



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

ATTACHMENT 1

GUIDANCE STATEMENT

Criteria for Suitably Qualified Invasive Marine Pest Experts

Version 1.0, July 2017

**Prepared by Aquatic Biosecurity Section, Fisheries,
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, WA**

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Version Control

AMENDMENT		DETAILS	AMENDED BY
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0.1	04/03/16	First version for internal approval.	M Massam & V Aitken
0.2	29/04/16	Second version for distribution to biofouling inspectors.	M Massam, R Adams, B Tilley & V Aitken
0.3	14/06/16	Third version	M Massam, B Tilley, V Aitken and J Looby
0.4	16/08/16	Fourth version for external comments.	M Massam, B Tilley, R Adams
0.5	19/09/16	Fifth version with minor amendments.	M Massam
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1 Purpose

The Fisheries Division of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development assists the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation with respect to Biofouling Inspectors as required by relevant ministerial conditions under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. Relevant conditions¹ give Fisheries the power to approve suitably qualified invasive marine pest experts to undertake inspections of vessels determined by Fisheries to be at high risk of introducing marine pests. This document outlines the criteria² Fisheries will use to do this.

The purpose of such inspections is to ensure that no sediments are present, that ballast water has been appropriately managed and that no marine pests/invasive marine species (IMS) have been identified. Where IMS have been identified, inspectors should ensure that appropriate actions have been taken and re-inspection has determined the vessel or equipment presents a low risk.

NB. Fisheries considers this policy to be the best practice approach for ALL IMS inspections. Use of a suitably qualified person provides Fisheries with a level of confidence that a vessel's/equipment's risk has been appropriately assessed and managed, and can minimize potential delays to mobilisations.

2 Criteria

At the time the inspection report is submitted, the proponent will need to satisfy Fisheries that the inspector meets the criteria below by providing a written assessment.

Fisheries will then assess the inspector against the criteria, as well as the standard of the inspection report, to determine if they can be approved for a completed inspection of one of the three specific vessel types and situations in section 2.4.

2.1 Knowledge

- Significant experience and qualifications in the marine environment and marine quarantine/biosecurity fields. i.e. tertiary marine biology/ecology qualifications (particularly invertebrate biology), and/or equivalent. For example, B.Sc. or M.Sc. in marine biology, and three years relevant industry experience, **OR** minimum six years relevant industry experience in marine biology/marine environment.

¹ For example - condition 12 of Statement No.873, made by the Minister for the Environment under section 45 of the EP Act in respect of the Wheatstone development.

² When not all criteria have been met, the Department will consider approvals on a case-by-case basis.

- Specific IMS inspection qualifications³ or company-based training⁴ considered appropriate by Fisheries.
- Knowledge and understanding of applicable legislation including the *Fish Resources Management Act 1994 (FRMA)*, *Aquatic Resources Management Act 2016* (when enacted), EPA and relevant federal legislation, and their use in a biosecurity context.
- Additional evidence will also be relevant and highly instructive, such as relevant experience (a list of inspections and projects), sectors covered, specialist work, professional memberships (e.g. provisional or full membership in a suitable association of biosecurity professionals recognised by Fisheries), awards and research, professional outputs including journal articles or reports, and references from peers working in the area.

2.2 Fit and proper person

- History of complying with fisheries and other relevant legislation.
- History of reporting suspected and confirmed IMS in WA to Fisheries within 24 hours.
- No convictions in relation to honesty or fraud under any written law – to be confirmed by the provision of a current (obtained within the last year) national police clearance.
- No history of making entries or statements in records or returns that are false or misleading.

2.3 Ability

Can collect and assess in an unbiased manner relevant information to make a pre-inspection assessment of a vessel, which will assist in providing adequate instructions to divers and dry inspection teams and in informing the risk assessment process.

- As part of the pre-inspection assessment, a demonstrated ability to determine IMS likely to be present on the vessel, and to reference the relevant IMS list.
- Understand and document any limitations on inspections imposed by occupational health and safety standards and permits.
- Demonstrated ability to prepare a briefing for divers and dry inspection teams.
- Demonstrated ability to effectively inspect internal sea water systems and topsides.

³ At the time of writing, there is little demand for the Biofouling Inspection Course previously developed by the Department but this will be reviewed every 18 months. In the meantime, the nominated person should provide evidence of training and experience in the Department's biofouling best practice guidelines and report requirements, IMS identification and sampling, and in conducting in-water and dry IMS inspections.

⁴ The company should have a quality staff selection process, internal training/mentoring regime and standard procedures to conduct biofouling inspections to detect IMS, maintain records to this effect, and be independently certified to meet a relevant international standard. e.g. ISO 9001.

- Demonstrated ability to deliver a dry inspection⁵ and an in-water inspection⁶ to Fisheries' standard (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development 2017a).
- Demonstrated ability to identify suspected IMS and provide properly preserved (or fresh) samples of them to Fisheries in the manner specified (Department of Fisheries 2014b).
- Demonstrated ability to provide a biofouling inspection report including all of Fisheries' requirements, and relevant attachments (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development 2017b).
- Demonstrated ability to provide accurate advice to vessel managers relating to: risk minimisation in accordance with relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, remediation and corrective measures, and ongoing management and best practice to achieve and maintain a low risk status.

2.4 Experience

A list of significant vessels inspected, indicating the type of vessel and whether inspected in-water or dry must be provided.

The inspector must have (as a minimum) the experience documented below, obtained within a period of three years, in order to be considered suitably qualified to conduct an inspection of one of the three specific vessel types and situations below.

- **Dry inspections of dumb barges only** – the inspector has conducted a total of at least three of these inspections, and submitted representative reports to Fisheries' standard; OR
- **Dry inspections only** – the inspector has conducted a total of at least five of these inspections (for both simple⁷ and complex⁸ vessels), and submitted representative reports to Fisheries' standard; OR
- **Dry and in-water inspections** – the inspector has conducted a total of at least five dry, and five in-water inspections of both simple and complex vessels, and submitted representative reports to Fisheries' standard.

(Note: For in-water inspections, the inspector must demonstrate commercial and/or scientific diving experience undertaken in conjunction with IMS vessel or IMS marine infrastructure inspections.)

⁵ Includes inspections that are conducted at various facilities such as dry-docks, floating docks, slipways, travel-lifts, synchrolifts or on heavy-lift vessels.

⁶ Includes inspections using divers or (rarely) remotely operated vehicles (ROVs). ROV inspections are only suitably for pre-inspection surveys.

⁷ Dumb barges, general cargo ships, tankers, bulk carriers, tugs, small offshore support vessels with one or two thrusters, and similar (John Polglaze pers. comm.) including small recreational vessels (< 24 m in length).

⁸ Offshore support vessels with more than two thrusters, dredges and dredge support vessels, pipelayers, dynamic positioning ships, and similar (John Polglaze pers. comm.) including large recreational vessels (≥ 24 m in length).

Supporting references from inspectors previously viewed as suitably qualified (as per these guidelines), previously listed biofouling inspectors or Fisheries officers must indicate whether the inspector played the lead role and carried out the inspection to the required standard.

2.5 Maintenance of experience

In order to maintain levels of experience, the inspector must satisfy the following criteria:

- Conduct at least three IMS inspections every two years to maintain knowledge, ability and experience.
- Attend all biofouling inspector meetings called by Fisheries either in person or via conferencing facilities.
- Demonstrate a commitment to ongoing professional development to remain contemporary with respect to inspection methods and technology. e.g. attend relevant conferences, conduct IMS monitoring surveys.

2.6 Change in status

In the event that an inspector is not considered suitably qualified, the proponent will be informed that the inspection report is not acceptable and provided with the reasons why via a statement of decision.

3 Review

This policy will be reviewed within three years of the date listed below unless needed sooner.

Date: 21 July 2017

4 References

Department of Fisheries 2014a. Biofouling biosecurity policy, document dated 05/05/2014. http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/Documents/biosecurity/biofouling_biosecurity_policy.pdf

Department of Fisheries 2014b. Handling and Preservation Protocol of IMP Organisms, document dated 05/08/2014.

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development 2017a. Best Practice Guidelines for Invasive Marine Species Inspections, document dated July 2017.

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development 2017b. Guidance Statement – Invasive Marine Species Inspection Report Requirements, document dated July 2017.

Fisheries Western Australia 2000. Assessment of Applications for the Granting, Renewal or Transfer of Fishing Tour Operators Licences and Aquatic Eco-tourism Operators Licences. Ministerial Policy Guideline No. 12.