



Australian Government
Biosecurity Australia

22 July 2010

BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA ADVICE 2010/22
PROVISIONAL FINAL IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS REPORT FOR FRESHWATER
ORNAMENTAL FINFISH WITH RESPECT TO GOURAMI IRIDOVIRUS AND RELATED
VIRUSES

This Biosecurity Australia Advice notifies stakeholders of the release of the *Provisional final import risk analysis report for freshwater ornamental finfish with respect to the quarantine risks associated with gourami iridovirus and related viruses.*

The provisional final import risk analysis (IRA) report recommends that the importation of fish of the gourami, cichlid and poeciliid families for ornamental purposes be permitted if the fish are batch tested post-arrival in Australia to show they are free of megalocytiviruses; or are sourced from a country, zone or compartment that is recognised by Australia to be free of megalocytiviruses.

The provisional final report takes into account submissions and comments by stakeholders on a draft report released in March 2009. The report is open for appeal to the independent Import Risk Analysis Appeals Panel until 23 August 2010.

Biosecurity Australia Advice 2008/29 of 11 September 2008 announced the formal commencement of a standard IRA under the regulated process to consider the quarantine risks associated with the importation of freshwater ornamental finfish with respect to gourami iridovirus and related viruses. Comments from 18 stakeholders on the draft IRA report issued on 24 March 2009 were taken into account in preparing the provisional final report.

Changes have been made to the IRA report as a result of stakeholder comments and new scientific information that has come to light. Consequently, Biosecurity Australia has reassessed the risks associated with ranaviruses and megalocytiviruses separately. As a result, risk management measures for poeciliid ranavirus are no longer recommended. A recent report of megalocytivirus in paradise fish has led to the addition of this subfamily of the gourami family to the fish that are subject to the recommended risk management measures.

The provisional final IRA recommends that the importation of fish of the gourami, cichlid and poeciliid families for ornamental purposes be permitted only if

- fish are batch tested post-arrival in Australia to show they are free of megalocytiviruses; or
- the fish are sourced from a country, zone or compartment that is recognised by Australia to be free of megalocytiviruses (based on active surveillance).

This IRA is being completed under the regulated process according to the *Import Risk Analysis Handbook 2007 (update 2009)*. The release of this provisional final IRA report marks the end of the regulated timeframe for the IRA. The provisional final IRA report and information about the regulated

IRA process are available from www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au. Printed copies are available on request.

Stakeholders may lodge an appeal in writing to the Import Risk Analysis Appeals Panel—a body independent of Biosecurity Australia. The panel has advised that any appeals must be received by 23 August 2010. The appeal must outline a claim or claims based on the ground that there was a significant deviation from the regulated IRA process that adversely affected the interests of a stakeholder. Each claim must be supported by a statement of reasons.

The panel has 45 days to consider any appeals and report its findings to Australia's Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine and appellants. If there is no appeal, or once any appeals are resolved, the process is complete and policy recommendations will be submitted to the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine for consideration of the determination.

Written appeals (by email or post) must be addressed to the Import Risk Analysis Appeals Panel secretariat, as follows:

Secretariat
Import Risk Analysis Appeals Panel
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Email: IRAAP@daff.gov.au

Further details on the appeal process can be found in the *Import Risk Analysis Handbook 2007 (update 2009)* at www.daff.gov.au/irahandbook and from the IRAAP secretariat at <http://www.daff.gov.au/iraap>.



for Dr Colin J Grant
Chief Executive

Contact: Dr Ramesh Perera
Tel: +61 2 6272 3933
Fax: +61 2 6272 3399