

Alien Species Workshop

Emerging Issues in Alien Fish Management in the Murray-Darling Basin:
with a Focus on Redfin, Tilapia and Oriental Weatherloach

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DPI&F Building, Brisbane

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Need for an Alien Fish Species Workshop

- Most focus and resources on impacts of carp
- Little consideration given to other alien fish species:
 - not yet established;
 - not yet present, but have the potential to invade
 - or species with economic or social values in some jurisdictions
- Member States currently not in a position to reduce the risk of alien species spreading or entering the Basin

Alien fish workshop Objectives

- 1. Engage the MDBC's Fish Management and Science Committee, state agencies, conservation groups and other key stakeholders to review current knowledge of the status, threats and management for Redfin, Tilapia and Oriental weatherloach in or adjacent to the Basin**
- 2. Identify a management regime and knowledge requirements that will guide the investment of the FMSC and state agencies**

Workshop Agenda

Day One

- Impacts of alien species and status of management
- Frameworks for alien species management
- Group discussions to develop State alien management protocols

Day Two

- Consolidation of position
- Redfin, Tilapia and weatherloach specific group discussions
- General and species specific research requirements
- Finalisation of recommendations

Alien Species Management

Prevention/
Preparedness

Control
options

Policy/Reporting/
Decision Making

'Toolbox'

Research

Extension/
Education

measurable outcomes with timeframes

Overall Management

Develop a Basin-wide alien fish species strategy and implement

- Rapid Response
- Specify objectives, milestones and targets
- Strategic processes for the containment and disposal of newly declared unwanted species e.g. amnesty, disposal point
- Consistent definition of alien species across jurisdictions

Overall Management cont'd

Basin-wide alien fish species strategy

- seen as a component of the Native Fish Strategy
- act as a driver for complementary State and National strategies
- should recognise roles, responsibilities and cost sharing arrangements of stakeholders

Prevention and Preparedness

- **establish dedicated full time pest management teams**
- **Conduct risk-based assessment for new, potential and existing invaders**
- **Establish a contingency fund for alien species management to ensure resources for rapid response**
- **Further develop and adopt the ‘vulnerable catchment’ approach to prioritise management**

Vulnerable Catchments Approach

➤ Catchments susceptible to infestation by a particular alien species

- Recognizes limited resources
- Risk based assessments
- Priority catchments at highest risk
- Targeted surveillance and education
- Community networks

Control

- Demonstration reaches to test integrated control approaches
- Build capacity across agencies and jurisdictions
- Monitoring
- Bioeconomic assessments
- Evaluate control options

Policy/Reporting/Decision Making

- Consider diversity of 'values'
- Indigenous participation
- Define roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders
- Engage stakeholders

Extension and Communication

- Increase investment - driven by communication strategy
- Social research
- Indigenous communities
- Communities engagement materials
- Raise profile of alien species
- Report both failures and successes

Toolbox

- Collaboration and co-operative between all jurisdictions
- Reference compendium of social research, education and extension processes
- Develop new tools for control and management

General Research Recommendations

1. Technical control options:
2. Social
3. Biology of alien species
4. GIS database
5. Modes of dispersal
6. Quantify impacts of alien species

General Research Recommendations Cont'd

7. Detection Techniques

8. Experimental sites to test hypotheses:

9. Risk Assessment

10. Modelling

11. Bioeconomics