



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Energy

ABN: 34 190 894 983

Application Form and Guidelines for Approval of an Aquaculture Program

Introduction

In Australia, Part 13A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) regulates the:

- import and export of specimens protected under the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora* (CITES);
- exports of Australian native specimens; and
- imports of live specimens.

Permits to export Australian native specimens overseas for commercial purposes can be obtained from the Department of the Environment and Energy (the Department). The specimens being exported must come from an approved program such as an approved Aquaculture Program.

Further information on wildlife trade, the EPBC Act and CITES is available at:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/wildlife-trade>

Who needs to apply for an Aquaculture Program?

- Individuals or companies in Australia that are involved in aquaculture of native species and intend to export these species overseas for commercial purposes.
- Approval is **not required** for species that are on the List of Exempt Native Specimens (see below).
- If you intend to export a species that is listed on **Appendix I or II of CITES** from your aquaculture operation, this **cannot** be done under an approved Aquaculture Program as this approval does not fulfil the requirements of CITES. In this situation you will need to apply for approval as a **Captive Breeding Program**. Contact the Department if you are in doubt as to which program is most applicable to your situation.

Native Specimen Exemptions

A number of Australian native specimens **do not require** export permits from the Department and exporters involved in aquaculture of these native species do not need to apply for an approved aquaculture program. The full list of exempt native specimens is available at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/wildlife-trade/natives/list-exempt-native-specimens>

The exemption applies to native specimens that are or are derived from fish, aquatic invertebrates or aquatic plants that are produced lawfully in an aquaculture facility licensed by the relevant State or Territory government agency, (excluding specimens that are or belong to species listed on Appendix I or II of CITES or under Part 13 of the EPBC Act).

- The operation must not involve the introduction of wild collected specimens, including parental stock, and is limited to specimens bred within the operation.
- The operation is conducted in a manner such that specimens of the species in production cannot enter from the wild or escape into the wild from the operation site. Some species not covered by this general exemption may be included separately on the List of exempt native specimens.

A list of species listed under **CITES** is at:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/wildlife-trade/cites/cites-species>

A list of species listed as threatened under the **EPBC Act** is at:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened>

The list of **exempt** native specimens is available at:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/wildlife-trade/natives/list-exempt-native-specimens>

Completing the Application Form

The 'Application Form' starts on page 4. Please complete the application form, detach it from the guidelines and submit it to the Department.

- Attach all supporting documentation to your application as requests for additional information will result in delays.
- Sign the form as unsigned applications will not be accepted.
- There are severe penalties for knowingly making false or misleading statements in this application.

Assessment of the application

When the Department receives your application, it will be assessed to ensure it meets the requirements of the EPBC Act. The assessment and approval process usually takes around 6-8 weeks if an application is satisfactory and contains all supporting documentation. Assessment of your application will include a consideration of:

- Whether any further authorisation is required under Commonwealth, State or Territory environmental or conservation legislation before the aquaculture program can be undertaken lawfully.
- Whether collection, for breeding, of aquaculture species will have an adverse effect on the conservation status of a species or ecosystem.
- Whether environmental impacts are considered before aquaculture specimens may be released.

Once a decision has been made, you will be notified of the outcome. Approval will generally be for a period of 5 years. Renewal will be subject to a review to establish that the program is still operational and continues to meet the requirements of the EPBC Act.

PLEASE NOTE: Any changes to the breeding operation, including the addition of new species, will require approval. Approval may be withdrawn if it is determined that your operation no longer meets the requirements for aquaculture.

Export Permits

Once your aquaculture program has been approved, you or your clients must obtain permits from the Department before any specimens are exported from Australia. Contact Wildlife Trade Regulation at the address below for more information on obtaining permits or visit the Department's website at:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/wildlife-trade/permits> Controls under the EPBC Act are in addition to those exercised under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. For information about quarantine, contact Biosecurity – on 1800 900 090.

For further information on Wildlife Programs and Permits please contact:

Wildlife Trade
Department of the Environment
and Energy
GPO BOX 787
CANBERRA
ACT 2601

Telephone: (02) 6274 1900 (Option 2) – for programs
(02) 6274 1900 (Option 1) – for permits
Email: wta@environment.gov.au – for programs
wildlifetrade@environment.gov.au – for permits
Website: <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/wildlife-trade>



Application Form for Approval of an Aquaculture Program

Applicant Details

1. Name

Mr, Ms, Mrs, etc First (given) name

Family name (Surname)

2. Organisation/trading name (if appropriate)

Registered name and ABN

3. Street address

Town/suburb

State

Postcode

4. Postal address

If same as street address, tick here

Town/suburb

State

Postcode

5. Contact details (include area code)

Telephone number – work / home / mobile

Fax number

Email

Program Details

6. Is this a renewal of, or an amendment to, an existing approved Aquaculture Program?

No **Go to next question**

Yes Please contact the Department to determine what information will be required.

7. Do you agree to have your company name and Aquaculture Program details on the Department's website:

No

Yes

8. Complete the attached List of Species Bred (page 5 of the application form).

9. Complete the attached Information on source of brood stock (page 5 of the application form).

10. Complete the attached Description of facilities (page 6 of the application form).

11. Complete the attached Statement on whether specimens will be released from the wild (page 7 of the application form).

12. Tick the items for which you have attached evidence:

Tick the items for which you have attached evidence

List of species (pg 5)

Information on source of brood stock (pg 5)

Facility description (pg 6) (including photographs and diagrams)

Statement on whether specimens will be released into the wild (pg 7)

Copies of State/Territory Permits (if licensing is required)

Attach information and go to Q12

13. Declaration by Applicant

I declare that:

- the particulars provided by me in this application (including attachments) are true and correct in every detail.
- I have not been convicted of an offence in the last 10 years and am not subject to any court proceedings for an offence relating to the protection, conservation or management of native species or ecological communities.

Name of applicant or authorised person (if applicant is an organisation)

Signature of applicant or authorised person

Date signed by applicant

Detach this application form from the guidelines and fax or mail it with all supporting documents to the following address:

Postal address:

The Director
Wildlife Trade Assessments
Department of the Environment and Energy
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Phone: (02) 6274 1900 (option '2')
Fax: (02) 6274 1921
E-mail: wta@environment.gov.au

Small Businesses

Please provide an estimate of time taken to complete this form:

Hours Minutes

Include:

- the time actually spent reading the instructions, working on the questions and obtaining the information; and
- the time spent by your employees in collecting and providing this information.

List of Species Bred

Species covered by the Aquaculture Program

PLEASE PRINT - If more convenient the applicant may submit a list of species in a different format but must include all required information.

Scientific Name	Common Name

Information on Source of the Brood Stock

PLEASE PRINT

1. Please provide information on the source of the brood stock.

Description of Facilities

Please answer the question below. Written answers can be inserted in the space provided or if more convenient the applicant may attach information in a different format but must include all required information.

PLEASE PRINT

1. Please provide a description of the facilities (including photographs and diagrams).

Statement

PLEASE PRINT

1. Please provide a statement on whether the specimens will be release into the wild. If the specimens are released into the wild, then you must demonstrate that environmental impacts are considered and all relevant approvals given before any release occurs.