



# Translocation

## Moving live fish into and within Western Australia and how to get the right approval

Moving live fish into or within an area where they are not native can have serious biosecurity risks, including:

- the extinction of native species;
- spread of disease such as the fungus illustrated below;
- reduction in biodiversity;
- lowering of habitat quality due to reduction of space and/or food resources; and
- damage to natural habitat (e.g. feeding carp stir up sediment, often leading to poor water quality and aquatic vegetation loss).

The translocation of live fish can be deliberate or accidental, and is common for a variety of reasons on a local, national and international scale.



**EUS or red spot disease in a silver perch caused by the fungus *Aphanomyces invadans*.**

Photo: Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry, 2014

## **Accidental/unintentional translocation can happen when:**

- Boaters and fishers carry aquatic invaders on gear and boats that have not been properly cleaned, drained and dried.
- Diseased bait may introduce a pathogen into an aquatic ecosystem or other unwanted pest species is packaged with bait.
- Farm dams and holding ponds flood in wet months and invasive species go with overflow into natural water bodies.

## **Deliberate translocation activities include:**

- **Commercial aquaculture** – fish are kept, for commercial reasons, under the conditions of a commercial aquaculture licence.
- **Non-commercial aquaculture** – fish are kept on a private property and used in aquaponics, or for private consumption and not offered for sale.
- **The restaurant trade** – fish are kept live in a restaurant for human consumption on site.
- **Stocking** – fish are kept in a private farm dam or similar structure for recreational fishing purposes.
- **Restocking and stock enhancement** – fish are released into the environment to increase or replenish existing or historic populations.
- **Scientific research and education.**
- **Ornamental** – e.g. aquarium fish.



**Private farm dam to be stocked with rainbow trout near Donnybrook.**

**If you plan to move live fish into and within WA you need to apply for a Translocation Approval. This will minimise the risks of translocation as there are conditions you must abide by, otherwise legal action may be taken.**

There are three types of approvals to legally translocate live non-endemic fish in Western Australia and you can apply for them online or use a hard copy form. For information and guidelines, please go to: [www.fish.wa.gov.au](http://www.fish.wa.gov.au).

### **1. Streamlined Translocation Approval**

A fast-tracked way to get approval if you want to translocate fish for:

- non-commercial aquaculture (including non-commercial aquaponics);
- non-commercial stocking of rainbow trout in farm dams;
- commercial aquaculture; and
- the restaurant trade.

This approval has conditions and covers certain species included on the appropriate White List.

### **2. Standard Translocation Approval**

Needed when you don't meet some or all of the criteria outlined in any of the guidelines for a Streamlined Translocation Approval. It usually takes less than 10 business days to process.

### **3. Translocation Authority**

Needed to translocate fish that don't meet the criteria for the previous approvals. This approval is usually required for translocations on a large scale, when a species is used for an activity only on rare occasions, or the species is of a higher biosecurity risk. There is a fee for a Translocation Authority as the process is more complex and a thorough risk assessment and consultation may need to be carried out.

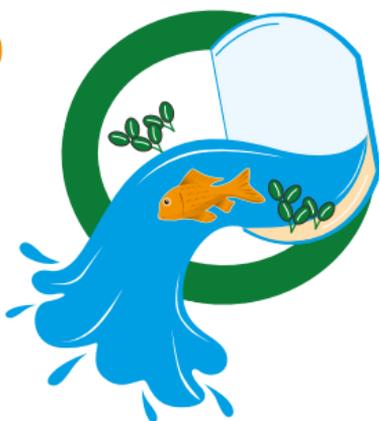
If you are unsure whether you meet the required criteria for a Translocation Approval, or have any questions about translocating live fish, please contact our Translocation Officer on **(08) 9482 7251** or **translocation@fish.wa.gov.au**

The Department of Fisheries oversees the management of translocation risks and our Translocation Policy protects fish populations, fish habitats and natural aquatic biodiversity but industry and the community also play a huge part in helping us reduce these risks.

If you suspect you have identified an introduced freshwater pest, marine pest or aquatic disease in a WA aquatic environment, please contact **FISHWATCH** on **1800 815 507**, or use the **WA PestWatch** app.

## Don't dump that fish!

Protect the environment – don't release fish into Western Australia's sensitive waterways.



## Further information

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*Fish for the future*

