Stop the spread

Tilapia training package
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Contents

Purpose of this package 1
   Intended participants 1

How to use this package 2
   Pest fish terminology 3
   List of abbreviations 3
   Enquiries and feedback 4

Module 1: Introducing tilapia 6
   What makes an animal a pest? 7
   What is a pest fish? 7
   Things to know about tilapia 9
   How pest fish spread 13
   Case studies 14
   Learning activities 15
   Quiz 22
   FAQs 23

Module 2: Overview and history of pest fish management 24
   A history lesson in pest fish management 25
   Pest fish management and the broader river health and rehabilitation 28
   Limitations to pest fish control 31
   Importance of raising awareness 31
   Case studies 32
   Learning activities 34
   Quiz 35
   FAQs 36

Module 3: Deciphering legal jargon 38
   Part A (for Queensland participants) 39
      Introduction 39
      Queensland legislation 39
      Federal legislation 41
      Learning activities 42
      FAQs 44
   Part B (for New South Wales participants) 45
      Introduction 45
      New South Wales legislation 45
      Federal legislation 47
      Learning activities 48
      FAQs 49

Module 4: How to identify tilapia 50
   Tilapia are commonly confused with... 53
   Reporting procedures 54
   Learning activities 55
   Quiz 57
   FAQs 58
Purpose of this package

*Stop the spread* is a training package designed to provide community members with the tools needed to help prevent tilapia incursion into the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) and to increase their capacity to educate others about the issues surrounding pest fish. This package can be used in the general community (e.g. with school groups or recreational fishers) to raise awareness and provide the tools needed to help identify and report pest fish. It could also be used with a technical audience (e.g. councils or natural resource management groups) to provide information on available management options and how these can be incorporated into pre-existing pest management programs.

The need to increase the capacity of the wider community to tackle the problem of pest fish in Queensland and New South Wales comes from the realisation that control of pest fish is a community issue. By engaging the community, effective control and success on the ground are more likely to be achieved. State and local governments and the community as a whole have a responsibility in the control of pest fish species. For a successful outcome, individuals within the community must be empowered to contribute to the solution by participating in regional and local management actions and by contributing to general public education and awareness of exotic pest fish problems and solutions. These multi-stakeholder partnerships are the best way to use and enhance the limited resource base allocated to pest fish control. Furthermore, engaging people within the community is the best way to directly tackle problems that are affecting or threatening to affect the community.

Most tilapia (and other pest fish) infestations are believed to be caused by people, either intentionally or unintentionally, moving fish between waterways or releasing pet fish. Government bodies currently rely on aquatic surveillance programs as well as community reports of new sightings of tilapia. This allows for a possible early response before new breeding populations can be established. The aim of this training package is to provide education and improve awareness so that community members can understand the issues related to pest fish, and participate in pest fish control and management activities with minimal help from the government. This will therefore create capacity within community-based organisations to respond to pest fish incursions.

This training package was developed by Fisheries Queensland, a service of the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI), in collaboration with Agri-Science, also a service of DEEDI, the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI), the Murray–Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) and Seqwater.

Intended participants

This package targets the following major groups for primary training:

- natural resources management (NRM) groups
- local councils and council pest officers
- Queensland Government staff (including the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol)
- New South Wales Government staff
- recreational fishing peak bodies.

It is envisaged that members of these primary target groups would then use the package to train the secondary target audience, including:

- fish stocking groups
- NRM group members
- mining groups
- aquaculture groups
- Indigenous groups
- recreational fishing group members
- ethnic communities active in the area
- schools (Years 7–12)
- other government agencies in the area.
How to use this package

The objectives of this training package are to build capacity in the community for early detection and reporting of new pest fish incursions and to increase the ability of stakeholder organisations to aid in management activities. The training package has been designed to provide trainers with the background information and resources necessary to deliver presentations, interactive activities and take-home messages to members of the community in training workshops.

It is the role of the trainer to become familiar with the background information provided and to use this information as a reference when delivering the educational material. Trainers will use this package to gain a higher level of knowledge in the subject of pest fish, enabling them to support the community and answer many questions about pest fish in their area.

The package includes seven modules examining different aspects of pest fish. Each module contains an outline of the objectives, intended participants, key messages and learning resources. This information can be used as an aid for preparing an agenda for the workshops. In addition, the modules include:

- detailed (but easily understood) background information for trainers to become familiar with and refer to
- case studies for trainers to run through with the group and discuss
- visual aids such as diagrams, photos and other images
- PowerPoint presentations for trainers to present using their knowledge from the text
- suggested activities for interactive learning
- technical notes providing additional detail for technical users
- frequently asked questions (FAQs) as background preparation for trainers
- additional resources such as articles, web links, communication materials (posters, fact sheets, etc.), publications, handouts and field guides.

The modules are intended as guides for trainers, who will need to design their training workshops based on their audience and the time available. For example, some of the suggested learning activities may not be appropriate for all audiences and could be left out.

Some of the modules may not be relevant to all target groups. The table below suggests the most appropriate modules to use which each target group.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GROUP</th>
<th>MODULES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fish stocking groups</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRM groups</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining groups</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquaculture groups</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous groups</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreational fishing groups</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnic communities</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools (Years 7–12)</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government agencies</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groups wanting a quick run-through of key messages</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If time is a constraint, trainers may wish to run a quick presentation aimed at providing only a broad introduction to the problem of tilapia. In this case, it is recommended they cover the information in Modules 1 and 4 and perhaps skip the case studies and learning activities provided.

Trainers may also wish to hold in-field training sessions for those wishing to carry out some of the survey or control techniques mentioned in the modules. For information about providing field training for some of the more specialised methods (e.g. eradication methods), please contact DEEDI on 13 25 23 or email pestfish@deedi.qld.gov.au.

This training package is intended to be highly flexible and can be adapted to cater to the needs of a variety of audiences.
Pest fish terminology

This training package uses the term ‘pest fish’ to refer to fish species that are not native to an area and have potential negative impacts. In other contexts, you may come across other terms that essentially mean the same thing, such as:

- feral fish
- non-native fish
- alien fish
- introduced fish
- exotic fish
- invasive fish
- foreign fish.

The terms ‘noxious fish’ and ‘nonindigenous fish’ are also used throughout this training package. Both can be pest fish. These terms are primarily used for legislative purposes, where ‘noxious’ means a fish genus or species that has been declared as noxious by the *Fisheries Act 1994* in Queensland or the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* in New South Wales. The term ‘non-indigenous fish’ refers to a species that is found to exist in a local area where it would not naturally occur, whether the species is native to Australia or not.

List of abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AEC</td>
<td>Animal ethics committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ai</td>
<td>Active ingredient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APVMA</td>
<td>Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AQIS</td>
<td>Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMA</td>
<td>Catchment management authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAFF</td>
<td>Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Federal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEEDI</td>
<td>Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (Queensland)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEWHA</td>
<td>Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (Federal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPI&amp;F</td>
<td>Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (former Queensland department)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAQ</td>
<td>Frequently asked question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPS</td>
<td>Global positioning system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICC</td>
<td>Ipswich City Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDB</td>
<td>Murray–Darling Basin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDBA</td>
<td>Murray–Darling Basin Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDBC</td>
<td>Murray–Darling Basin Commission (replaced by MDBA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MER</td>
<td>Monitoring, evaluation and reporting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSDS</td>
<td>Material safety data sheet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRM</td>
<td>Natural resource management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW</td>
<td>New South Wales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW DPI</td>
<td>New South Wales Department of Primary Industries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OFMIG</td>
<td>Ornamental Fish Management Implementation Group (National)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qld</td>
<td>Queensland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEQ</td>
<td>South East Queensland</td>
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Enquiries and feedback

We welcome enquiries relating to this training package and its delivery, and requests for additional resources. Feedback from users would be appreciated and will be used to improve this training package and other similar products.

Please forward any enquiries, suggestions or comments to:

The Pest Fish Officer
Email: pestfish@deedi.qld.gov.au
Tel: 13 25 23