



Guidelines for a Streamlined Translocation Approval for commercial aquaculture

Are you moving live fish¹, crustaceans, algae, shellfish or any other aquatic organism?

Under the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*, you will need written approval or authority from the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Fisheries to do so. Each year, the Department receives a large number of applications to translocate a wide variety of fish species. Some species have been placed on what's called a 'White list'. For these species, the Department has carried out a risk assessment and has determined that they are suitable for translocation. The assessment process is used for translocations of all live non-endemic fish into and within Western Australia, whether they enter as eggs, juvenile stock or adult fish and regardless of origin.

The application process is free of charge and should take approximately 15 minutes if the conditions for a **Streamlined Translocation Approval** are met.

If you cannot meet the conditions outlined, or the species you wish to translocate is not on the White List of Species Suitable for Commercial Aquaculture, you can apply for a **Standard Translocation Approval**. The Translocation Officer will be in contact with you if any further information is required once your application is received. This application process is also free of charge.

Why do I need a translocation approval?

A range of species suitable for aquaculture or as ornamental fish can become pests if they escape into the surrounding environment. Fish are susceptible to, and can carry, diseases that have the potential to create significant economic, social and environmental costs to WA, its people, fishing and related industries. For example, in 2012, the eeltail catfish (*Tandanus tandanus*), native to Queensland, was found in a lake in Perth. Health testing carried out by the Department revealed that the catfish was infected with *Pseudomonas anguilliseptica*, a disease never before recorded in Australia that has the potential to harm our native fish species.

Some of the risks associated with moving live fish into and within WA are:

- fish diseases being spread in WA;
- degradation of native fish habitats by introduced species;
- competition for food and habitat between introduced and existing species;

¹ An aquatic organism of any species (whether alive or dead) and includes the eggs, spat, spawn, seeds, spores, fry, larva or other source of reproduction or offspring of an aquatic organism and a part only of an aquatic organism (including the shell or tail), but does not include aquatic mammals, aquatic reptiles, aquatic birds, amphibians or (except in relation to Part 3 and Division 1 of Part 11 *Fish Resources Management Act 1994*) pearl oyster, *Pinctada maxima*. This policy only considers live fish; however, it also applies to live pathogen and parasitic organisms in dead fish.

- predation on existing species by introduced species;
- decline in the genetic diversity in existing fish populations; and
- loss of biodiversity.

The eradication of one pest species from a river, lake or port can cost billions of dollars and is not always successful. Control activities can also result in loss of access to the site, when movements are restricted in and out of the infected area.

Eligibility for a Streamlined Translocation Approval check list:

Translocating fish for the purpose of commercial aquaculture: yes no

Translocating fish that are on the commercial White List (below): yes no

Can meet the conditions (below): yes no

If you can check 'yes' to the above boxes, you may apply for a Streamlined Translocation Approval.

White List of Species Suitable for Commercial Aquaculture

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Acanthopagrus butcheri</i>	black bream
<i>Artemia</i> spp.	brine shrimp
<i>Bidyanus bidyanus</i>	silver perch
<i>Cherax cainii</i>	marron
<i>Cherax preissii</i>	koonac
<i>Cherax quinquecarinatus</i>	gilgie
<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>	dolphinfish
<i>Epinephelus coioides</i>	goldspotted rockcod
<i>Lates calcarifer</i>	barramundi
<i>Onchorhynchus mykiss</i>	rainbow trout
<i>Pagrus auratus</i>	pink snapper
<i>Plectropomus leopardus</i>	common coral trout
<i>Plectropomus maculatus</i>	barcheck coral trout
<i>Salmo trutta</i>	brown trout
<i>Seriola lalandi</i>	yellowtail kingfish

Conditions for translocation for the purpose of commercial aquaculture:

1. The person holds a valid commercial aquaculture licence for the species to be translocated.
2. The species being translocated is on the White List of Species Suitable for Commercial Aquaculture (above).

3. The fish are sourced from within WA.
4. Up to a total of 20,000 fish are transported in any batch (except brine shrimp).

(If translocating brine shrimp, there is no limit on the quantity of brine shrimp to be transported in any batch.)

5. At least 24 hours prior to translocation of the fish, the Department of Fisheries is notified in writing of the date, time and place of collection, the receiving property and the species, life stage, quantity, source, and mode of transport of the fish to the receiving facility:
 - by phone on 9482 7251; or
 - by email to translocation@fish.wa.gov.au
6. The fish are transported, in a solid durable container, which has been sealed and is watertight, directly from the source facility to the receiving property, without unpacking or processing.
7. The fish are kept at the receiving property, within a closed recirculating aquaculture system. If fish are not to be kept within a closed recirculating aquaculture system (for example, in a holding cage in a waterway or open ocean), then a Streamlined Translocation Approval will not be valid and a Standard Translocation Approval or Translocation Authority will be required.
8. Any wastewater from aquaculture operations or transport must be discharged to a wastewater treatment system approved under the *Health Act 1911* and any other relevant legislation, which may include but is not limited to the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* and Local Government by-laws.
9. Live fish can only be removed or released from the facility in accordance with an aquaculture licence and/or the prior written approval or written authority of the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Fisheries.
10. The holder of a Streamlined Translocation Approval must report unusually high levels of mortalities of fish or signs of disease to the Department of Fisheries Fish Health Unit and/or the Translocation Officer within 24 hours of the occurrence. For information on how to report a disease, or suspected disease, go to:
www.fish.wa.gov.au/Sustainability-and-Environment/Aquatic-Biosecurity/Identifying-Pests-And-Diseases/Pages/Report-A-Pest-Disease-Or-Fish-Kill.aspx

Note: If you do not yet have a commercial aquaculture licence, or need to make a variation to your current licence to include the relevant species, please go to:

www.fish.wa.gov.au/Fishing-and-Aquaculture/Aquaculture/Aquaculture-Management/Pages/default.aspx