

Primefact

Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome movement protocol

September 2023, PUB23/1027, Fifth edition

DPIRD Aquatic Biosecurity, Animal Biosecurity, Biosecurity and Food Safety

Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome

Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS) is a disease which affects wild and farmed Pacific oysters and is caused by a virus. POMS does not affect native Sydney rock, flat or akoya pearl oysters. NSW Health has advised there is no known risk to human health from POMS.

POMS was first detected in NSW in Georges River/Botany Bay and Port Jackson/Sydney Harbour in late 2010, early 2011. In January 2013, an outbreak of POMS in the Hawkesbury River caused significant farmed stock losses throughout the estuary. In February 2013 evidence of the virus was detected in wild Pacific oysters in Brisbane Water.



Figure 1 Wild Pacific oyster

POMS has been confirmed in the Georges River and Hawkesbury River each year since the initial detections, with observed mortality generally beginning in November.

Movement restrictions

To prevent the spread of POMS, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) has put in place strict controls on the movement of oysters and oyster farming equipment from the Georges River, Hawkesbury River, and Brisbane Water.

Protocol for movement of oyster equipment and infrastructure

Under the movement controls oyster cultivation equipment and infrastructure can only be moved from POMS affected estuaries to an unaffected estuary in accordance with the following approved protocol.

Oyster cultivation equipment and infrastructure includes trays, baskets, catching materials, post and rail, cables, floats.

The following five steps must be followed for all oyster cultivation equipment and infrastructure that is to be relocated from quarantine areas to another estuary.

1. Clean the equipment/infrastructure thoroughly to remove all oysters, overcatch and other organic material, e.g., via manual scraping and scratching and/or high-pressure cleaner.
All waste removed from equipment must be disposed into general landfill and waste-water must not return to any waterway.

AND

- 2A. Decontaminate by moist heat treatment at a minimum temperature of 50°C for a minimum duration of 5 minutes (duration to be timed from the point at which every area of the treated equipment reaches a minimum temperature of 50°C) **OR**
- 2B. Decontaminate with Virkon® (Virkon®S or Virkon® Aquatic), Iodine, Sodium Hydroxide or Quaternary Ammonium Compound by dipping or washing in a suitable sized non-porous container (Note: use plastic container for Sodium Hydroxide) as per the permit instructions. Equipment should be rinsed clean after decontamination.
For further information on the use of Virkon®, Iodine, Sodium Hydroxide and Quaternary Ammonium Compound see “Additional use information”.

THEN

3. The person relocating the equipment / infrastructure complete an Oyster Shipment Logbook (via DPIRD Shellfish App or paper logbook) as per normal reporting requirements. In addition, the following declaration must be signed and dated by the Aquaculture Permit Holder relocating the equipment / infrastructure:
‘All equipment/infrastructure has been thoroughly cleaned, all overcatch and biological material removed, then decontaminated in accordance with the protocol: Minimising Disease Risks When Relocating Oyster Cultivation Equipment & Infrastructure From POMS-Affected Estuaries’;

AND

4. If using a paper logbook, the completed Oyster Shipment Logbook form and declaration must be submitted to the local NSW Fisheries office at least 48 hours prior to the proposed movement;

AND

5. A copy of the completed logbook form must accompany the shipment at all times.
Oysters and equipment may continue to be moved between affected estuaries (Georges River, Hawkesbury River, and Brisbane Water) without restriction, noting that movements into Brisbane Water are also subject to QX Disease restrictions.
For growers located outside of NSW, please contact your relevant state agency for further information.

Additional use information

All disinfectants must be:

- Used in accordance with all the directions and conditions detailed in the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) permit PER82160 (<https://permits.apvma.gov.au/PER82160.PDF>).
- Freshly prepared prior to each use.
- Applied only in well-ventilated spaces.
- Must not be used on items that directly or indirectly contact skin (e.g., inside boots).
- Agri Dyne (iodine disinfectant) – remove loose soil then scrub equipment, hoses, plant etc. with a standard solution.
- Detsan (quaternary ammonium compound) – DO NOT mix with detergents or other chemicals.

The APVMA permit allows use of registered disinfectant products containing:

- 494g/kg Potassium Peroxomonosulphate Triple Salt, 132g/kg Sodium Dodecyl Benzene Sulphonate, 15g/kg Sodium Chloride
- 16g/L available Iodine
- 390g/L Sodium Hydroxide **OR**
- 25g/L Quaternary Ammonium Compound

as their only active constituents. The solutions should be mixed according to APVMA and manufacturer's directions.

Safety: Users must follow all the safety, storage and disposal precautions in APVMA PER82160 and refer to the Material Safety Data Sheets for instructions regarding the safe use of these chemicals.

To report suspected aquatic diseases

You can report suspected aquatic diseases through one of the following:

- Call the 24-hour Emergency Animal Disease Hotline: **1800 675 888**
- Complete the online form (<https://forms.bfs.dpi.nsw.gov.au/forms/9247>)
- Email: aquatic.biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au

More information

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Locked Bag 1
Nelson Bay NSW 2315
P: 02 4916 3900

E: aquatic.biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au

W: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/aquatic-biosecurity

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