

28 August 2000

ANIMAL QUARANTINE POLICY MEMORANDUM 2000/42

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS: FRESHWATER CRAYFISH PROGRESS REPORT

This Animal Quarantine Policy Memorandum (AQPM) provides a report on progress of the import risk analysis (IRA) of non-viable freshwater crayfish.

AQPM 1999/31 of 17 May 1999 reported on the early activities of the risk analysis panel (RAP) on the IRA of freshwater crayfish. The analysis has been delayed because AQIS was required to give priority to the accelerated salmon IRA and related work as well as progressing the prawn and prawn products IRA.

The membership of the RAP has changed with Dr Bernard Robinson of this Branch replacing Dr Peter Beers who has moved on to another area of the Department. The other members are Associate Professor Louis Evans (Aquatic Science Research Unit, Curtin University of Technology), Dr Grant Rawlin (National Office of Animal and Plant Health (NOAPH) and Dr Brett Edgerton (AQIS).

AQIS also provided the technical issues paper for public comment in under cover of AQPM 1999/31. Three responses were received and the RAP is taking these comments into account in developing the draft IRA report. The next step is the circulation of the draft report and we anticipate this will be before the end of the year. However, the finalisation of the prawn IRA and other commitments may impact on the timing of its release. The contact officer is able to provide updates on the status of this and other aquatic IRAs.

As part of the freshwater crayfish IRA, AQIS commissioned the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science in Weymouth, the United Kingdom, to determine the effects of freezing and cooking on the viability on the major quarantine concern, the crayfish plague fungus *Aphanomyces astaci*. The research was conducted in three separate studies:

- . The effects of heat and cold on survival of *Aphanomyces astaci* mycelium
- . The effects of heat and cold on the survival of *Aphanomyces astaci* spores
- . The effect of freezing and cooking on the viability of *Aphanomyces astaci* in crayfish tissues.

The "Summary Final Report: Effects of exposure to high and low temperatures on the survival of the crayfish plague fungus *A. astaci* in vitro and in vivo" can be viewed on the AQIS Internet homepage at <http://www.aqis.gov.au/docs/anpolicy/iracurr.htm>. Alternatively copies can be made available on request.

In the context of its aquatic work program, AQIS also commissioned two consultancies. The first is a report by Aquaculture Development and Veterinary Services on the 'Routes for exposure of aquatic animals to aquatic animal products intended for human consumption'. The other report by the National Office of Animal and Plant Health studies the factors involved in, and feasibility of, testing imported aquatic animal products for the presence of exotic pathogens, and is entitled 'Sampling imported aquatic animal products for quarantine purposes'. These reports are also on the Internet site and will be assessed to determine their relevance to the freshwater crayfish IRA.

Confidentiality

Respondents are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1982*, all submissions received in response to Animal Quarantine Policy Memoranda will be publicly available and may be listed or referred to in any papers or reports prepared on the subject matter of the Memoranda.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reveal the identity of a respondent unless a request for anonymity accompanies the submission. Where a request for anonymity does not accompany the submission the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of his or her identity for the purposes of Information Privacy Principle 11 of the Privacy Act.

The contents of the submission will not be treated as confidential unless they are marked 'confidential' and they are capable of being classified as such in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

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