



Australian Government
Biosecurity Australia

20 June 2007

BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA POLICY MEMORANDUM 2007/13
IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS OF PRAWNS AND PRAWN PRODUCTS -
STATUS REPORT

This Biosecurity Australia Policy Memorandum (BAPM) informs stakeholders that Biosecurity Australia will shortly conclude its initial consideration of submissions from stakeholders on the *Revised Draft Generic Import Risk Analysis Report for Prawns and Prawn Products*.

The comment period on the revised draft report closed on 21 February 2007 and more than 50 submissions have been received. These are being carefully considered by Biosecurity Australia and discussions have also been held with some stakeholders to ensure a thorough understanding of the technical issues raised in submissions. Stakeholder submissions are now available on the Import Risk Analysis (IRA) public file, together with a copy of a report of a follow up survey on the use of prawns as bait and berley that was commissioned by Biosecurity Australia.

When releasing the revised draft report and in subsequent public statements, Biosecurity Australia has indicated that, subject to considering stakeholder comments, it intended to recommend strengthening the current interim conditions for imported prawns and prawn products pending finalisation of the IRA. As the consideration of stakeholder comments is almost complete, Biosecurity Australia will finalise consideration of the adequacy of current quarantine measures within the next few weeks.

The comment period for the revised draft IRA report for prawns and prawn products for human consumption, issued on 23 November 2006 (BAPM 2006/35) closed on 21 February 2007.

Biosecurity Australia received more than 50 submissions from stakeholders. The submissions have been considered by the IRA team of aquatic experts conducting the analysis and by Biosecurity Australia. Discussions have also been held with a number of stakeholders regarding the issues raised in their submissions. The submissions are now available on the IRA public file and on the Biosecurity Australia website www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au.

As part of the work program for the revised draft IRA report, Biosecurity Australia commissioned Kewagama Research to undertake a follow up survey to their 2002 'National Survey of Bait and Berley Use by Recreational Fishers'. The follow up survey focussed on the use of prawns as bait and berley. A summary of the survey findings and the survey data are also available on the Biosecurity Australia website.

When the revised draft IRA report was issued, Biosecurity Australia announced that it intended, subject to the consideration of stakeholder comments, to consider recommending to Australia's Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine that the current interim quarantine measures be strengthened pending finalisation of the IRA. This remains our intention and Biosecurity Australia

expects that it will be in a position shortly to make recommendations as to whether stronger interim measures are required. Further advice on this matter will be issued in the next few weeks.

Changes to the IRA process were announced by the Australian Government on 18 October 2006 (see BAPM 2006/29). However, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry noted the prawn IRA was one of a number of IRAs that is well advanced and will be finished under the existing IRA process.

The next steps are to finalise consideration of whether stronger interim quarantine measures need to be introduced. Following this, Biosecurity Australia, with the assistance of an expert IRA team, will prepare a final IRA report, giving further consideration to the scientific and technical issues raised in stakeholder submissions, and any new science that may have become available. This final report will then be reviewed by an independent Eminent Scientists Group to ensure that Biosecurity Australia has taken stakeholders' comments properly into account. The final report, which is open to formal appeal, will then be published. Following any appeal process (and implementation of appeal outcomes, if required) a final report and recommendations will be provided to Australia's Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine, who will then make a quarantine policy determination.

Biosecurity Australia intends to complete the final IRA report in a timely fashion, giving full consideration to the issues raised in submissions.

Consultation

Please pass this notice to other interested parties. If those parties wish to be included in future communications on this matter they should get in touch with the contact officer (details below).

Information on risk assessments and policy reviews being conducted by Biosecurity Australia is available on the Internet at www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au.

Confidentiality

Stakeholders are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received in response to 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 1988*.

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 1982*.

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