

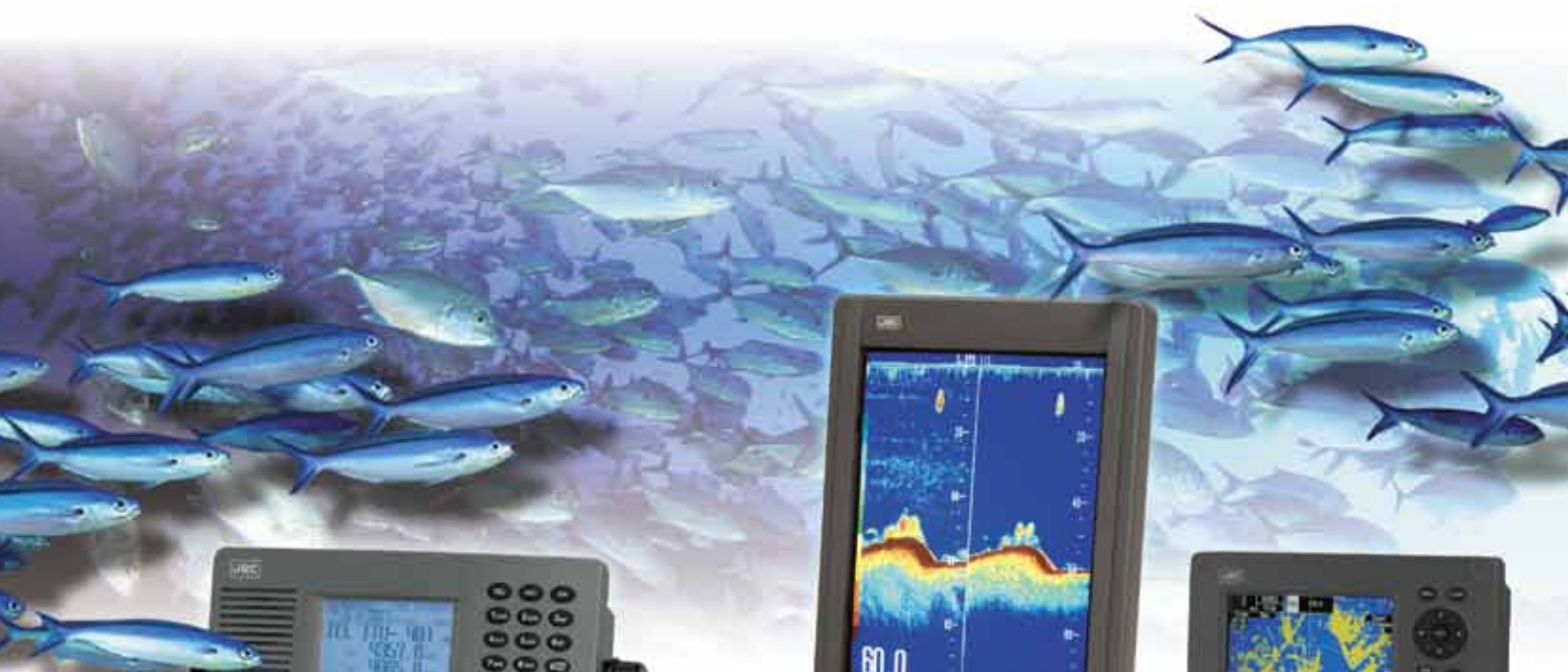
Queensland SEAFOOD

2019 NUMBER 1



**BIOSECURITY
SPECIAL EDITION**

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Introduction to Special Edition 2

SINCE the previous special edition, the Association, commercial fishers, post-harvest operators, researchers and Biosecurity Queensland officers have been developing materials to enhance the significant amount of work already undertaken under the SBQI.

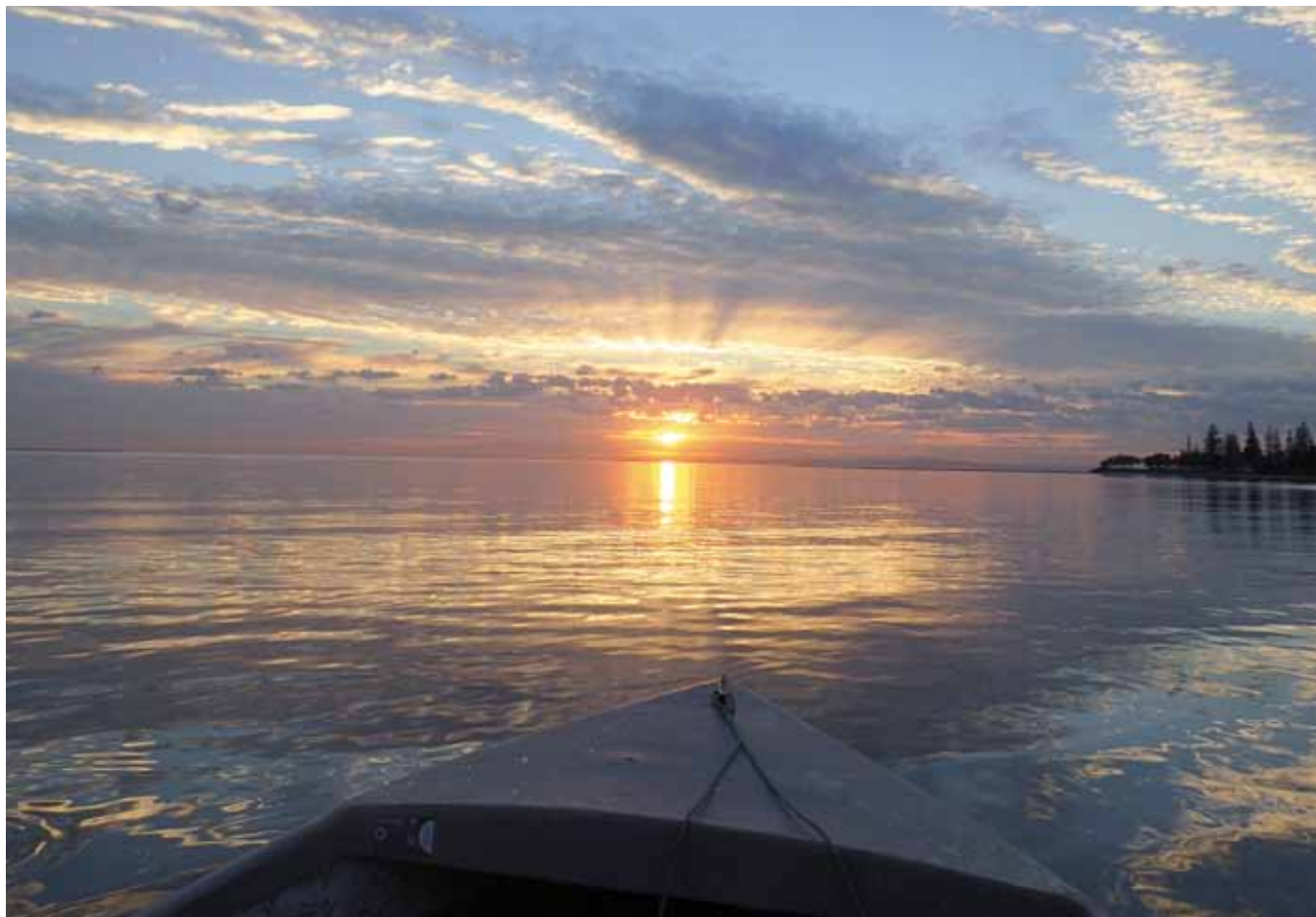
Through funding obtained from the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) a series of videos have been produced to expand and enhance the material developed through the SBQI.

Industry remains under biosecurity lock down in Moreton Bay until the region is declared White Spot free.

Keith Harris
President
Queensland Seafood Industry
Association

VOLUME 37, No. 1 2019 Queensland SEAFOOD

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Queensland Seafood is the official journal of the Queensland Seafood Industry Association Inc, the peak body representing the State's seafood industry.

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QSIA working to minimise biosecurity risks

THE impact of White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV) in Queensland exposed the level of preparedness of industry to the implications of a biosecurity event.

The Queensland Seafood Industry Association (QSIA) applied for, and received, a grant from the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

This special edition of *Queensland Seafood* provides a summary of the work undertaken by the Association and Dr Ben Diggles, with contributions from Federal and State Government officers.

The grant was provided through the Stronger Biosecurity and Quarantine Initiative (SBQI), which aims to enable the Australian Government to strengthen Australia's biosecurity preparedness and response capability for exotic pest and disease incursions.

The Association has worked with Federal and State Government biosecurity officers to ensure the information developed under the grant

is applicable in Queensland, as well as nationally.

Under the SBQI, the grant was used by the Association to:

- ❑ increase preparedness of Queensland's wild harvest seafood industry to respond to biosecurity incidents through the appointment of a Biosecurity and Industry Liaison Officer;
- ❑ develop an industry biosecurity plan; and
- ❑ develop an industry communication tool kit to educate the industry on biosecurity issues.

In order to ensure the material under the SBQI grant is disseminated across industry and government, the Association has posted biosecurity plans and information on its website: <https://qsia.com.au/biosecurity/>.

The Association is also preparing a series of video presentations examining the importance of biosecurity for wild



harvest fishers, post-harvest businesses and biosecurity basics.

If you have any questions regarding the content in this special edition of the magazine, please call me on 0417 631 353 or email: eo@qsia.com.au.

Eric Perez
Chief Executive Officer
Queensland Seafood Industry
Association



Biosecurity Overview

WITH global trade boosting arrivals of international shipping and increasing availability of imported seafood, commercial fishers throughout Queensland need to be aware and prepared for a new age of potential biosecurity threats to their fisheries.

The presence of White Spot Disease amongst wild populations of prawns and crabs in South East Queensland, and the resulting disruptions to local businesses, have dealt some harsh lessons and raised many questions.

The most obvious question is what were the failures in border quarantine that allowed the exotic white spot virus entry in the first place? The recent Inspector General of Biosecurity Report into the effectiveness of biosecurity controls on uncooked prawn imports found that “Despite enhanced pre-border and border measures, the resumption of uncooked prawn imports still poses the risk of infected prawns entering Australia for retail sale and entering Australian waters.”

In the face of this sobering situation, another question that arises is “what should fishers do if they catch fish which have visible symptoms of disease?” It was these sorts of questions that lead to development of Queensland’s first Seafood Industry Biosecurity Plan.

Important revisions of the Queensland Biosecurity Act 2014 came into effect on 1 July 2016. The new Act included introduction of a general biosecurity obligation (GBO), which requires every person to take “reasonable and practical steps to prevent or minimise biosecurity risks to the economy, agricultural and tourism industries, and the environment”.

People do not need to know about all biosecurity risks, but they are expected to know about the risks associated with their day-to-day work and hobbies.

Under the new act, every Queenslanders needs to take an active role in managing the biosecurity risks under their control. If a person’s activities are likely to pose a biosecurity risk, they are expected to know about the risks posed by what they do, and to ensure they do not spread pests, diseases or contaminants.

Australia is a member country of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) (The World Organisation for Animal Health). Membership of

What is biosecurity?

PARED down to the bare essentials, biosecurity is simply prevention of the introduction and spread of serious pests and diseases into new areas.

The main emphasis is prevention, because this is usually much cheaper in the long run as once introduced, eradication of new diseases or pests is often not an option.

Biosecurity can be applied at many levels. Indeed, in Australia it is applied in multiple layers; at the international border, between States, between different regions within each State, and even within individual business.

At each level there are several “tools of the trade” such as testing, zoning, compartmentalisation and decontamination that are applied to try to ensure that movements of products that represent a biosecurity risk are done safely, reducing the risk to a level of protection that is acceptable while still allowing trade.

In general, live animals represent the highest biosecurity risk, followed by products made from fresh dead (uncooked, chilled or frozen) animals, while cooked products represent the lowest biosecurity risk.

Biosecurity is only as strong as the weakest link in the chain. Breakdowns at the international border require beefing up of biosecurity at each State border, or in infected and uninfected zones within each State (such as within the White Spot Disease Movement Control Zone in South East Queensland).

The spread of serious, internationally significant aquatic diseases such as White Spot Disease to new areas can cause massive and permanent disruption and economic losses to fisheries and aquaculture businesses.

Like it or not, the “White Spot Saga” has forced the seafood industry in Queensland to acknowledge that biosecurity matters are important and need to be taken seriously.

LAW essentials

Hot Issues

- GLADSTONE PORT DREDGING - Class Action**

The Class Action is well underway in the Rockhampton Supreme Court. If you want to have your claim advanced and have not signed up, you need to act immediately!

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

 - (a) Owner, operator, skipper or deckie catching any seafood in the Trawl, Crab, Net & Line fishery from Yeppoon south to Fraser Island at W32.
 - (b) Owner, operator, skipper or deckie in the Trawl fishery trawling for prawns or scallops from W33 south to W36.
 - (c) Any person (in a professional capacity) who cleaned, peeled, packaged, froze, stored, transported, wholesaled or exported any of the seafood described in (a) or (b) above.

If you did any of the above at any time between 2011 and 2019, then you are eligible. It is all **NO WIN NO FEE**. You have nothing to lose. Contact our office for the relevant forms.
- WHITE SPOT DISEASE - Compensation Claims (Moreton Bay)**

NO WIN NO FEE - sign up if you want your claim advanced. This is open to owners of licences, lessees, skippers, deckies and any onshore businesses impacted by White Spot. If you do not sign up then you will guarantee yourself of getting \$0.
- FISHERIES OFFENCES - the Tide is rising on the amount of Fines.**

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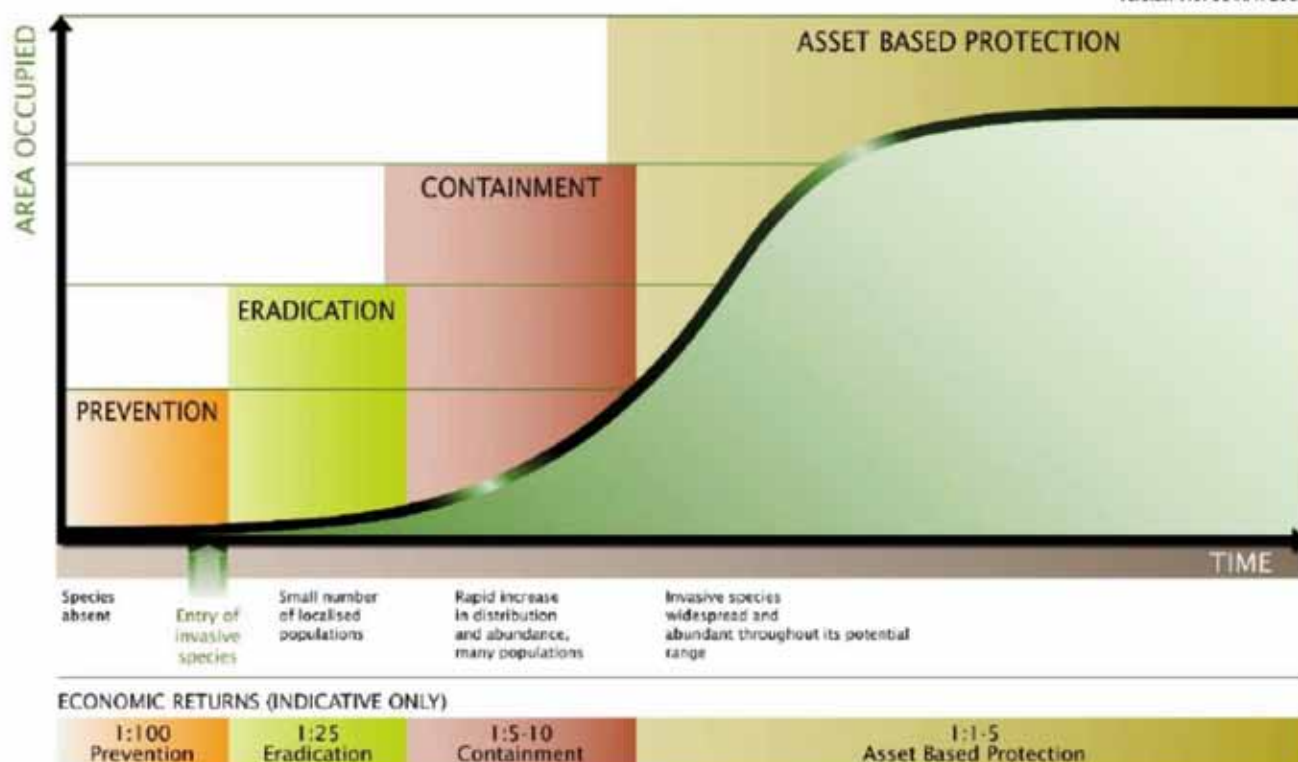


Figure 1. Biosecurity is firstly about prevention (most cost effective), but eradication and containment/zoning are also extremely important to try to limit spread of a disease once it is introduced. Diagram from Victorian Government (2010).

these international organisations requires Australia to recognise and abide by certain standards relating to international trade in animal products, including a need to report the occurrence of serious infectious diseases that are listed by the OIE as “notifiable diseases”.

The main aim of developing a Biosecurity Plan for Queensland’s Seafood Industry was to provide commercial fishers and processors with the tools they need to improve their awareness of the various notifiable diseases that could affect their fishery.

The Biosecurity Plans also alert fishers and processors to their general biosecurity obligations and responsibilities under the Queensland Biosecurity Act. In doing so, the plans

will also improve industry biosecurity capacity and ensure that fishers know what to do if they suspect the presence of a major aquatic pest or disease in their fishery.

The development of the plan includes a toolkit comprised of various resources in a total of 23 fishery-specific Biosecurity Plans (including an overview document).

If any fishery is potentially affected by an important disease which could be introduced into Queensland from overseas or interstate, a biosecurity plan has been developed for that fishery.

Each biosecurity plan contains introductory information on biosecurity

basics (see article on previous page – What is Biosecurity?) as well as detailed disease identification sheets containing information on diseases that may affect that fishery or seafood sector (see List of Disease Identification Sheets).

A list of the various different fisheries-specific biosecurity plans can be found in the Biosecurity Plan Overview Document available at <https://qsia.com.au/biosecurity/>

Each biosecurity plan also contains information on who to contact if you suspect the presence of an important disease, why biosecurity strategies such as zoning, compartmentalisation and decontamination are employed, and a summary of different ways to decontaminate equipment exposed to the various disease agents of concern.

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JOE VELLA
INSURANCE BROKERS



Development of biosecurity videos

THE outbreak of White Spot has challenged government and industry in terms of preparedness for the impacts of biosecurity threats. There is a need to increase industry capacity to respond to biosecurity threats. The production of video material addressed the information and education gaps identified amongst the Queensland seafood industry.

The Biosecurity Act 2014 (Qld) states that industry has an obligation (a general biosecurity obligation) to take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent or minimise the biosecurity risk. The videos will help industry to do this by offering an information platform that is tailored to industry needs.

The video and written material will help educate industry regarding its biosecurity obligations.

The Association and Millstream Productions through funding provided by the FRDC have developed three biosecurity video presentations focussing on the importance of biosecurity across the harvest and post-harvest sectors.

On behalf of the QSIA I would like to thank the individuals that helped make the project a reality. In particular I would like to thank Matthew Blyth, Alaneo Gloor and Paul Lalo (Millstream Productions), Gary Clark (Swamp Cartoons and Amtac Professional Services) and Craig Mann (Gold Coast Bulletin). I am particularly grateful for the support and assistance provided

by Matt and Alaneo throughout every stage of this project.

I would also like to acknowledge the contributions of Dr Ben Diggles and Dr Stephen Wesche. Dr Matt Landos, Annie Jarret and Ingo Ernst provided feedback in the development of the project.

The project has also been supported by staff from Biosecurity Queensland including Kerrod Beattie, Chris Hollingdrake and Maria Hauff.

Most importantly, the project could not have been delivered without the ongoing commitment of commercial harvest and post-harvest industry operators including: Margaret,

Graham and Jacob Stevenson, Elaine Lewthwaite, Brett Fuchs, Dr Renae Tobin, Dr Andrew Tobin, Nathan Rynn, Stephen Murphy, Neil, Leanne and Sienna Green, Richard Hamilton, Scott Hodgetts, James Maher, Paul Grunske, Peter Anderson, David Swindells, Michael Wilkinson, Marshall Betzel and Neil Moretto.

Finally, I would like to thank FRDC for their financial assistance, without which this project would not have been possible.

Eric Perez
Chief Executive Officer
Queensland Seafood Industry
Association



“Biosecurity Basics”, the movie

JUST over 12 months ago, *Drawing the Line* film-makers Matt Blyth and Alaneo Gloor walked into a QSIA meeting of professional fishers, scientists and a representative of Biosecurity Queensland.

The meeting was to scope a film-based biosecurity project. We had just produced a documentary about POMS (Pacific Mortality Oyster Syndrome) in Tasmania, so we semi-knew what we were getting into but what ensued over coming months was an eye-opener.

After some intensive planning, we embarked on a road trip from Cairns to the Gold Coast over about three weeks, visiting all ports in between.

The job was to produce a series of stories about the importance of biosecurity for Harvest and Post-Harvest Seafood Industry workers, as

well as an animation about the basics of biosecurity.

All this work was off the back of the South East Queensland White Spot incursion,.

The project is unique – a world-first – in that it steps seafood Industry workers through what to do if they see anything out of the ordinary in the marine environment.

The challenge, however, was how to take biosecurity stories and integrate science and the importance of reporting - easier said than done.

We were fortunate to have Dr Ben Diggles and Biosecurity Queensland marine scientist Steven Wesche to keep us on track with the fisheries science.

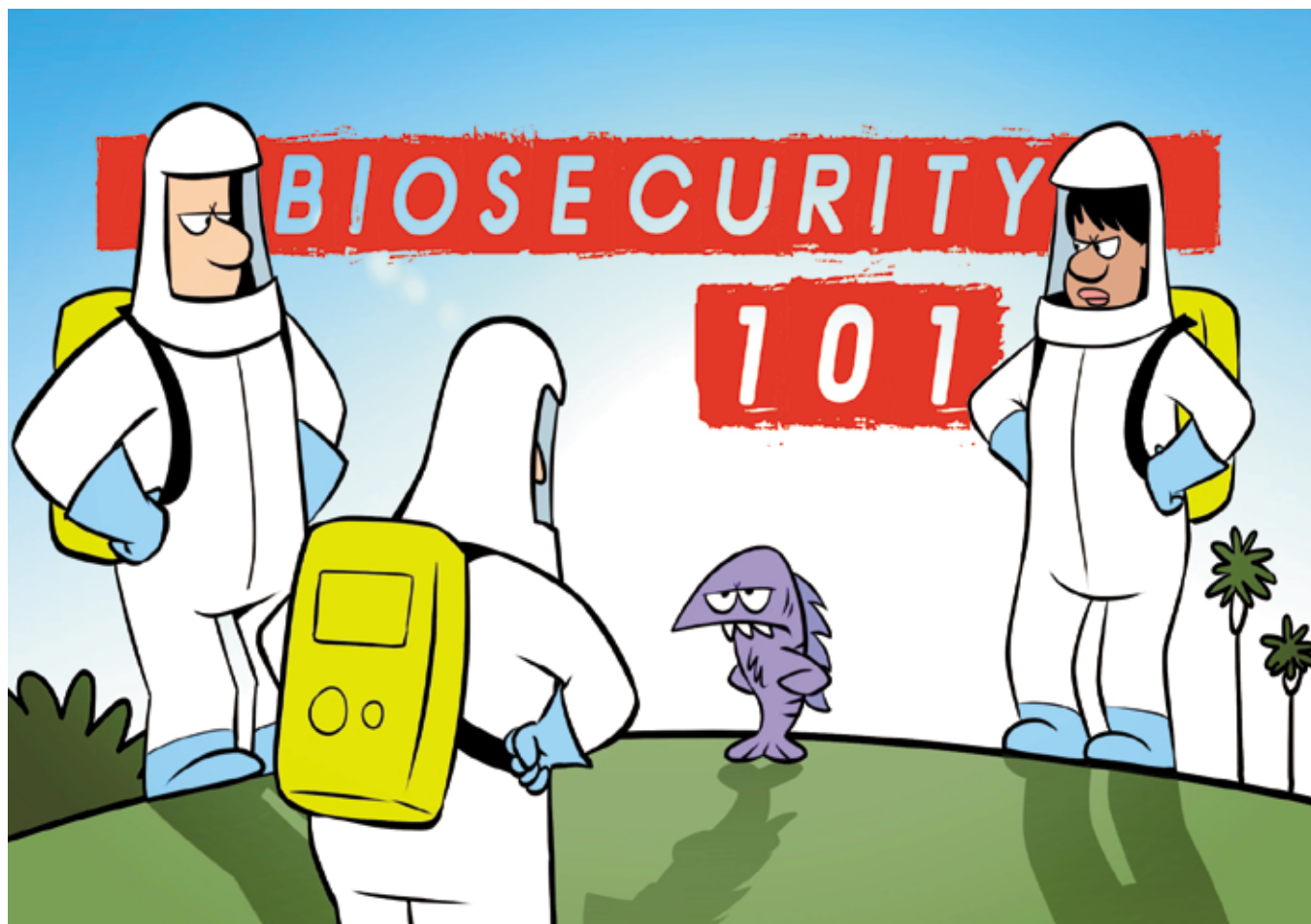
However, what really makes the films special are the voices of industry: the generational fishers and their love of and commitment to the environment they work within.

We didn't just make documentaries for the QSIA: we had some fun too enlisting the help of two of Australia's best cartoonists – Gary Clark (SWAMP) and Craig Mann (Gold Coast Bulletin newspaper) – to develop a Biosecurity 101 animation.

The film title *Biosecurity Basics* takes a ton of complexity and panel-beats it into a light-hearted but salient film about the importance of reporting. *Biosecurity Basics* is the second piece produced by Speech Bubble animation team.

Matt Blyth and Alaneo Gloor
Millstream Productions





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Biosecurity is vital

BIOSECURITY is about preventing the introduction and spread of exotic pests and diseases. Unfortunately, biosecurity breaches do occur and new pests and diseases can emerge or be introduced via various pathways.

If an exotic pest or disease 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.

The first step is to try to eradicate the pest or disease and return the area to a pest or disease free zone. Commercial businesses and the community may be adversely affected by eradication efforts in the short-term, however, the long-term benefits of returning to business-as-usual are much greater than the short-term impacts involved with eradication.

Containment is also an extremely important process because pests and diseases can spread a long way very quickly by human assistance, much faster than they can be spread by natural movements of animals.

It is also important to ensure clothes and equipment are thoroughly cleaned as diseases can spread on

contaminated clothing, boats, vehicles and equipment.

Strict controls on the movement of pests as well as infected animals and contaminated equipment are required

to prevent rapid movement of these pests and diseases to new areas.

For more information on biosecurity and how to create a biosecurity plan, visit the Queensland Seafood Industry Association qsia.com.au/biosecurity



If you see a suspected marine pest or a sick or diseased marine animal follow these steps

CLICK  COLLECT  REPORT 



TAKE A PHOTO
of the suspected animal

COLLECT A SAMPLE
if you can and refrigerate it



REPORT IT
by calling Biosecurity
Queensland **13 25 23**

White Spot Disease update

Dr Ben Diggles

At the time of writing we are still in limbo in relation to the white spot disease incursion in Moreton Bay. The incursion was first recognized in December 2016 after mortalities on prawn farms on the Logan River, resulting in the complete destruction and shutdown of the prawn farming industry until September 2018.

At the time of writing, around half of the affected prawn farms have restarted production with improved treatment of intake water and other biosecurity strategies, and all have nearly finished rearing their 2018/19 crops without incident.

In contrast, commercial fishing industries in the Logan River and Moreton Bay remain severely affected, after the virus was found in wild prawns and crabs near Redcliffe in March 2017. This unwelcome discovery resulted in the complete shutdown of the bait prawn and baitworm fisheries due to strict biosecurity controls that still remain in place preventing movement of uncooked prawns and worms from the control area.

Testing of wild prawns and crabs in Moreton Bay has found a seasonal expression of infection, with the virus being found only during the summer sampling period. In contrast, results in the Logan River have been negative for the virus.

For more information on testing results, see the Biosecurity QLD website <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity/animal-biosecurity-welfare/animal-health-pests-diseases/a-z-list-of-significant-animal-pests-and-diseases/white-spot-disease/white-spot-disease-surveillance>

The testing results due soon in March 2019 will determine whether the disease is fading away, persisting, or spreading into other parts of the bay. Internationally determined biosecurity regulations require a minimum of 2 years of negative testing results before biosecurity controls can be lifted.

Until such time as this occurs, all bait prawn producers will need to work on other strategies such as irradiation, with research currently underway to try to determine the minimum effective irradiation dose that makes bait prawns from Moreton Bay safe to use without cooking.

One outcome from the white

spot disease incursion has been the development of the Queensland Seafood Industry Biosecurity Plan. This information toolkit provides educational resources relating to diseases that may affect the various different fisheries and seafood sectors in Queensland, and includes response options to help prepare the industry for future biosecurity incidents. The

main aim of developing this toolkit was to improve industry biosecurity awareness and help commercial fishers and processors to become more aware of biosecurity issues and to know what to do if they suspect the presence of a major aquatic pest or disease.

For more information see <https://qsia.com.au/biosecurity/>



A post-harvest perspective on biosecurity

by Neil Moretto

BIOSECURITY is a topic that is at the forefront of everyone's way of thinking.

As a stakeholder, it is an important part of this wonderful industry of ours and one that we must have working efficiently and effectively.

This awareness and educational project that the Fisheries Research & Development Corporation (FRDC) initiated and QSIA undertook was of perfect timing, considering the headline acts of the past, and essential to all levels of industry.

As someone that was asked to give an opinion on the post-harvest sector, I felt that the project was well thought out and executed.

We must illustrate that biosecurity threats are needing to be tackled and confronted by all.

If we allow ourselves to become complacent, then we are under threat of losing it all, from a valuable and essential harvest sector, through to the many links in the supply chain that feeds and distributes a healthy domestic and international market. And, of course, let's not forget Australia's reputation internationally that is one of clean, green and sustainable.



It is easy to see why this obligation by all is something we must make part of our day-to-days.

And I again thank these key organisations as front runners in the fight.

A harvester's view on biosecurity

by Richard Hamilton

I HAVE been fortunate enough to have worked with Millstream Productions on a number of occasions, the first time being involved with the documentary *Drawing the Line* about the planned introduction of the expansion of the Marine Parks along the Australian coastline.

I have also worked with Millstream Productions, including the issue of biosecurity.

Matt Blyth and Alaneo Gloor made me feel at ease and always displayed professionalism and passion for the fishing industry and the issues that matter.

Millstream Productions have worked with a wide range of clients around Australia and continue to deliver quality productions that present issues that the industry is faced with and telling the story of another "True Aussie Battler", educating the community on the issues that face the fishing industry.



Biosecurity Materials

AS a result of the SBQI funding, industry has a range of biosecurity material for use by industry, educators and the community.

1) Biosecurity Plan

The aim of the plan is to enhance the ability of Queensland's wild harvest seafood industry to prepare for, identify, mitigate the impact of and respond to future biosecurity incidents by:

- ☐ Alerting the industry about its role and responsibilities during biosecurity incidents;
- ☐ Reviewing and implementing best practice biosecurity measures within the wild harvest seafood industry; and
- ☐ Communicating with and educating stakeholders about the characteristics, prevention and management of important aquatic pests and diseases.

2) Fishery Specific Plans

A set of fishery specific plans (21 in

total) have also been created for the Crab, Line, Net, Trawl and Harvest fisheries.

3) Disease Information Sheets

A set of disease information sheets (36 in total) have also been developed – categorised under Crustaceans, Finfish and Molluscs.

Eric Perez
Chief Executive Officer
Queensland Seafood Industry
Association

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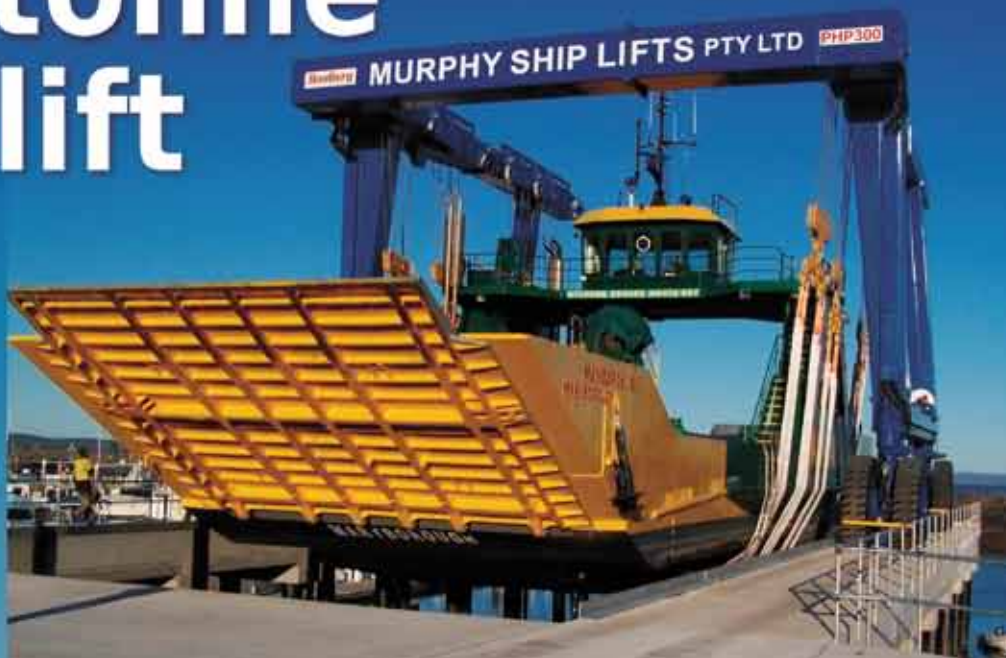


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