

OYSTER CULTIVATION BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES SERIES – NO 5

Biosecurity Risk Management Plan Guidelines

Version 1 – August 2019

The best defence against diseases and pests is the implementation of sound biosecurity practices on farm. The development of a farm based Biosecurity Risk Management Plan facilitates the identification of biosecurity hazards and prioritisation of risk mitigation measures and simple practices necessary to protect the farm from potential diseases and pests. The development of a Biosecurity Risk Management Plan will also provide greater disease and pest protection for the wider industry.

NSW DPI requires that all Class A Aquaculture Permit applications include a Biosecurity Risk Management Plan. As a minimum the Biosecurity Risk Management Plan should address the following:

1. Identification of potential diseases and pests

The identification of those diseases and pests that have the potential to affect the commercial viability of oyster farming in NSW and the risk that these diseases and pests pose to the proposed oyster farming business.

Information regarding diseases and pests that have the potential to affect oyster farms is available at: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/aquatic

2. Identification and assessment of biosecurity risks

All movements of stock, vehicles, vessels and equipment on-farm, inter-farm and inter-estuary must be assessed for potential disease and pest transmission risks.

3. Mitigation measures to manage biosecurity risks

Appropriate measures must be developed and implemented to manage identified biosecurity risks. Examples include but are not limited to the following:

Compliance with controls on movements of oysters and equipment

Movement controls are currently in place in NSW to manage biosecurity risks posed by shipping cultivated oysters and cultivation equipment between NSW estuaries. These controls include:

- Permit conditions relating to the movement of oysters and material between estuaries ([Part 2, Division 3 of the Fisheries Management \(Aquaculture\) Regulation 2017](#));
- QX disease biosecurity zone ([Part 3, Division 2 of Biosecurity Regulation 2017](#));

- Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome biosecurity zone ([Part 3, Division 3 of Biosecurity Regulation 2017](#)); and
- [Biosecurity \(Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome\) Control Order 2018](#).

Reporting movements of oysters and equipment – Oyster Shipment Logbook and IVR system

All shipments of oysters (except those being moved within the one estuary or those being harvested directly for human consumption) must have shipment details recorded in the shipping permit holders Oyster Shipment Logbook or the interactive voice record system (IVR) prior to shipping.

No oysters may be removed from a lease subject to a clean-up order, and placed on any other lease, unless the oysters are first inspected by a fisheries officer and comply with the neat and tidy management requirements. A comprehensive [shipment rules report](#) has been developed to assist oyster growers to identify lawful shipments under these control measures. See the [Shellfish Shipment System User Guide](#) for further information.

Compliance with aquaculture permit conditions (biosecurity)

Permit holders must comply with [aquaculture permit conditions](#) for biosecurity.

Staff biosecurity training

All staff must receive biosecurity training to ensure they have a clear understanding of their responsibilities to maintain farm biosecurity. Staff must be able to recognise signs of ill health, be informed about the major disease transmission routes onto, within and from the farm, as well as be familiar with work practices and standard operating procedures that support farm biosecurity. Staff must also have a clear understanding of how to implement response protocols and emergency procedures.

Reporting procedures

Reporting unusual mortality and/or suspected disease events is a requirement and condition of every Class A Aquaculture Permit. All staff must understand this requirement and the reporting procedures. For further information, refer to NSW DPI website – [Reporting aquatic disease and pests](#) and [Oyster mortality](#).

Record keeping

Records must be kept for all movements of stock onto the farm, between zones of different biosecurity status within the farm and from the farm. Records must also be kept for the health of all the different stock populations within the farm, including details such as disease testing, sickness, treatments, mortality and relevant information on environmental factors. Records must also be kept for staff biosecurity training, stock receipts and inspections, cleaning and audits.

Cleaning Vessels and Equipment

Aquaculture permit holders must ensure that their boats and aquaculture equipment are clean before moving between waterways to assist in reducing the spread of diseases and pests between NSW waterways. For further information, refer to the [Make 'clean' part of your routine](#) advisory brochure.

Waste Management

Waste products such as dead oysters, processing waste and cleaning effluent can be vectors for transmission of disease and pests onto a farm and their biosecurity risk to

farms and the environment must be assessed. Appropriate infrastructure and procedures are required to manage the disease and pest risks associated with the containment, handling and disposal of waste products.

4. Emergency Disease Action Plan

The Emergency Disease Action Plan must describe the response procedures for a suspected emergency biosecurity incident. All staff should have a clear understanding of the plan and their role and responsibilities in an emergency. For further information on emergency procedures, refer to the [Aquaculture Farm Biosecurity Plan: generic guidelines and template](#) – Section 10.

5. Review and Audit

The Biosecurity Risk Management Plan must include a schedule for routine review and identify any triggers for extraordinary review, such as increased production or the occurrence of a biosecurity incident. Routine audit of the plan (and effective record keeping of formal audits) must also be conducted to ensure it is being implemented effectively and to identify any operation deficiencies.

6. Legislation and Regulations

Permit holders must comply with relevant legislation and regulations including:

- [Biosecurity Act 2015](#);
- [Biosecurity Regulation 2017](#) – [Part 2](#), [Part 3](#), [Part 6](#) and [Schedule 1](#).
- [Biosecurity Order \(Permitted Activities\) 2019](#) – [Part 3](#);
- [Fisheries Management Act 1994](#) – [Part 6](#) and [Part 7: Division 7](#); and
- [Fisheries Management \(Aquaculture\) Regulation 2017](#) – [Part 2: Division 3](#).

More information

- [The Aquaculture Farm Biosecurity Plan: generic guidelines and template](#)
- Visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/aquatic
- Contact NSW DPI Aquatic Biosecurity on 1800 678 888 or email aquatic.pests@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

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Published by the Department of Primary Industries.