



Department of
**AGRICULTURE
FISHERIES &
FORESTRY -
AUSTRALIA**



24 June 2002

ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2002/32

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS: NON-VIABLE PRAWNS AND PRAWN PRODUCTS PROGRESS REPORT

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) provides stakeholders with reports on the recent prawn Risk Analysis Panel (RAP) meeting and the public workshop. Information on further steps in the prawn Import Risk Analysis (IRA) process is provided.

ABPM 2002/11 of 25 March 2002 provided stakeholders with an update on the non-viable prawns and prawn products IRA and details on the next steps, including proposed public workshops. ABPM 2002/16 of 22 April 2002 invited stakeholders to a public workshop in Brisbane on Tuesday, 21 May 2002. The RAP met in Brisbane on the preceding day, Monday, 20 May 2002.

RAP meeting

During its meeting on 20 May 2002, the RAP discussed:

- the bait and berley use survey;
- the awareness campaign (on the safe use and handling of aquatic animals and their products);
- the national White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV) survey;
- the national Yellow Head Virus (YHV) survey;
- a review of State and Territory legislation and licensing arrangements for the bait industry and post-entry controls to prevent the diversion of imported prawns to bait use;
- the effects of disease on wild populations;
- Biosecurity Australia's new methodology for IRAs, including the analysis of release and exposure pathways;
- the RAP's approach to stakeholder submissions;
- the revised work plan for the IRA; and
- the outline of the public workshop to be held the following day.

The RAP reflected on a number of issues that have arisen since the release of the draft IRA report in August 2000. In consideration of the comments received from stakeholders on the draft report, the Darwin incident, the national WSSV and YHV surveys, the national bait and berley use survey and Biosecurity Australia's new methodology for IRA's, the RAP recommended that a revised draft IRA report be released for public comment. Biosecurity Australia has accepted this recommendation.

The RAP also agreed that detailed responses to the issues raised in stakeholder submissions on the draft IRA report should be an appendix in the revised draft.



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Public workshop on the IRA

The public workshop was held in the Queensland Department of Primary Industries' offices in Brisbane on 21 May 2002. Approximately twenty stakeholders from around Australia attended. Stakeholders were provided with an update on recent work relating to the prawn IRA, the next steps in the IRA process and were given an opportunity to raise any concerns arising from either the draft IRA report or from events since its release in August 2000. A report on the public workshop is attached.

Next Steps

The next RAP meeting is scheduled for late July 2002. We will issue another ABPM after the meeting, summarising its outcomes.

Please pass this circular to other interested parties whom you may know of, and who should advise Biosecurity Australia if they wish to be included in future communications on this matter.

Documentation

All ABPMs and reference documents related to this IRA are available on our website, <http://www.affa.gov.au/animalbiosecurity>. [Follow the links to 'current Animal IRAs' then 'Prawns and Prawn Products' or 'Prawns and Prawn Products Reference Documents'.]

Confidentiality

Respondents are advised that, subject to the Freedom of Information Act 1982 and the Privacy Act 1988, all submissions received in response to Animal Biosecurity 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 as being classified as such in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

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Prawns and Prawn Products Import Risk Analysis (IRA)

Summary of public workshop held in Brisbane on 21 May 2002

A discussion paper for the workshop, 'A summary of stakeholder responses to the draft IRA report', was circulated with Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) 2002/11 on 25 March 2002. Copies of the paper are available from Animal Biosecurity or by accessing the following website: www.affa.gov.au/animalbiosecurity (follow the links to Current Animal IRAs, Prawns and Prawn Products – the discussion paper is ABPM 2002/11a).

Attendees

A list of attendees is at Attachment A.

Summary of meeting and outcomes

1. Welcome

The meeting commenced with a welcome to stakeholders from Dr David Banks, General Manager, Animal Biosecurity, Biosecurity Australia and chair of the Risk Analysis Panel (RAP) for the prawns and prawn products IRA. Dr Banks introduced the other panel members and representatives of Biosecurity Australia present at the meeting. Apologies were offered from those RAP members unable to attend. Dr Banks then provided an overview of the outline of the day's meeting and the objectives of the meeting from the RAP's perspective.

2. Overview

Dr Peter Beers, Animal Biosecurity, provided attendees with an overview of the history of the prawns and prawn products IRA.

3. Presentation and discussion of issues

Dr Vanessa Findlay, Animal Biosecurity, led the discussion on the issues raised in stakeholder submissions on the draft IRA report that were detailed in the discussion paper released with ABPM 2002/11. Other issues discussed at the meeting included:

- ***IRA process***
 - the confusion created by the use of similar and / or identical common names to describe more than one species (for example, 'white shrimp', 'krill')
 - the mechanism for review of the IRA in light of significant new information was queried.
- ***Risk Assessment***
 - Victoria Alday de Graingorge's paper on White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV) infection in polychaetes and fish.
- ***Risk management***
 - whether the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) would consider 'waiving' the 15 gram limit for wild-caught prawns from the same run-of-catch as batches of larger prawns that had tested negative for WSSV in quarantine testing
 - AQIS's ability to assess whether or not product was intended for human consumption

- that imported product is not tested for WSSV prior to arrival in Australia
 - whether AQIS would consider reducing WSSV testing frequency for consignments originating from fisheries that have consistently tested negative for WSSV
 - whether Animal Biosecurity is considering testing for yellowhead virus (YHV) as a future risk management measure.
- ***Other issues raised***
 - the absence of a central contact point for government agencies that deal with quarantine and fisheries issues – in particular, it is not clear which agency deals with which issues and so stakeholders are unsure of the agency to contact with enquiries (and the subsequent delays in receiving an answer from government agencies as to who to approach)
 - the distinction between food standards and quarantine issues (as both are implemented by AQIS but the policies are developed by separate agencies)
 - the approach the World Organisation for Animal Health (Office International des Epizooties (OIE)) has taken to consider including YHV and gill-associated virus (GAV) within the same disease group
 - the need for Biosecurity Australia to consult bait sellers regarding the source of their supplies in addition to surveying recreational fishers
 - the methodology of the survey of bait and berley use by recreational fishers
 - the inclusion of a wide range of crustacean species in the national WSSV survey
 - the availability of Commonwealth funding for ongoing surveillance for WSSV in wild crustacean populations.

The panel will consider all the issues discussed at the public meeting and will address them in the revised draft IRA report. Dr Banks undertook to pass on stakeholder concerns regarding compliance with the interim conditions to AQIS. Dr Banks also agreed that Biosecurity Australia would investigate criteria for assessing disease-free fisheries and the possibility of establishing a central contact point for stakeholders on Commonwealth quarantine and fisheries issues.

4. Conclusion

In closing the meeting, Dr Banks provided an overview of the next steps in the IRA process, most notably that the panel recommends a revised draft IRA report be released. He indicated that the main considerations in releasing a revised draft were the comments received from stakeholders on the original draft IRA report, the Darwin incident, the national WSSV and YHV surveys, the national bait and berley use survey and Biosecurity Australia's new methodology for IRAs. Dr Banks confirmed Biosecurity Australia's commitment to finalising the IRA in a timely manner.

Dr Banks then thanked those attending and encouraged stakeholders to continue to provide input into the IRA – in particular, to provide technical input and comments.

ATTENDEE LIST

Participant	Organisation
Chris Baldock	Ausvet
Martin Breen	Australian Prawn Farmers Association
Richard Callinan	Risk Analysis Panel member
Marty Deveney	Department of Primary Industry and Resources – South Australia
Liz and Rodney Evans	Primo Aquaculture
Tiina Hawkesford	Queensland Department of Primary Industries (QDPI)
Hope Kearney	Sontari Foods
Nick Kemp	
Lisa McKenzie	A Raptis and Sons
Martin Perkins	Queensland Seafood Marketers Association
Harry Peters	Seafood Importers' Association of Australia (SIAA)
Ian Poiner	Northern Prawn Fishery Advisory Committee
Arthur Raptis	A Raptis and Sons
Russell Rogers	Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service – veterinary laboratory
Karen Silk	A Raptis and Sons
Dennis Spooner	Australian Seafood Processors / SIAA
Wendy Townsend	QDPI
Peter Walker	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) Laboratory
Annette Windybank	Windybank's Bait Service
David Banks	Biosecurity Australia
Peter Beers	Biosecurity Australia
Vanessa Findlay	Biosecurity Australia
Belinda Wright	Biosecurity Australia