

## **CLARIFICATION PAPER**

### **RESTRICTION ON EXOTIC SPECIES IMPORTATION**

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#### **INTRODUCTION**

The Washington State Departments of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) have promulgated regulations restricting the importation of exotic species into Washington State [1]. Department of Fisheries regulations concern the possibility of release of fish or shellfish diseases from laboratories [2], while Department of Wildlife regulations concern the possibility of release of deleterious exotic organisms from laboratories [3].

#### **PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION**

Because PSDDA regulatory decisions depend on several bioassay tests which import species not native to Washington (primarily *Neanthes arenaceodentata* and *Ampelisca abdita*), clarification of exotic species importation under the PSDDA program is appropriate. The PSDDA agencies believe laboratories are currently conscientious in their management and disposal of exotic species and exposed sediments. However, additional education/clarification to practitioners will decrease the potential for violations. Any laboratory bioassay or bioaccumulation practice which could potentially endanger Washington State's natural resources, including fish and shellfish, should be discontinued.

#### **PROPOSED ACTION/MODIFICATION**

Laboratories conducting bioassay or bioaccumulation tests under PSDDA are expected to meet the disposal requirements identified by Ecology's toxicity test protocols, PSEP protocols, and other regulatory requirements, as well as best management practices (BMPs) developed by DFW. Laboratories must also have documentation on the source of test organisms, the disposal practices for test organisms, and the discharge practices for test solutions, sediments and culture water, including disinfection of discharged water. This documentation must be included in the laboratory's Quality Assurance/Quality Control report, with the test results (QAI information). A list of approved sources for shellfish, as well as copies of the regulations, BMPs and protocols are available from the Department of Ecology.

#### **REFERENCES**

1. Chapter 220-77 WAC. Aquaculture Disease Control, Washington State Department of Fisheries.
2. Department of Fisheries. 1993. Draft Procedures for the Containment of Fish and Fish Pathogens in Research Facilities Operated in the State of Washington.

3. Chapter 232-12-017 WAC. Deleterious Exotic Wildlife, Washington State Department of Wildlife.