



# Captive bred marine ornamental finfish update

27 January 2023

Issue 1

## Current activities

### *The review of live captive bred marine ornamental finfish import policy*

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (the department) is conducting a *Review of live captive bred marine ornamental finfish import policy* (the review). The review was initiated because of trade enquiries from industry and in recognition of new scientific knowledge, advances in captive breeding of marine ornamental fish and the environmental impacts of the current policy which forces harvesting marine fish from the wild, particularly from reefs.

The department is undertaking the review to assess known biosecurity risks associated with imported marine ornamental finfish and provide recommendations about if, and how, captive bred marine ornamental finfish can be imported in a manner that achieves Australia's appropriate level of protection (ALOP).

Current import conditions for live marine ornamental fish allow the importation of species assessed as suitable for importation and included in the [List of permitted live marine ornamental fish suitable for import](#). Also, the fish must only be imported from [approved countries](#). Live marine ornamental fish for importation require a valid import permit and must be accompanied by an official government health certificate attesting that the fish are wild caught and do not present clinical signs of infectious disease. All fish imported under these requirements are to be used for display (ornamental) purposes only. At present it is difficult for the department to verify that a consignment of ornamental fish is wild caught, based on a visual inspection of the fish. The biosecurity measures recommended in this review will be the basis for the import conditions and any import permits issued.



### In this issue

#### Current Activities

- 1-The review of live captive bred marine ornamental finfish import policy
- 2-The risk review process
- 3-Communication and consultation activities
- 4-Contact list

The Aquatic biosecurity risk assessment unit (ABRA) will send periodic updates and relevant information during the review and can be contacted via email: [abra@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:abra@agriculture.gov.au) at any time.

Information about the review can be found on the department's website on the marine ornamental finfish review [webpage](#). This webpage will be updated with information about the review as it progresses.



## *The risk review process*

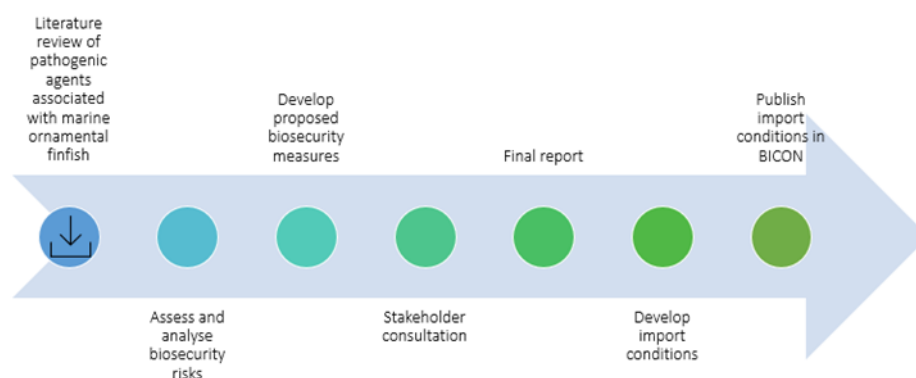
This review is a non-regulated risk analysis of existing policy, including the [Import risk analysis on live ornamental finfish](#) (Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, 1999) and the [Importation of freshwater ornamental fish: review of biosecurity risks associated with gourami iridovirus and related viruses—final import risk analysis report](#) (Department of Agriculture 2014).

The review is being conducted using a risk analysis process that is consistent with that described by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, formerly OIE) in the *Aquatic animal health code*. This process meets Australia’s international rights and obligations and will include stakeholder engagement and consultation throughout the process. Further information about Australia’s biosecurity framework is provided in the [Biosecurity import risk analysis guidelines 2016](#) on the department’s website.

The steps to complete this risk analysis are:

- start the risk analysis by reviewing the science on pathogenic agents associated with species on the department’s *List of permitted live marine ornamental fish suitable for import* found on our Biosecurity Import Conditions System ([BICON](#))
- assess and analyse biosecurity risks
- develop proposed biosecurity measures
- consult stakeholders on the draft report and then review comments
- publish a final report
- develop import conditions
- publish import conditions in [BICON](#).

In undertaking the risk review, the department is considering the current scientific literature about pathogenic agents (potential hazards) associated with marine ornamental finfish (the scope is those species on the department’s *List of permitted live marine ornamental fish suitable for import*). The department is also reviewing whether the key assumptions about entry, exposure and consequences made in the [Import risk analysis on live ornamental finfish](#) and the [Importation of freshwater ornamental fish: review of biosecurity risks associated with gourami iridovirus and related viruses—final import risk analysis report](#) are still valid. This information is an essential input into the risk analysis process.





Once the risk analysis is complete and the draft report has been prepared, the draft report will be released for stakeholder comment during a formal comment period (which will be at least 60 calendar days). The department anticipates the draft report will be available for stakeholder consultation by mid-2023.

### *Communication and consultation activities*

The department is committed to ongoing communication and consultation with stakeholders throughout the process of the review. Consultation during the development of the review enables stakeholder feedback on draft conclusions and recommendations about Australia's biosecurity policies. Consultation activities include:

- The Aquatic Biosecurity Risk Assessment unit (ABRA) is the first point of contact for all related questions about the review. ABRA can be contacted via email: [abra@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:abra@agriculture.gov.au) at any time.
- Periodic updates and relevant information will be sent to interested stakeholders during the course of the review. Stakeholders who wish to receive notifications and updates regarding the review should subscribe to the distribution list at [abra@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:abra@agriculture.gov.au).
- Communication with scientific experts when preparing the literature review for clarification or further information on fish pathogenic agents.
- Release of the draft report for stakeholder comment.

### **Acknowledgement of Country**

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

© Commonwealth of Australia 2023

Unless otherwise noted, copyright (and any other intellectual property rights) in this publication is owned by the Commonwealth of Australia (referred to as the Commonwealth).

All material in this publication is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) except content supplied by third parties, logos and the Commonwealth Coat of Arms.

The Australian Government acting through the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has exercised due care and skill in preparing and compiling the information and data in this publication. Notwithstanding, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, its employees and advisers disclaim all liability, including liability for negligence and for any loss, damage, injury, expense or cost incurred by any person as a result of accessing, using or relying on any of the information or data in this publication to the maximum extent permitted by law.



## Ornamental fish enquiries other than the review

Please note that ABRA only addresses enquiries related to the review. Stakeholders wanting to raise issues other than the review should refer to the appropriate alternative contact in the list below.

### *Importing goods into Australia*

If you have an enquiry regarding how to import goods into Australia, including how to apply for an import permit, certification requirements, import conditions and queries related to BICON, please contact: [imports@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:imports@agriculture.gov.au) or 1800 900 090 or +61 3 8318 6700 (from outside Australia).

### *Approved Arrangement facilities*

For enquiries regarding Approved Arrangement facilities, please contact [AA.Canberra@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:AA.Canberra@agriculture.gov.au)

### *Media enquiries*

For media enquiries, please contact 02 6272 3232 or submit an online enquiry via the department's website [here](#).

### *BICON alerts*

Sign up for Australian Biosecurity Import Conditions (BICON) alerts [here](#).

### *Import Industry Advice Notices*

Subscribe to receive Import Industry Advice Notices [here](#).