



MANAGING THE FLAT OYSTER PARASITE *BONAMIA OSTREAE*

BACKGROUND

The parasite *Bonamia ostreae* was detected for the first time in New Zealand in early 2015. Overseas, infection with this parasite has been lethal for some flat oyster species.

Other bivalves, in particular Pacific oysters, green-lipped (Greenshell) mussels, and geoduck, are not susceptible to disease caused by *Bonamia ostreae*, but they may be able to carry the parasite and transmit it to flat oysters.

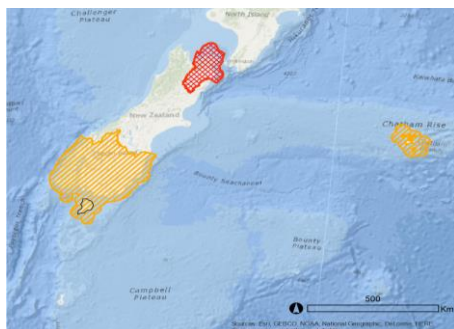
MOVEMENT CONTROLS ON SHELLFISH STOCK

MPI has introduced measures to protect uninfected populations of oysters in areas such as Foveaux Strait, Otago and the Chatham Islands from the introduction of *Bonamia ostreae*.

A Controlled Area Notice has been issued that legally restricts the movement of some shellfish species, including their spat, from the higher risk area of Marlborough/Nelson and Stewart Island to Foveaux Strait, Otago and the Chatham Islands. It also legally restricts movements of farm equipment and vessels out of Stewart Island.

The notice also sets out a Contained Zone that takes in the region of Marlborough and the area within the boundaries of Nelson City and extends out to 12 nautical miles offshore. It sets out additional movement controls for Stewart Island out to 1 nautical mile offshore (designated the Stewart Island Zone).

It also creates a Protected Zone that takes in two areas – the Southland/Otago regions and the Chatham Islands and out to 12 nautical miles from their coasts.



DO I NEED A PERMIT?

Land-based aquaculture facilities and marine farms within the Contained Area (Marlborough/Nelson/Stewart Island) are subject to the controls outlined in the Notice. Marine farms and aquaculture facilities elsewhere in New Zealand may require permits to carry out some activities. The most stringent controls are on the movement of flat oysters.

The controls apply to the movement of certain bivalve species and spat to the waters of different regions.

Stewart Island also has controls to restrict movements of farming equipment and vessels.

1. Shellfish and the Stewart Island Zone (for human consumption):

- Flat oysters, pacific oysters, green-lipped mussels, and geoducks within the Stewart Island Zone can be moved **within** the zone without a permit.
- Flat oysters **cannot** be moved into the Stewart Island zone.
- Flat oysters can only be moved out of the Stewart Island zone if a **permit is obtained from MPI**, or they are fully processed for human consumption, and MPI is notified in writing by the person in charge as soon as reasonably practicable of the movement, itinerary and details of the consignment.
- Pacific oysters, green-lipped mussels and geoduck (adults and spat) can only be moved into or out of the Stewart Island Zone if a **permit is obtained from MPI**, or they have been fully processed for human consumption.

2. Shellfish from the Contained Zone (for human consumption):

- Flat oysters (adults and spat, either farmed or fished) from within the Contained Zone are **not allowed to be transferred** anywhere else in New Zealand, unless they are fully processed for human consumption, and MPI is notified in writing by the person in charge as soon as reasonably practicable of the movement, itinerary and details of the consignment.
- Flat oysters from the Contained Zone can only be transferred **within** the Contained Zone.
- Pacific oysters, green-lipped mussels and geoduck (adults and spat) from the Contained Zone can only be transferred to the Protected Zone with a permit from MPI, unless they have been processed for human consumption prior to leaving the Contained Zone or entering the Protected Zone.
- Pacific oysters, green-lipped mussels and geoduck can be freely transferred within the Contained Zone.

3. Movement of shellfish from areas of New Zealand outside of the Controlled Areas (not for human consumption):

- Flat oysters from areas of New Zealand outside of the Contained Zone cannot be transferred to the Protected Zone unless they have been fully processed for human consumption prior to arriving in the Protected Zone.
- Flat oysters from the Protected Zone can be freely transferred to all other parts of New Zealand, but not out of the Stewart Island Zone, unless a permit is obtained from MPI, or they are fully processed for consumption and MPI is notified of the movement in writing.
- Pacific oysters, green-lipped mussels and geoduck can only be moved into the Protected Zone under permit

from MPI (as below). Pacific oysters, green-lipped mussels and geoduck can be freely moved to other areas of New Zealand outside of the Protected Zone.

4. Shellfish from the Protected Zones (not for processing):

- Flat oysters, Pacific oysters, green-lipped mussels and geoduck (adults and spat) can be freely moved within zones and anywhere else in New Zealand, except Stewart Island.

HOW TO OBTAIN PERMITS TO MOVE STOCK

Permits contain strict conditions relating to the equipment used to move Pacific oysters, green-lipped mussels and geoduck and how they are moved.

Permits for these stock transfers can be obtained through the MPI website (as below), and are free of charge.

The permitting process is designed to be simple to use and provide a fast turnaround, however, **permit requests should be submitted well in advance** of the movement date to ensure they can be processed in time (it can take up to **10 days**).

It is also possible to gain a permit for multiple movements across a specified time to avoid multiple requests.

Full information about *Bonamia ostreae*, the Controlled Area Notice and permitting can be found at:

www.biosecurity.govt.nz/pests/bonamia
and by contacting: bonamiapermit@mpi.govt.nz

Permits can also be applied for directly here:

<http://mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/resources/forms-and-templates/shellfish-movement-control-permit-application/>

Flat Oyster (Adult and spat)		Transfer TO			
Transfer FROM		Contained Zone (CZ)	Protected Zone (PZ)	Stewart Island Zone	Places outside the three zones
	Contained Zone (CZ)	No Permit required	Not permitted, unless processed for human consumption*	Not permitted, unless special permission given by MPI	Not permitted, unless processed for human consumption*
	Protected Zone (PZ)	No permit required	No permit required	Not permitted, unless special permission given by MPI	No permit required
	Stewart Island Zone	Permit application is required, unless processed for human consumption* and MPI is notified of the movement in writing	Permit application is required, unless processed for human consumption* and MPI is notified of the movement in writing	No Permit required	Permit application is required, unless processed for human consumption* and MPI is notified of the movement in writing
	Places outside the three zones	No permit required	Not permitted, unless processed for human consumption*	Not permitted, unless special permission given by MPI	No permit required
Pacific Oyster Green-lipped mussel Geoduck (Adult and spat)					
Transfer FROM	Contained Zone (CZ)	No permit required	Permit application required unless processed for human consumption*	Permit application is required, unless processed for human consumption*	Permit application required unless processed for human consumption*
	Protected Zone (PZ)	No permit required	No permit required	Permit application is required, unless processed for human consumption*	No permit required
	Stewart Island Zone	Permit application required unless processed for human consumption*	Permit application required unless processed for human consumption*	No permit required	Permit application required unless processed for human consumption*
	Places outside both zones	No permit required	Permit application required unless processed for human consumption*	Permit application is required, unless processed for human consumption*	No permit required

***Processed for Human Consumption** means that all processing steps have been fully completed and the product is in a final state for delivery to the retail seller or consumer. For the avoidance of doubt, the product is not deemed to have been processed for human consumption if any interim or further processing step is required in relation to the product with the exception of final transportation to the retail seller or consumer.