

**Shellfish Hatchery Protocol
Production and translocation into NSW Pacific Oyster Mortality
Syndrome affected estuaries of
triploid Pacific Oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*) spat
produced by
Shellfish Culture Pty Ltd, Tasmania**

Purpose

The following protocol has been developed to minimise the risk of the introduction of diseases and pests from Tasmanian waters into NSW Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS) affected estuaries via movement of triploid Pacific Oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*) spat (juvenile seed stock) produced by Shellfish Culture Pty Ltd, Tasmania (Shellfish Culture).

Scope

Triploid Pacific Oyster spat produced by Shellfish Culture will only be permitted to be placed into NSW where it can be demonstrated that the spat have been produced in accordance with the following protocol. Triploid Pacific Oyster spat produced under this protocol may only be shipped to the estuaries specified in clause 50 of the NSW Biosecurity Regulation 2017. The triploid Pacific Oyster spat produced under this protocol may only be shipped to persons authorised by a special permit condition on their NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) Aquaculture Permit that endorses triploid Pacific Oyster importation from Tasmania and triploid Pacific Oyster cultivation in NSW.

It is the responsibility of the shipper to ensure that all batches of triploid Pacific Oyster spat shipped from Shellfish Culture into NSW comply with the record keeping provisions specified in Division 3 Clause 13 of the Fisheries Management (Aquaculture) Regulation 2017.

A NSW DPI Fisheries Officer or Authorised Officer may examine batches of triploid Pacific Oyster spat shipped from Shellfish Culture 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 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.

General Biosecurity Duty

On 1 July 2017 the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015* 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.

To ensure compliance with the general biosecurity duty, NSW DPI recommends that Shellfish Culture develops and maintains a biosecurity plan that aims to minimise biosecurity risk to the farm and surrounding area. More information on the Act and the general biosecurity duty can be found on the website:

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/biosecurity-legislation>

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.

Independent certifier means the Tasmanian Government Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment or other certifier as approved by the NSW Chief Veterinary Officer.

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 cultivation of larvae, to spat prior to importation into NSW.

NSW POMS affected estuary means an estuary described in Clause 50 of the NSW Biosecurity Regulation 2017.

Oyster Shipment Log Book means a log book in a form approved by the Secretary of the Department for purposes of complying with conditions imposed by this protocol and Division 3 of the Fisheries Management (Aquaculture) Regulation 2017.

Shipper means the NSW aquaculture permit holder whose permit lists the lease(s) on which the triploid Pacific Oyster spat will be placed.

Source hatchery means the Shellfish Culture Pty Ltd oyster hatchery facility at 290 Bicheno Street, Clifton Beach, Tasmania, 7020.

Triploid Pacific Oyster spat means oyster spat produced with a triploidy rate that has been certified as 100% triploid¹ by the supplier.

¹100% triploidy is a condition of approval under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* for the cultivation of Pacific Oysters in NSW POMS affected estuaries.

Protocol

1) Hatchery

- (a) Triploid Pacific Oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*) 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 Tasmanian waters.
- (b) All seawater used in the hatchery system must be subject to nominal filtration 20 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 20 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) Prior to the first triploid Pacific Oyster spat batch being imported to NSW POMS affected estuaries, and thereafter every 12 months, the independent certifier is to certify that the source hatchery meets 1)(a) and has the capacity to meet 1)(b)-(c).

2) Pre-dispatch Testing

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

- (a) A random sample of at least 300 spat from each individual batch (with an equal number collected from each individual upweller within that batch) of triploid Pacific Oyster spat are to be forwarded for testing and examination to a competent authority for a general health screen by histopathology for the presence of any prohibited matter as prescribed in Schedule 2, Part 1 of the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015*, and any notifiable diseases as prescribed in Schedule 1, Part 2 of the NSW *Biosecurity Regulation 2017*.
- (b) A statement of general health and a certificate of disease status must be provided by the competent authority.
- (c) A batch of triploid Pacific Oyster spat produced at the source hatchery may only be placed into NSW where that batch of spat has been certified free of evidence of disease agents by the competent authority.

3) Shipment Documentation

Prior to dispatch of each batch of triploid Pacific Oyster spat from the source hatchery to NSW POMS affected estuaries:

- (a) 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 the source hatchery.
- (b) The source hatchery must prepare a declaration stating:
 - (i) the species of oyster shipped; and
 - (ii) 100% triploidy rate certification; and
 - (iii) that the requirements of 1) and 2) of this protocol have been met.
- (c) Copies of the:
 - (i) statement of general health and certificate of disease status at 2)(b) above; and
 - (ii) Oyster Shipment Log Book at 3)(a)(i) above; and
 - (iii) the source hatchery declaration at 3)(b) above

must accompany the triploid Pacific Oyster batch throughout shipment from the source hatchery into NSW POMS affected estuaries, and should be held for a period of 12 months after the arrival of the shipment in NSW POMS

affected estuaries by the shipper and any other person who receives the triploid Pacific Oyster batch or any part of that batch.

(d) Copies of the:

- (i) statement of general health and certificate of disease status at 2)(b) above; and
- (ii) Oyster Shipment Log Book at 3)(a)(i) above; and
- (iii) the source hatchery declaration at 3)(b) above

must be emailed to NSW DPI to the address: oyster.import@dpi.nsw.gov.au