

Shellfish Hatchery Protocol

Production and Translocation into NSW of Sydney Rock Oyster (*Saccostrea glomerata*) spat produced by AquaFarms Queensland Pty Ltd, East Booral, Queensland

Purpose

The following protocol has been developed to minimise the risk of the introduction of diseases and pests from Queensland waters into NSW via Sydney Rock Oyster (*Saccostrea glomerata*) spat (juvenile seed stock) produced by the AquaFarms Queensland Pty Ltd oyster hatchery facility at 91 Shore Road, East Booral, Queensland 4655 (AquaFarms).

Scope

Sydney Rock Oyster spat produced by AquaFarms will only be permitted to be placed into NSW waters where it can be demonstrated that the spat have been produced in accordance with the following protocol. Sydney Rock Oyster spat produced under this protocol may only be shipped to persons who hold a NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) Class A Aquaculture Permit that endorses Sydney Rock Oyster cultivation in NSW.

It is the responsibility of the shipper to ensure that all batches of Sydney Rock Oyster spat shipped from AquaFarms into NSW comply with the record keeping provisions specified in Division 3 Section 13 of the Fisheries Management (Aquaculture) Regulation 2012.

A NSW DPI Fisheries Officer or Authorised Officer may examine batches of Sydney Rock Oyster spat shipped from AquaFarms 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 2012.

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

General Biosecurity Duty

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.

To ensure compliance with the general biosecurity duty, NSW DPI recommends that AquaFarms 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 a competent 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 a 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.

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 2012.

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

Source Hatchery means the Aquafarms Queensland Pty Ltd oyster hatchery facility at 91 Shore Road, East Booral, Queensland 4655.

Protocol

1) Hatchery & Larval Rearing

- (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 Queensland 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, internal water supply lines, 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 NSW DPI.
- (e) Prior to the first Sydney Rock Oyster spat batch being imported to the NSW, 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)-(d).

3) Pre-dispatch Diagnostic 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) A random sample of at least 300 spat from each individual batch (comprised of an equal number of spat collected from each upweller used to produce that batch) of Sydney Rock Oyster spat are to be forwarded for testing and examination to a competent authority for the following:
 - (i) 300 spat are to be tested by polymerase chain reaction for the presence of the QX organism (*Martelia sydneyi*); and
 - (ii) 300 spat are to be examined 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 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 Sydney Rock Oyster spat produced at the source hatchery may only be placed into NSW where the batch of spat has been certified free of evidence of disease agents by the competent authority.

4) Shipment Documentation

Prior to dispatch of each batch of Sydney Rock Oyster spat from the source hatchery to NSW:

- (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) that the requirements of (2) and (3) of this protocol have been met.
- (c) Copies of the:
 - (i) statement of general health and certificate of disease status at 3)(b) above; and
 - (ii) Oyster Shipment Log Book at 4)(a)(i) above; and
 - (iii) the source hatchery declaration at 4)(b) above

must accompany the Sydney Rock Oyster batch throughout shipment from the source hatchery into NSW, and should be held for a period of 12 months after the arrival of the shipment in NSW by the shipper and any other person who receives the Sydney Rock Oyster batch or any part of that batch.
- (d) Copies of the:
 - (i) statement of general health and certificate of disease status at 3)(b) above; and
 - (ii) Oyster Shipment Log Book at 4)(a)(i) above; and
 - (iii) the source hatchery declaration at 4)(b) above

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