

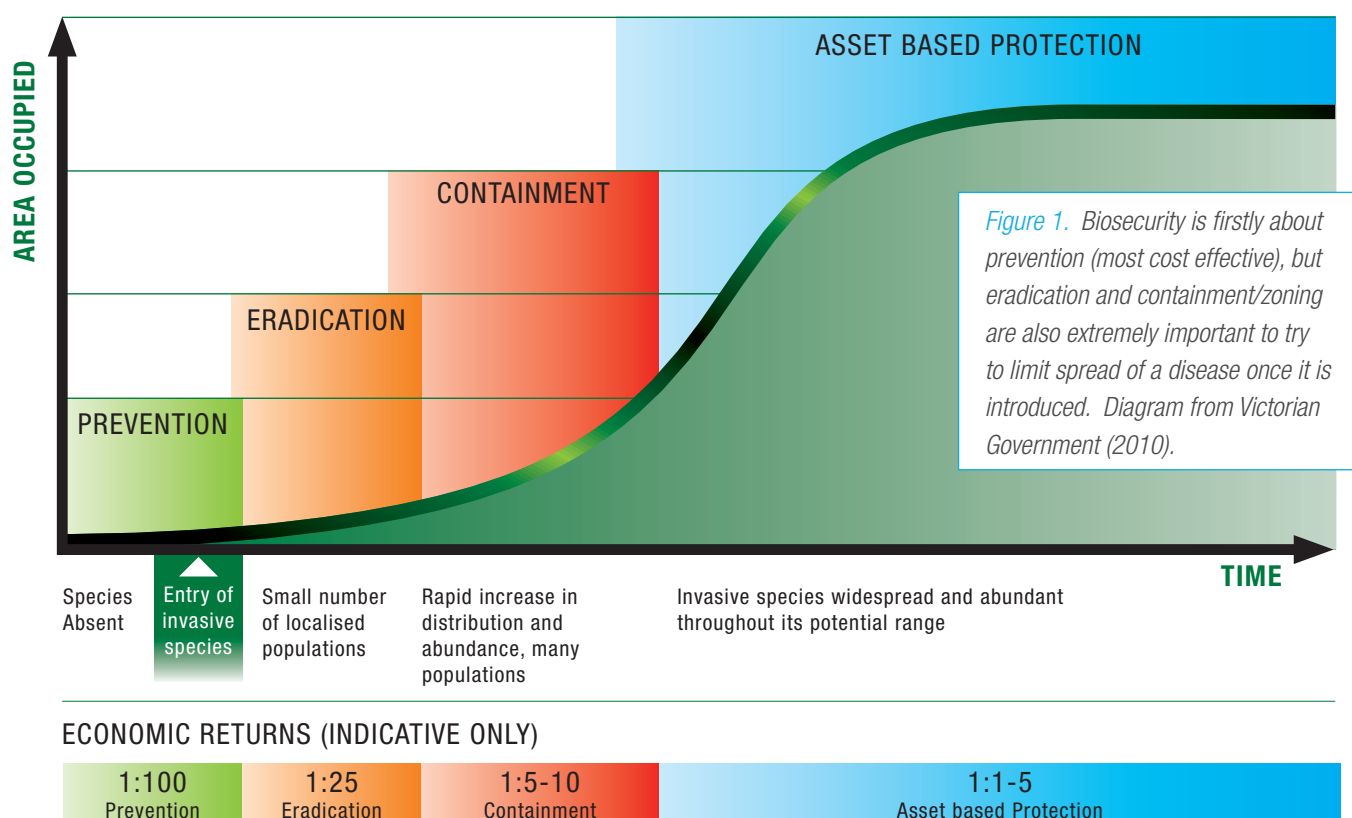
Biosecurity Basics 1

Information for fishers about basic biosecurity principles

Prevent

- Biosecurity is about prevention of the introduction and spread of diseases.
- Prevention is the ideal goal first and foremost. Unfortunately, biosecurity breaches do occur and new diseases can emerge or be introduced via various pathways.
- If a significant new or exotic disease agent is found in a new area, there are several options available to manage the situation and try to minimise the damage to industries and the environment.
- These options include eradication, containment and asset based protection (Figure 1).

GENERALISED INVASION CURVE SHOWING ACTIONS APPROPRIATE TO EACH STAGE



Eradication

- If a new disease emerges or an exotic disease is introduced into a new area, the first step is to try to eradicate it to return to freedom from that disease.
- Commercial fishers will be adversely affected by eradication efforts in the short-term.
- The long-term benefits of returning to business as usual are much greater than the "short-term pain" involved with eradication.

Containment and Zoning

- Containment is an extremely important process because diseases can be spread a long way very quickly by humans, much faster than they can be spread by natural movements of infected animals.
- The risk of translocation (moving) diseases are ranked as follows:

Different products have different risks



Risk profile	Product/process
Highest	Live animals
	Dead (uncooked)
	Frozen (uncooked)
	Contaminated equipment/clothing
Lowest	Cooked product

- Movement of live animals poses the greatest risk of spread of diseases.
- The second greatest risk is movement of dead (uncooked) animals, followed by frozen uncooked products.
- Diseases can also be spread on contaminated clothing, boats, vehicles and equipment.
- The lowest risk of disease spread is via movement of cooked products, as the heat from the process of cooking inactivates virtually all disease agents.

Why do I need to take biosecurity seriously?

- Our biosecurity systems are only as strong as the weakest link in the chain.
- The spread of serious, internationally significant diseases such as white spot disease to new areas can cause massive disruptions and economic losses to businesses.
- Strict controls on the movement of infected animals and contaminated equipment are required to prevent rapid movement of these diseases to new areas.
- It is important that fishers and farmers abide by these controls.
- These rules are put in place with the future best interests of our primary industries in mind. Everyone has a general biosecurity obligation under the Biosecurity Act, and there are large penalties (up to and exceeding \$350,000) for non-compliance.
- Protect and support your local industries, do the right thing and don't be the weak link that breaks the biosecurity chain and threatens your fishery and our environment.

Learn more

- To learn more about the range of diseases of aquatic animals of significance to Australia, download the Aquatic Disease Field Guide App that is available for iOS, android and windows devices at the following locations:

IOS

<https://goo.gl/9UJNp9>

ANDROID

<https://goo.gl/T4Tn1X>

WINDOWS

<https://goo.gl/Y8Vibj>

Disclaimer: QSLA provides this information in good faith to inform commercial fishers how to meet QLD Government requirements for decontamination of fishing equipment in White Spot control zones. QSLA does not warrant the accuracy of the information supplied and cannot accept any form of liability for the contents of this document or for any consequences arising from its use.