

## **NSW Blue Mussel spat translocation protocol** **(Twofold Bay to Jervis Bay)**

This translocation protocol outlines biosecurity requirements that must be implemented to move Blue Mussel spat from Twofold Bay to Jervis Bay for commercial aquaculture grow-out, according to conditions of an approved Aquaculture Permit.

### **1) Purpose**

To describe the biosecurity conditions and requirements that have been developed to minimise the risk of the introduction of diseases and pests from Twofold Bay into grow-out lease/s in Jervis Bay via translocation of Blue Mussel spat (juvenile seed stock). This includes: pre-translocation requirements; inspection and monitoring requirements of fouling organisms and pre-translocation treatments. The requirements within this protocol have been developed to reduce the risk of translocating notifiable and emerging diseases.

### **2) Scope**

Blue Mussel spat will only be permitted to be placed into Jervis Bay, NSW, where it can be demonstrated that the spat have been produced in accordance with the following protocol. Blue Mussel spat produced under this protocol may only be shipped to persons authorised to farm Blue Mussels under Section 144 (Aquaculture Permit) of the *NSW Fisheries Management Act 1994* (the Act) and by a special permit condition.

It is the responsibility of the shipper to ensure that all batches of Blue Mussel spat shipped from Twofold Bay into Jervis Bay 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 Blue Mussel spat at any time 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.

The protocol takes effect as an aquaculture permit condition. Please note that all other relevant legislation also applies.

**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 Blue Mussel spat under this protocol must be provided to [aquaculture.administration@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:aquaculture.administration@dpi.nsw.gov.au).

### 3) 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 *Biosecurity Act 2015* establishes a number of 'biosecurity duties' that include:

- A general biosecurity duty
- Duties relating to prohibited matter, and
- A duty to notify biosecurity events.

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 *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

To ensure compliance with the general biosecurity duty, NSW DPI recommends that relevant permit holders develop and maintain a biosecurity plan that aims to minimise biosecurity risk to the farm and surrounding area. More information on the *Biosecurity Act 2015* can be found at: <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/biosecurity-legislation>

## Protocol

### 1. Pre-translocation inspection conditions

- a) All Blue Mussel spat culture ropes are to be inspected within 48 hours of the translocation event to identify any significant unexplained or unusual Blue Mussel mortality; and
- b) All spat culture ropes are to be inspected within 48 hours of the translocation event to identify any unexplained or unusual fouling organisms
- c) No shipment of Blue Mussel spat is authorised if the NSW Food Authority has a closure in place under the Marine Biotoxin Management Plan (manage of toxic dinoflagellates, and algae)

If any of the above issues are detected the translocation must not occur until notification of the observations have been made to NSW DPI either directly to the Aquatic Biosecurity team via the Port Stephens Fisheries Switch on (02) 4982 1232 or via the 24-hour Animal Disease Emergency Hotline on 1800 675 888. Further investigation may be required following this notification.

### 2. Pre-translocation treatment of spat conditions

- a) Blue Mussel spat are to be stripped from the culture ropes using a de-clumping device that separates the mussel spat from the spat collection rope, other mussels and large fouling organisms (i.e. sponges, macro algae) while also pressure washing the individual spat;
- b) The single de-clumped spat are to be placed over a sorting bench to inspect and remove fouled Blue Mussel spat, fouling organisms, particularly macro algae, ascidians, crabs, molluscs and sponges that may remain after de-clumping treatment;
- c) Spat is then to be graded to ensure only spat no greater than 55 mm in total length are translocated;
- d) Graded spat no greater than 55 mm in total length are to be immersed in freshwater for a minimum of 2 hours; and
- e) After the freshwater treatment the Blue Mussel spat are to remain out of water for a minimum of 12 hours.

### 3. Reporting conditions

- a) Fouling organisms that are removed during the post de-clumping inspection on the sorting table are to be recorded including photographs outlining quantity and genera. Crabs removed are to be collected and identified by a suitably qualified person and recorded.
  - i. These records must be retained and made available to a Fisheries Officer or an Authorised Officer of NSW DPI upon request.

#### 4. Shipment Documentation

Prior to dispatch of each batch of Blue Mussel spat from Twofold Bay to Jervis Bay:

- a) The shipper must:
  - i. Complete a copy of the Oyster Shipment Logbook; and
  - ii. Provide notification of the translocation event to the NSW DPI Fisheries Offices at Eden (02 6496 8200) and Huskisson (02 4428 3400) not less than 48 hours and not more than 2 weeks prior to movement. The notification must include:
    1. Name of the shipping permit holder and aquaculture permit number;
    2. Estimated date and time of translocation shipment; and
    3. Name of the receiving permit holder and aquaculture permit number.
  - iii. Documentation requirements relating to Part 3 and 4 of this protocol must be provided to [aquaculture.administration@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:aquaculture.administration@dpi.nsw.gov.au).

This protocol may be amended at any time.