

Health protocol for the movement of live bivalve molluscs

Aquaculture Protocol FAMPR003

Version 3

July 2019

Approved by:



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Date: 30 / 7 / 19



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1.0 Title and document history

This document is the Health protocol for the movement of live bivalve molluscs, Aquaculture Protocol FAMPR003 version 3, July 2019. This health protocol supersedes the previous version Health protocol for the translocation and movement of live bivalve molluscs, Aquaculture Protocol FAMPR003 version 2, June 2011.

Revision history

Version	Title
August 2005	Health protocol for the movement of live bivalve molluscs, Aquaculture Protocol FAMPR003. August 2005.
June 2011	Health protocol for the translocation and movement of live bivalve molluscs, Aquaculture Protocol FAMPR003. Version 2, June 2011.
July 2019	Health protocol for the translocation and movement of live bivalve molluscs, Aquaculture Protocol FAMPR003. Version 3, July 2019

2.0 Introduction

This protocol has been developed for the movement of live bivalve molluscs into and within Queensland for the purpose of aquaculture. In Queensland there are a number of species of bivalve molluscs which are approved to be cultured including:

Rock oyster - *Saccostrea glomerata*

Milky oyster - *Saccostrea scyphophilla*

Flat Oyster - *Ostrea angasi*

Blacklip oyster - *Saccostrea echinata*

Black-lipped pearl oyster - *Pinctada margaritifera*

Gold-lipped pearl oyster - *Pinctada maxima*

Akoya pearl - *Pinctada imbricata* (also termed *P. fucata*)

Gem pearl - *Pinctada radiata*

Penguin pearl - *Pteria penguin*

Saucer scallop - *Amusium japonicum balloti*

Family Tridacnidae (Giant Clams)

The major commercial species, the rock oyster (*Saccostrea glomerata*), relies on the harvesting of spat from the wild or sourcing spat from a hatchery. Queensland relies heavily on the transshipment of both wild and hatchery stock from New South Wales for grow out in Queensland waters. Previously, all seed stock imported from interstate into Queensland waters originated from New South Wales. Other instances of the translocation of bivalves include Akoya pearl oyster spat from New South

Wales and the movement of hatchery produced scallop and pearl oyster spat to grow out farms in Queensland.

The movement of bivalves from other regions or hatcheries presents an increased risk of translocating diseases and exotic bivalve species such as pacific oysters. To address these risks any translocation of bivalve molluscs is subject to the conditions in this protocol.

3.0 Scope

This protocol refers to all bivalve mollusc movements for the purpose of aquaculture. Compliance with this protocol is a condition of approval to conduct aquaculture of bivalve species in Queensland under the *Planning Act 2016*. The principles of biosecurity are managed through the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. This protocol applies to any movement of live bivalve molluscs for aquaculture in Queensland, including:

- animals sourced from interstate for use as broodstock at approved aquaculture facilities;
- wild or hatchery-reared animals sourced from interstate for grow out on an approved aquaculture area; and
- movement of spat from hatchery facilities within Queensland to an approved aquaculture area.

Food safety requirements associated with the movement of bivalves is outside the scope of this protocol. The culture of bivalve molluscs for human consumption must be in accordance with the relevant state food safety regulations administered by Safe Food Production Queensland. For more information:

- visit www.safefood.qld.gov.au
- call 1800 300 815 (free call within Queensland) or +61 7 3253 9800.

4.0 Requirements

4.1 Edible oysters

The following conditions apply to the movement of all edible oysters into Queensland, including for use as broodstock or grow out and the movement of edible oyster spat from hatchery facilities within Queensland to an approved aquaculture area in the marine environment.

Under this protocol the following species are defined as edible oysters:

Rock oyster - *Saccostrea glomerata*

Milky oyster - *Saccostrea scyphophilla*

Flat Oyster - *Ostrea angasi*

Blacklip oyster - *Saccostrea echinata*

4.1.1 No introduction of Pacific oysters

Pacific oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*) are NOT permitted to be brought into Queensland for placement into Queensland waters. If growers suspect pacific oysters are in a transshipment they are required to notify DAF and not release the animals onto the aquaculture area.

4.1.2 Wild spat and mature oyster source

All edible oysters brought into Queensland for placement into Queensland waters must be of the same species and same genetic stock as the resident population. These arrangements are intended to minimise the impact that non-endemic genetic stock or hatchery-reared stock may have on the natural genetic stock.

4.1.3 Application for permission to translocate

An application to translocate edible oysters must be submitted and approved prior to the translocation of edible oysters into Queensland, or the movement of edible oyster spat from hatchery facilities within Queensland to an approved aquaculture area.

The form for translocation can be obtained from the Queensland Government website:

https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0009/72468/Translocation-form.pdf

The completed form should be submitted to the Manager, Aquaculture, DAF at least one week before the intended translocation date. Each translocation must be approved before any movement of oysters can occur.

4.1.4 Health Certification

Wild spat and mature oysters

A statement on the disease status of the estuary from which the oysters are being translocated will be obtained from the exporting state or territory's fisheries or veterinary authority by DAF. The statement must confirm the oysters are coming from an area that is not under investigation for disease or had any unexplained mortalities for the previous six months for the translocation to be approved.

If the area is under investigation for disease, or had any unexplained mortalities during the previous six months, a pathology report will be required indicating freedom from disease (refer to process for hatchery spat below).

Hatchery spat

Each batch of edible oyster spat produced within a hatchery requires a pathology report, based on histological testing of a sample of 30 juvenile to adult animals or 150 spat per batch (a large enough sample must be supplied so 150 spat can be examined histologically). The pathology report is to indicate freedom from disease and be issued by one of DAF's animal health laboratories, or by another NATA accredited laboratory for pathology of aquatic animals, prior to approval to translocate spat from the facility to an approved grow out site in Queensland waters. It is a requirement that the pathology report is dated no more than 14 days before shipment date.

Any of the following signs of disease or lesions listed below may be reason for a pathology report not indicating freedom from disease (or absence of significant pathogens or lesions):

- the presence of any virus associated with a lesion (e.g. inclusion bodies or focal necrosis) or a virus known or suspected to be pathogenic to the oyster species; or
- the presence of any protozoan associated with an inflammatory or degenerative lesion or a protozoan known or suspected to be pathogenic to the oyster species (the presence of symbiotic or opportunistic protozoa will not be regarded as a sign of disease); or
- the presence of metazoan parasites that cause a lesion in the oysters or which are suspected to be pathogenic for the species in question; or
- the presence of a fungal infection that causes lesions (e.g. necrosis / inflammation) in the spat; or
- the presence of bacteria associated with lesions or inflammation; or
- the presence of Rickettsia associated with lesions or inflammation; or
- the presence of unexplained lesions; or
- the occurrence of unexplained mortalities in the batch at a level which the certifying pathologist considers unacceptable.

However, finding one or more of these lesions does not automatically mean the animals will not be approved for translocation into Queensland waters. A specific risk assessment will be undertaken by

the DAF fish pathologist. Further testing may be done to further define the pathogen to see if it is on the national list of quarantine disease agents.

A copy of the pathology report must be provided with the completed translocation form and submitted to the Manager, Aquaculture, DAF, for approval prior to each shipment being placed into Queensland waters. A batch of oyster spat without a pathology report indicating freedom from disease will result in the translocation application not being approved.

4.1.5 Additional requirements for translocating edible oysters from estuaries with the presence of Pacific oysters

Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS) is a disease that has significantly impacted the oyster aquaculture industry in some southern states of Australia. POMS is a disease that affects Pacific Oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*) and is caused by a virus called OsHV-1 μ var micro variant which can result in 100% mortality of oysters that contract the disease.

Although POMS is found in other edible oyster species, it has not been associated with mortality events in those species. Therefore, at this stage there is an unknown risk for POMS to cause infection and disease in bivalve molluscs apart from Pacific Oysters.

Until further information is available on the host specificity of OsHV-1 μ var, the following health certification arrangements are required when translocating edible oysters from estuaries with the presence of Pacific oysters. Refer to <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/pests-diseases/marine-pests/found-in-nsw/pacific-oyster> for further information on the presence of Pacific oysters in New South Wales. These arrangements are intended to minimise the risk of inadvertent translocation of POMS from interstate estuaries to Queensland oyster growing areas and other native Queensland bivalve species.

Table 1: Scenarios and health certification requirements when considering the translocation of edible oysters from regions with the presence of Pacific oysters

Scenario	Health Certification requirements
1. Estuary with presence of Pacific Oysters but declared free from OsHV-1 μ var based on surveillance testing.	No additional requirements - statement on the disease status of the estuary from which the oysters are being translocated from to be obtained from the exporting state or territory's fisheries or veterinary authority by DAF.
2. Estuary with presence of Pacific Oysters declared to have OsHV-1 μ var and under quarantine or surveillance.	No movement of edible oysters until the quarantine is lifted by relevant jurisdiction. After quarantine, movement of wild and hatchery oysters allowed upon a pathology report indicating freedom from OsHV-1 μ var based on OsHV-1 μ var PCR of pooled gill & mantle tissue and histological testing of a sample of 150 animals per batch.
3. Estuary with presence of Pacific oysters with unknown OsHV-1 μ var infection status and unexplained mortalities of Pacific oysters.	No movement of edible oysters until the disease investigation is completed by relevant jurisdiction. Once completed refer to scenarios 1

	or 2 depending on the outcome of the investigation.
4. Estuary with presence of Pacific oysters with unknown OsHV-1 μ var infection status and unexplained mortalities of Sydney Rock Oysters or other non- Pacific Oyster bivalves during the last 6 months.	Wild and hatchery sourced edible oysters to have a pathology report based on OsHV-1 μ var PCR of pooled gill & mantle tissue and histological testing of a sample of 150 animals per batch.
5. Estuary with presence of Pacific Oysters with unknown OsHV-1 μ var infection status.	Wild and hatchery sourced edible oysters to have a pathology report based on OsHV-1 μ var PCR of pooled gill & mantle tissue and histological testing of a sample of 150 animals per batch.

4.1.6 Additional requirements for translocating edible oysters from Western Australia

Edible oysters must be sourced from an area with no reports of oyster oedema disease (OOD). Each shipment of edible oysters requires a pathology report, based on histological testing of a sample of 30 juvenile to adult animals or 150 spat per batch (a large enough sample must be supplied so 150 spat can be examined histologically) indicating freedom from disease including OOD lesions (see process for hatchery spat above).

4.1.7 Record keeping and reporting

Where edible oysters are brought into Queensland from interstate, the grower must ensure each oyster consignment is accompanied by the relevant state's documentation and approvals (e.g. "Permit to Relocate Oysters taken from New South Wales waters" issued by New South Wales Fisheries).

Where edible oysters are brought into Queensland from interstate the grower must keep each consignment of oysters separate and identifiable.

Records must be kept for each consignment of edible oysters detailing source of stock, numbers of oysters and the date of placement and position on the aquaculture area. These should be retained until the oysters have been harvested. Copies of these records are to be made available for inspection by DAF officers if requested.

At any stage of production, unusual signs or mortalities that could indicate significant disease must be reported to Biosecurity Queensland. This is vital for Australia's passive surveillance system and is a crucial step for effective response to disease outbreaks. During business hours contact an aquatic veterinarian or the biosecurity sciences laboratory. If requested, samples must be taken and sent to the laboratory.

4.2 Pearl oysters and clams

The following conditions apply to the movement of pearl oysters and clams from hatchery facilities to an approved aquaculture area in the marine environment.

Under this protocol the following species are defined as pearl oysters:

Black-lipped pearl oyster - *Pinctada margaritifera*
Gold-lipped pearl oyster - *Pinctada maxima*
Akoya pearl - *Pinctada imbricata* (also termed *P. fucata*)
Gem pearl - *Pinctada radiata*
Penguin pearl - *Pteria penguin*

Under this protocol the following species are defined as clams:

Family Tridacnidae (Giant Clams)

4.2.1 No interstate movement of pearl oysters

Live pearl oysters of any age (with the exception of Akoya pearl oysters (*Pinctada imbricata*) from New South Wales) are NOT permitted to be brought into Queensland for placement into Queensland waters.

4.2.2 Application for permission to translocate

An application to translocate pearl oysters or clams must be submitted and approved prior to the translocation of spat from hatchery facilities to an approved aquaculture area.

The form for translocation can be obtained from the Queensland Government website:
https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0009/72468/Translocation-form.pdf

The completed form should be submitted to the Manager, Aquaculture, DAF at least one week before the intended translocation date. Each translocation must be approved before any movement of pearl oysters or clams can occur.

4.2.3 Health Certification

Each batch of pearl oyster or clam spat produced within a hatchery requires a pathology report, based on histological testing of a sample of 30 juvenile to adult animals or 150 spat per batch (a large enough sample must be supplied so 150 spat can be examined histologically). The pathology report is to indicate freedom from disease and be issued by DAF's Biosecurity Sciences Laboratory, or by another NATA accredited laboratory for pathology of aquatic animals, prior to approval to translocate spat from the facility to an approved grow out site in Queensland waters. It is a requirement that the pathology report is dated no more than 14 days before shipment date.

Any of the following signs of disease or lesions may be reason for a pathology report not indicating freedom from disease (or absence of significant pathogens or lesions):

- the presence of any virus associated with a lesion (e.g. inclusion bodies or focal necrosis) or a virus known or suspected to be pathogenic to pearl oyster or clam species; or
- the presence of any protozoan associated with an inflammatory or degenerative lesion or a protozoan known or suspected to be pathogenic to pearl oyster or clam species (the presence of symbiotic or opportunistic protozoa will not be regarded as a sign of disease); or the presence of metazoan parasites that cause a lesion in the pearl oysters or clams or which are suspected to be pathogenic for the species in question; or
- the presence of a fungal infection that causes lesions (e.g. necrosis / inflammation) in the spat; or
- the presence of bacteria associated with lesions or inflammation; or
- the presence of Rickettsia associated with lesions or inflammation; or
- the presence of unexplained lesions; or
- the occurrence of unexplained mortalities in the batch at a level which the certifying pathologist considers unacceptable.

However, finding one or more of these lesions does not automatically mean the animals will not be approved for translocation into Queensland waters. A specific risk assessment will be undertaken by the DAF fish pathologist. Further testing may be done to further define the pathogen to see if it is on the national list of quarantine disease agents.

A copy of the pathology report must be provided with the completed translocation form and submitted to the Manager, Aquaculture, DAF, for approval prior to each shipment being placed into Queensland waters. A batch of oyster spat without a pathology report indicating freedom from disease will result in the translocation application not being approved.

4.2.4 Record keeping and reporting

Records must be kept for each consignment of pearl oysters or clams detailing source of stock and the date of placement and position on the aquaculture area. These should be retained until the pearl oysters or clams have been harvested. Copies of these records are to be made available for inspection by DAF officers if requested.

At any stage in production, unusual signs or mortalities that could indicate significant disease must be reported to Biosecurity Queensland. This is vital for Australia's passive surveillance system and is a crucial step for effective response to disease outbreaks. During business hours contact an aquatic veterinarian or the biosecurity sciences laboratory. If requested, samples must be taken and sent to the laboratory.

4.3 Scallops

The following conditions apply for the movement of saucer scallops (*Amusium japonicum balloti*) from hatchery facilities to an approved aquaculture area in the marine environment.

4.3.1 Application for permission to translocate

An application to translocate scallops must be submitted and approved prior to the translocation of spat from hatchery facilities to an approved aquaculture area.

The form for translocation can be obtained from the Queensland Government website:
https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0009/72468/Translocation-form.pdf

The completed form should be submitted to the Manager, Aquaculture, DAF at least one week before the intended translocation date. Each translocation must be approved before any movement of scallops can occur.

4.3.2 Health Certification

Each batch of spat produced within a hatchery will require a pathology report indicating freedom from disease issued by one of DAF's animal health laboratories, or by another NATA accredited laboratory for pathology of aquatic animals, prior to approval to translocate spat from the facility to an approved grow out site in Queensland waters. It is a requirement that the pathology report/health certificate is dated no more than 14 days before shipment date.

Samples from each batch of saucer scallop spat must be submitted for examination for freedom from disease at least seven working days prior to the removal of spat from the hatchery. A total sample of at least 150 spat of appropriate size, with a sub-sample to be taken from each of the tanks containing spat, should be fixed in 10% formalin seawater (a large enough sample must be supplied so 150 spat can be examined histologically).

Any of the following signs of disease or lesions may be reason for a pathology report not indicating freedom from disease:

- the presence of any virus associated with a lesion (e.g. inclusion bodies or focal necrosis) or a virus known or suspected to be pathogenic to scallop species; or
- the presence of any protozoan associated with an inflammatory or degenerative lesion or a protozoan known or suspected to be pathogenic to scallop species (the presence of symbiotic or opportunistic protozoa will not be regarded as a sign of disease); or the presence of metazoan parasites that cause a lesion in the scallops or which are suspected to be pathogenic for the species in question; or
- the presence of a fungal infection that causes lesions (e.g. necrosis / inflammation) in the spat; or
- the presence of bacteria associated with lesions or inflammation; or
- the presence of unexplained lesions; or
- the occurrence of unexplained mortalities in the batch at a level which the certifying pathologist considers unacceptable.

However, finding one or more of these lesions does not automatically mean the animals will not be approved for translocation into Queensland waters. A specific risk assessment will be undertaken by the DAF fish pathologist. Further testing may be done to further define the pathogen to see if it is on the national list of quarantine disease agents.

In relation to *Rickettsia*, spat produced from the hatchery and showing a significant incidence of *Rickettsia* in the pre-stocking pathology report must not be released into Queensland waters until further direction is attained from the DAF's Biosecurity Sciences Laboratory.

A copy of the pathology report must be provided with the completed translocation form and submitted to the Manager, Aquaculture, DAF, for approval prior to each shipment being placed into Queensland waters. A batch of scallop spat without a pathology report indicating freedom from disease will result in the translocation application not being approved.

4.3.3 Record keeping and reporting

Records must be kept for each consignment of scallops detailing source of stock and the date of placement on the aquaculture area. These should be retained until the scallops have been harvested. Copies of these records are to be made available for inspection by DAF officers if requested.

At any stage in production, unusual signs or mortalities that could indicate significant disease must be reported to Biosecurity Queensland. This is vital for Australia's passive surveillance system and is a crucial step for effective response to disease outbreaks. During business hours contact an aquatic veterinarian or the biosecurity sciences laboratory. If requested, samples must be taken and sent to the laboratory.

5.0 Your general biosecurity obligation

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* (the Act) outlines obligations on people in relation to biosecurity risks. Under the Act, a general biosecurity obligation applies to everyone. It states that a person dealing with biosecurity matter (e.g. disease agent) or carrier (e.g. oyster) who knows or ought to know that the biosecurity matter or carrier poses a risk or is likely to pose a risk, is obliged to take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent or minimise the risk.

The Act presents a flexible, risk-based approach, which gives you the freedom to determine how specific disease risks should be managed on your farm, in the best interests of your industry.

6.0 Notifying Biosecurity Queensland

Under the Act, you are required to report any knowledge of a disease event that could cause significant adverse effect on the economy, human health, environment or social amenity. If you

suspect serious or exotic disease on any farm, report your suspicion immediately to Biosecurity Queensland.

7.0 Contacts

Biosecurity Queensland: 13 25 23

Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline (24h national service): 1800 675 888

Manager, Aquaculture, DAF

Email: aquaculture@daf.qld.gov.au

Phone: (07) 3087 8035

North Queensland, DAF: 13 25 23

Biosecurity Sciences Laboratory

Health and Food Sciences Precinct

Block 12, 39 Kessels Road

Coopers Plains, Qld 4108

Phone: (07) 3708 8762

Fax: (07) 3708 8860

Email: bslclo@daf.qld.gov.au

8.0 Resources

AQUAVETPLAN manuals: <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/animal/aquatic/aquavetplan>

Aquatic disease field guide: [http://www.agriculture.gov.au/animal/aquatic/guidelines-and-resources/aquatic animal diseases significant to australia identification field guide](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/animal/aquatic/guidelines-and-resources/aquatic%20animal%20diseases%20significant%20to%20australia%20identification%20field%20guide)



Queensland
Government

Department of
Agriculture and Fisheries

Reference: CTS 18434/19

«Name»
«Address_Line1»
«Address_Line2»
«Suburb» «state» «PC»

Dear Authority Holder

Health protocol for the importation of live bivalve molluscs

Please find enclosed the updated health protocol for the movement of live bivalve molluscs. The new version of this protocol follows a review by Fisheries Queensland and Biosecurity Queensland.

The major changes to the updated protocol include:

- Expanding the protocol to include the movement of edible oysters (Sydney rock oyster, Milky oyster, Flat oyster and Blacklip oyster) from all Australian states and territories.
- Clarifying health certificate requirements for edible oysters being translocated from areas affected by Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS).
- Removing all requirements that relate to food safety.

Under the new protocol edible oysters, including Sydney rock (*Saccostrea glomerata*), Milky (*Saccostrea scyphophilla*), Flat (*Ostrea angasi*) and Blacklip (*Saccostrea echinata*) oysters can now be translocated from all Australian states and territories provided it can be demonstrated they are of the same species and same genetic stock as the resident population. This allows growers to source spat and mature oysters from interstate and send locally sourced (residential) broodstock to interstate hatcheries for spawning and translocate the resultant spat back into Queensland for grow out.

In addition to the above amendments, translocation arrangements for edible oysters from estuaries with the presence of Pacific Oysters has been clarified in the new protocol. These arrangements are intended to minimise the risk of inadvertently translocating POMS from interstate estuaries to Queensland oyster growing areas and impacting native Queensland

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ABN 66 934 348 189

bivalve species. Please note that under the new protocol Pacific oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*) are still NOT permitted to be brought into Queensland for placement into Queensland waters.

Food safety requirements associated with the movement of bivalve molluscs are now outside of the scope of this protocol and as a result have been removed from the new protocol. The culture of bivalve molluscs for human consumption must comply with the relevant state food safety regulations administered by Safe Food Production Queensland.

Any future movement of live bivalve molluscs into and within Queensland will need to be in accordance with this updated protocol. Please ensure you are aware of the requirements within this protocol. It is a condition of your development approval to comply with this protocol. This includes submitting an *Application to allow the translocation of live aquatic animals into and within Queensland* form for any translocations into Queensland or from any hatchery facility to an approved aquaculture area. This translocation application form can be found at https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0009/72468/translocation-form.pdf.

If you require any further information, please contact Mr John Dexter, Principal Fisheries Manager, Fisheries Queensland on telephone 07 3087 8035 or email john.dexter@daf.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Graeme Bolton
Deputy Director-General
Fisheries and Forestry
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries