



File: 98/1923

1 May 2002

ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2002/18

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS: NON-VIABLE BIVALVE MOLLUSCS

PROGRESS REPORT

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) provides stakeholders with a progress report on, and the next steps in, the import risk analysis (IRA) of non-viable bivalve molluscs.

Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum 2001/30 was circulated to stakeholders on 5 November 2001. It provided an update on the IRA, including possible public meetings, and also canvassed proposed changes to the membership of the Risk Analysis Panel (RAP). Four stakeholders responded, three expressed interest in the public meetings and one suggested a new member for the panel.

Animal Biosecurity followed up on the suggestion of a new member and subsequently included Dr Brian Jones from Western Australia's Department of Fisheries. Dr Jones is a well-known aquatic specialist, he was an important reviewer for the accelerated aquatic IRAs (salmon, finfish and ornamental finfish) in 1999 and he is also a new member of the freshwater crayfish RAP. His expertise in mollusc diseases, as a result of his involvement with the pearl oyster industry, provides valuable expertise and experience to the non-viable bivalve mollusc RAP. The Executive Manager has approved the revised membership.

The panel held an introductory teleconference on 14 February 2002 and discussed its work program. Just prior to the meeting, Ms Paula Shoulder, an AFFA officer, resigned to take up the position of Departmental Liaison Officer in Senator Macdonald's office. In acknowledging Ms Shoulder's expertise, the RAP assessed its requirements and, in light of the additional expertise now provided by Dr Jones, considered that they had sufficient expertise among the five remaining members to meet their terms of reference. The panel is:

Dr Peter Beers (chair)	Animal Biosecurity
Dr Judith Handler	Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment
Dr Robert Adlard	Queensland Museum
Dr Brian Jones	Fisheries Western Australia
Dr Ramesh Perera	Animal Biosecurity

Next Steps

The teleconference briefly discussed the scope and purpose of the first technical consultation, the *Technical Issues Paper* (TIP). A second meeting of the RAP is set

for 13-14 May 2002 to progress the TIP. It is tentatively planned that this paper will be released for public comment in late July 2002.

Biosecurity Australia would welcome any comments on this ABPM.

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. All inquiries should be directed to the officer whose contact details appear below.

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 of being classified as such in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

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