

Shellfish Hatchery Protocol

Supply of NSW oyster broodstock to an interstate hatchery, including return of that broodstock to NSW

Purpose

The following protocol has been developed to minimise the risk of the introduction of diseases and pests from interstate waters into NSW associated with movements of oyster broodstock. The protocol specifies requirements for an interstate hatchery to receive and maintain oyster broodstock originating from NSW, and then to return these broodstock live to NSW. This protocol must be used in conjunction with any other approved NSW shellfish hatchery protocol applicable to an interstate hatchery to produce and translocate oyster spat (juvenile seed stock) for supply to NSW waters.

The interstate hatchery receiving NSW oyster broodstock and returning that broodstock to NSW in accordance with this protocol must also comply with any other document associated with this activity, including any relevant additional protocols or material supply agreements.

Scope

NSW oyster broodstock provided to an interstate hatchery can only be permitted to be returned to NSW waters where it can be demonstrated that the NSW oyster broodstock has been maintained in accordance with the following protocol.

NSW oyster broodstock supplied to an approved interstate hatchery can only be returned to the estuary of origin in NSW.

It is the responsibility of the shipper to comply with the record keeping provisions specified in Part 2, Division 3, clause 13 of the Fisheries Management (Aquaculture) Regulation 2017 when providing NSW oyster broodstock to an interstate hatchery and then again upon return of NSW oyster broodstock to NSW.

A NSW DPI Fisheries Officer or Authorised Officer may examine shipments of NSW oyster broodstock from an interstate hatchery at any time once a shipment enters NSW to ensure that the shipment complies with this protocol, the provisions of the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015*, the Biosecurity Regulation 2017, the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* and Fisheries Management (Aquaculture) Regulation 2017.

Note: At any time a formal legal instrument can take effect that may override either parts of, or the entire, protocol.

General Biosecurity Duty

The NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act) provides a framework for responsibility for the biosecurity risk that is shared among the community, industry and government. The Act establishes a number of 'biosecurity duties' that include:

- a general biosecurity duty
- duties relating to Prohibited Matter, and
- a duty to notify biosecurity events.

The general biosecurity duty supports shared responsibility through its broad scope. Any person who deals with biosecurity matter or a carrier and who knows, or ought reasonably to know, the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by the biosecurity matter, carrier or dealing has a biosecurity duty to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised. The general biosecurity duty can be found in Part 3 of the Act.

To ensure compliance with the general biosecurity duty, NSW DPI recommends that the interstate hatchery develops and maintains a biosecurity plan that aims to minimise biosecurity risk to aquaculture farms and the surrounding area. More information on the Act and the general biosecurity duty can be found on the website:

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/biosecurity-legislation>

Definitions

Closed hatchery system means an enclosed land based cultivation facility for holding NSW oyster broodstock and production of oyster larvae and spat with biosecurity controls in place, isolated from estuarine production facilities and isolated from facilities that are currently being used to produce stock for any other purpose.

Independent certifier means a competent certifier as approved by the NSW Chief Veterinary Officer.

Interstate hatchery means an oyster producing hatchery facility outside NSW that has been approved by the NSW Chief Veterinary Officer to comply with this protocol.

NSW oyster broodstock means oyster broodstock originating from NSW that is approved by the NSW Chief Veterinary Officer to be returned to NSW waters according to the conditions of this protocol.

NSW DPI means the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

Oyster Shipment Log Book means a log book in a form approved by the Secretary of the Department for purposes of complying with conditions imposed by this protocol and Part 2, Division 3, clause 13 of the Fisheries Management (Aquaculture) Regulation 2017.

Shipper means the NSW aquaculture permit holder whose permit lists the lease(s) on which the NSW oyster broodstock will be placed upon return to NSW.

Spat means juvenile oyster seed stock.

Protocol

1) Hatchery

- (a) NSW oyster broodstock must be held in a closed hatchery system, isolated and in disinfected water at all times (see 1)(d) below) while in an interstate hatchery, away from any other oyster or oyster growing equipment that has not been disinfected prior to use.
- (b) NSW oyster broodstock are at no time to be placed in, or exposed to, unfiltered interstate waters.
- (c) All tanks, internal water supply lines, valves and culture equipment used in association with NSW oyster broodstock must be cleaned with chlorine (made up as a solution with a minimum concentration of 200ppm active effective chlorine) and washed with fresh water prior to holding NSW oyster broodstock.
- (d) All seawater used in an interstate hatchery system to hold NSW oyster broodstock must at all times be subject to nominal filtration 1 micron or less and be effectively disinfected before entering the NSW oyster broodstock holding system, by any of the following methods:
 - (i) Ultraviolet radiation at a dose rate of at least 30 mJ/cm²; or
 - (ii) Ozone at a dose rate of 1mg/L for 1 minute or equivalent; or
 - (iii) Sodium hypochlorite at a dose rate of 200ppm for a minimum of 2 hours, with subsequent effective dechlorination.
- (e) Upon request, the interstate hatchery operator must provide written records to NSW DPI of the maintenance of disinfection system usage data, including hours of use, or any other matter that indicates the efficacy of the disinfection

system, to ensure the disinfection system is used in accordance with manufacturer specifications.

- (f) NSW oyster broodstock must be returned directly to the NSW estuary of origin as soon as practicable after spawning.
- (g) Prior to the first receipt of NSW oyster broodstock, and thereafter every 12 months, the independent certifier is to certify that the interstate hatchery meets 1)(a)-(b) and has the capacity to meet 1)(c)-(e).

2) Documentation – shipment from NSW to an interstate hatchery

It is the responsibility of the interstate hatchery to ensure that all necessary approvals are obtained from the state or territory government in which the interstate hatchery is operating to receive NSW oyster broodstock. No less than 48 hours and no more than 2 weeks prior to any shipment taking place:

- (a) The interstate hatchery must:
 - (i) obtain approval in writing from the Chief Veterinary Officer of the state or territory in which the interstate hatchery is operating to receive NSW oyster broodstock in the interstate hatchery; and
 - (ii) provide a copy of the approval at 2)(a)(i) to the shipper; and
 - (iii) provide a copy of the approval at 2)(a)(i) to NSW DPI to the address oyster.import@nsw.dpi.nsw.gov.au

It is the responsibility of the shipper to ensure that all necessary approvals are obtained from NSW DPI to provide NSW oyster broodstock to an interstate hatchery for use in accordance with this protocol. NSW DPI must be notified no less than 48 hours and no more than 2 weeks prior to dispatch of each shipment of NSW oyster broodstock to an interstate hatchery:

- (b) The shipper must:
 - (i) complete a copy of the Oyster Shipment Log Book; and
 - (ii) provide a completed copy of the Oyster Shipment Log Book at 2)(b)(i) to the interstate hatchery; and
 - (iii) provide a copy of the Oyster Shipment Logbook at 2)(b)(i) to accompany the NSW oyster broodstock throughout shipment from NSW to the interstate hatchery.

3) Documentation – shipment to NSW from an interstate hatchery

NSW DPI must be notified no less than 48 hours and no more than 2 weeks prior to dispatch of each shipment of NSW oyster broodstock from an interstate hatchery to NSW:

- (a) The shipper must:
 - (i) complete a copy of the Oyster Shipment Log Book; and
 - (ii) provide a completed copy of the Oyster Shipment Log Book at 3)(a)(i) to the interstate hatchery.
- (b) The interstate hatchery must prepare a declaration stating:
 - (i) the species of oyster shipped; and
 - (ii) that the requirements of 1) of this protocol have been met.
- (c) The interstate hatchery must ensure that copies of the:
 - (i) Oyster Shipment Log Book at 3)(b)(i); and
 - (ii) the interstate hatchery declaration at 3)(b)(ii)
 are provided to NSW DPI prior to dispatch of NSW oyster broodstock to NSW to the address: oyster.import@dpi.nsw.gov.au

- (d) Copies of the:
- (i) Oyster Shipment Log Book at 2)(b)(i); and
 - (ii) the interstate hatchery declaration at 2)(c)
- must accompany the NSW oyster broodstock throughout shipment from the interstate hatchery into NSW, and must be held for a period of 12 months after the arrival of the shipment into NSW by the shipper and any other person who receives the NSW oyster broodstock shipment or any part of that shipment.

Note: any unexplained mortality in NSW oyster broodstock observed at any time while operating under this protocol must be reported to NSW DPI in accordance with NSW aquaculture permit requirements.