Sydney Rock Oysters under Section 144 (Aquaculture Permit) of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* with a special or specific permit condition on their NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) Aquaculture Permit, that for the purpose of section 216 (1) of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* authorises Sydney Rock Oyster spat produced by SeaGen Aquaculture Pty Ltd in their hatchery at Newhaven Victoria to be placed onto the leases authorised by that permit (see definition for 'shipper' below).

Following the initial translocation by the shipper into waters of NSW, the Sydney Rock Oysters may only be on-sold for further cultivation within NSW, or otherwise translocated for further cultivation within NSW where that sale or other translocation is to a person/entity authorised to farm the Sydney Rock Oysters under Section 144 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* at that additional location, and is subject to the record keeping and reporting requirements in this protocol as well as to all conditions under the relevant Aquaculture permits and any other restrictions under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*, the Fisheries Management (Aquaculture) Regulation 2017, the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015* and the Biosecurity Regulation 2017.

A NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) Fisheries Officer under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* or Authorised Officer under the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015* may examine batches of Sydney Rock Oyster spat shipped from the source hatchery for SeaGen Aquaculture Pty Ltd at any time once a shipment enters NSW to ensure that the shipment complies with this protocol, the provisions of the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015*, the Biosecurity Regulation 2017, the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* and the Fisheries Management (Aquaculture) Regulation 2017.

**Note:** At any time a formal legal instrument can take effect that may override either parts of, or the entire, protocol.

Documentation requirements relating to translocation of Sydney Rock Oyster spat under this protocol must be provided to NSW Department of Primary Industries via email to both [oyster.import@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:oyster.import@dpi.nsw.gov.au) and [aquaculture.administration@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:aquaculture.administration@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

## General Biosecurity Duty

On 1 July 2017 the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act) commenced which provides a framework for responsibility for the biosecurity risk that is shared among the community, industry and government. The Act establishes a number of 'biosecurity duties' that include:

- a general biosecurity duty
- duties relating to Prohibited Matter, and
- a duty to notify biosecurity events.

The general biosecurity duty supports shared responsibility through its broad scope. Any person who deals with biosecurity matter or a carrier and who knows, or ought reasonably to know, the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by the biosecurity matter, carrier or dealing has a biosecurity duty to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised. The general biosecurity duty can be found in Part 3 of the Act and applies to everyone who ought reasonably to know the risks associated with biosecurity matter, including SeaGen Aquaculture Pty Ltd, the shipper, and any other person or entity that deals with the Sydney Rock Oysters produced and translocated under this protocol.

To ensure compliance with the general biosecurity duty, NSW DPI recommends that SeaGen Aquaculture Pty Ltd and the shipper each develop, maintain and follow a biosecurity plan that aims to minimise biosecurity risk to their hatchery facility, farms and surrounding areas. More information on the Act and the general biosecurity duty can be found on the webpage: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/aquatic-biosecurity/legislation-regulations>

NSW DPI also recommends that SeaGen implement disinfection processes of all seawater to meet the general biosecurity duty. This recommendation includes all seawater used in the larval, spat and algal production cycle associated with rearing the Sydney Rock Oysters to be subject to:

- a. Nominal filtration at 1 micron or less, followed by disinfection with any of the following methods
  - i. Ultraviolet radiation at a dose rate of at least 30 mJ/cm<sup>2</sup> OR
  - ii. Ozone at a dose rate of 1mg/L for 1 minute OR
  - iii. Sodium hypochlorite at a dose rate of 200ppm for a minimum of 2 hours, with subsequent effective dechlorination

In all cases, prior to disinfection, water should be suitably free of organic matter to ensure efficacy of the disinfection process

## Definitions

**Algal production cycle** means the time period from which algae is acquired and cultivated for use in the larval and spat production cycle.

**Closed hatchery system** means an enclosed land-based cultivation facility for oyster larvae and spat with biosecurity controls in place, isolated from estuarine production facilities and isolated from facilities that produce stock for any other purpose.

**Competent Authority** means a National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) accredited veterinary diagnostic laboratory (e.g. Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute; EMAI) approved by the NSW Chief Veterinary Officer.

**NSW DPI** means the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries, part of the Department of Regional NSW

**Individual batch** means a group of oyster spat produced from a single spawning event and held in an upweller system that uses the same source of water.

**Larval and spat production cycle** means the time period from spawning of oyster broodstock within a closed hatchery system, to rearing of larvae and resultant spat prior to importation into NSW.

**NSW** means New South Wales.

**Oyster Shipment Logbook** means a logbook in a form approved by the Secretary of the Department, including an electronic form, for purposes that include complying with Part 2, Division 3 of the Fisheries Management (Aquaculture) Regulation 2017 or of complying with the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*.

**Shipper** means the person who holds an aquaculture permit under section 144 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*, whose permit authorises the placement of Sydney Rock Oyster spat produced by SeaGen Aquaculture Pty Ltd at the source hatchery at Newhaven, Victoria onto the leases authorised by that permit under section 216 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*.

**Source hatchery** means an oyster hatchery facility approved by the NSW Chief Veterinary Officer to produce oysters for importation to NSW in accordance with this protocol, and for the purposes of this protocol refers to the SeaGen Aquaculture Pty Ltd oyster hatchery located at premises at 10 Beach Crescent, Newhaven, Victoria, 3925.

## Protocol

### 1) Hatchery

- (a) Sydney Rock Oyster (*Saccostrea glomerata*) spat (juvenile oysters) are to be produced in a closed hatchery system and are at no time to be placed in, or exposed to, unfiltered Victorian waters.
- (b) All seawater used in the hatchery system must be subject to nominal filtration 1.0 micron or less for the duration of the larval and spat production cycle. The hatchery must also certify that all seawater used in the larval, spat and algal production cycle has been subject to nominal filtration to 1.0 micron or less.
- (c) All tanks, valves and culture equipment used in the larval and spat production cycle must be cleaned with chlorine (made to a minimum solution of 200ppm active effective chlorine) and washed with fresh water prior to commencing the larval and spat production cycle.
- (d) Batches of Sydney Rock Oyster spat that are to be imported into NSW must be the progeny solely of broodstock which have been approved in writing by the NSW Chief Veterinary Officer.

### 2) Pre-dispatch Testing

The following requirements must be met no more than 30 days but not less than two working days prior to the importation into NSW:

- (a) One random sample of at least 300 spat from each individual batch (with each lot of 300 comprised of an equal number collected from each individual upweller or rearing vessel within the individual batch) of Sydney Rock Oyster spat must be forwarded for testing and/or examination to a competent authority for general health screen examination by histopathology for the presence of any prohibited matter as prescribed in Schedule 2 of the *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015*

and any notifiable matter as prescribed in Schedule 1, Part 2 of the Biosecurity Regulation 2017

- (b) A statement of general health and a certificate of disease status must be provided by the competent authority and emailed to the shipper, and to NSW Department of Primary Industries at both [oyster.import@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:oyster.import@dpi.nsw.gov.au) and [aquaculture.administration@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:aquaculture.administration@dpi.nsw.gov.au)
- (c) A batch of Sydney Rock Oyster spat produced by SeaGen Aquaculture Pty Ltd at the source hatchery may only be placed into NSW waters where:
  - (i) the batch of spat has been certified free of evidence of disease agents by the competent authority and
  - (ii) the certificate of disease status from the competent authority has been provided by SeaGen Aquaculture Pty Ltd to the shipper, and
  - (iii) the shipper has provided NSW DPI with the certificate of disease status from the competent authority via email to both [oyster.import@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:oyster.import@dpi.nsw.gov.au) and [aquaculture.administration@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:aquaculture.administration@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

### 3) Shipment Documentation and other information requirements

Prior to dispatch of each batch of Sydney Rock Oyster spat from SeaGen Aquaculture to NSW:

- (a) SeaGen Aquaculture Pty Ltd must prepare and email to the shipper not less than 48 hours prior to the translocation shipment, a declaration stating:
  - (i) the species of oyster and number and approximate size being shipped; and
  - (ii) that their requirements under (1) and (2) of this protocol have been met, and
  - (iii) include a copy of all laboratory findings and health certifications relevant to that shipment
- (b) The shipper must:
  - (i) complete a copy of the Oyster Shipment Log Book; and
  - (ii) provide a completed copy of the Oyster Shipment Log Book to SeaGen Aquaculture Pty Ltd, and
  - (iii) Email a copy to [oyster.import@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:oyster.import@dpi.nsw.gov.au) and [aquaculture.administration@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:aquaculture.administration@dpi.nsw.gov.au)
- (c) Copies of the following:
  - (i) All laboratory findings, including a statement of general health and certificate of disease status issued by a competent authority at 2)(b) above; and
  - (ii) Oyster Shipment Log Book at 3)(b)(i) above; and
  - (iii) The SeaGen Aquaculture Pty Ltd declaration at 3)(a) above

must accompany the Sydney Rock Oyster batch throughout shipment from the SeaGen Aquaculture into NSW, and are to be held by the shipper for a period of 12 months after the arrival of the shipment in NSW. Copies of the records must be produced to a fisheries officer under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*, or an authorised officer under the *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015*, on request.
- (d) The shipper is responsible for forwarding a copy of all documents, including but not limited to all laboratory results and declarations, required to be sent to or by them under this protocol to NSW DPI to both [oyster.import@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:oyster.import@dpi.nsw.gov.au) and [aquaculture.administration@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:aquaculture.administration@dpi.nsw.gov.au) not more than two weeks and not less than 48 hours prior to the translocation. This includes documents

already previously produced, and is for the entire period of leading up to the spat translocation shipment.

**4) Maintaining, sharing and production of records**

- a) Copies of all documents relating to the translocation are to be held by the shipper for a period of 12 months after the arrival of the shipment in NSW. Copies of the records must be produced to a fisheries officer under the NSW *Fisheries Management Act 1994*, or an authorised officer under the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015*, on request.
- b) If the shipper supplies any part of the Sydney Rock Oyster batch received from the source hatchery to another person/s or entity within 12 months after the arrival of the shipment in NSW, in addition to any other applicable shipment requirements, the following conditions must be adhered to:
  - i) the shipper must supply copies of all records required to accompany the shipment in (3)(c) to all persons or entities receiving part of the batch, and
  - ii) any person/s or entity who receives the batch or any part of that batch, is to retain these records for a period of 12 months and to produce copies of the records to a fisheries officer under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*, or an authorised officer under the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015*, on request
  - iii) the requirements in (3)(a), (3)(b)(i) and (3)(b)(ii) apply to all subsequent sales for cultivation in NSW or possession for cultivation within NSW of the Sydney Rock Oysters for 12 months after the arrival of the shipment in NSW.