



Your Ref: 275/00-15

**31 March 2010**

Stuart Smith  
CEO  
Department of Fisheries  
Locked Bag 39  
Cloister Sq Post Office  
Perth WA 6850

Dear Stuart

**Subject: WA Shellfish Quality Assurance Program (WASQAP) Transition arrangements**

Please can you advise ACWA if the Department of Fisheries will provide financial support, in 2009/10, to ensure that the smooth transition of the WA Shellfish Quality Assurance Program (WASQAP) program from government?

The basis for the request is as follows:

1. the smooth transition of WASQAP from government to industry is at risk;
2. the above places at risk industry's export markets, in particular oyster exports from Albany;
3. The Department of Fisheries holds all the WASQAP business systems and the majority of the corporate knowledge.
4. The Department of Fisheries has been provided with Consolidated Revenue Fund appropriations to support WASQAP in the 2009/10 financial year;
5. There is budget savings from the grant of leave without pay to the officer responsible for the WASQAP (Dr. Janet Howieson), in first quarter of 2009/10. Industry estimates this to be in the order of \$15,000;
6. The absence Dr. Janet Howieson has limited technical capacity of Department to fulfil both its budget commitments and the commitments offered in the letter dated 5/5/2009 (Attachment 1), and those by senior Departmental officers in a meeting with industry in 2009.
7. Industry has limited resources. In November 2009, the Minister for Fisheries cut industry representation funding by 25%. This effectively resulted in 50% cut in industry's capacity, due the timing of the decision, as 5 months of the financial year had passed, as such, the operational savings had to occur over 7, rather than 12 months.

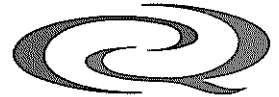
Dr Howieson estimated it would take 10 days to effectively transfer the business systems/databases and review and update the procedures manual (see Attachment 2).

ACWA looks forward to receiving your advice.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Machin'.

Dan Machin  
**CEO**  
Aquaculture Council of Western Australia  
CC: Anna Cronin, CEO, WAFIC



Our Ref: 275/00-15  
Enquiries: Janet Howieson (94827396)

Mr Dan Machin  
Aquaculture Council of Western Australia  
PO Box 55  
MOUNT HAWTHORN 6915

Dear Mr Machin <sup>Dear</sup>

### **WA SHELLFISH QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM (WASQAP)**

This letter is to inform you that, due to budgetary considerations, the Department of Fisheries has been forced to decrease the funding available to support the WASQAP. This relates most specifically to the supervision of sampling in both the Albany and Cockburn Sound growing areas, the surveillance program for the Cockburn Sound and Albany growing areas, and the preparation of documentation for the annual audit of the WASQAP by the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service. Classification of new growing areas and development of protocols and programs for other shellfish products may also be affected.

The Department of Fisheries is keen to work with all stakeholders to ensure the development of and transition to revised WASQAP protocols that can be achieved with available funding and protect the integrity of the program. Hence, in the next three months departmental staff will liaise with industry, the Department of Health and the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service to develop a revised program.

We look forward to working together to develop the revised program. If you require further information please do not hesitate to contact Dr Janet Howieson at [janet.howieson@fish.wa.gov.au](mailto:janet.howieson@fish.wa.gov.au) or (08) 94827396.

Yours faithfully

Stuart Smith  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
5 May 2009

Estimate of WASQAP hours by activity and growing area\*

Activity	KGT	SF	OH	MI	Total (per year)
<b>1. Data management</b>					
a. Develop database	Similar database for all growing areas				5 days (set up only, not ongoing)
b. review of data and input into database.	0.5 days per month	0.25 days per month	0.5 days per month	0.25 days per month	18 days
<b>2. Annual Reporting **</b>					
a. shoreline survey (including travel)	2 days	1 days	3 days	1 day	7 days
b. statistical analyses of data	2 days	1 day	2 days	1 day	6 days
c. completion of report	0.25 day	0.25 day	0.25 day	0.25 day	1 days
<b>3. Management of growing areas</b>					
a. operations/procedures manual	Update and review based on new program				5 days (set up only, not ongoing)
b. annual review of procedures, manual and results	1 day	0.5 day	1 day	0.5 day	3 days
b. management of closures/re-openings*** (will be variable depending on conditions)	2 days (max)	1 day (max)	2 days	1 day (max)	6 days

\*the estimate is completed for the four growing areas classified by AQIS. There is also a short term harvest program in place for the Wilson Inlet operation which is not included.

\*\* this is based on current AQIS reporting requirements, may not still be applicable under new program.

\*\*\* eg note KGT, SF and MI were not closed at all in 2008.

This does not include the following more general activities currently undertaken:

- a. reporting to other agencies (eg CSMC, DEC etc).
- b. Consultation/advice on issues around shellfish aquaculture (eg desalination plant monitoring programs, consultation around dredging in King George Sound etc)
- c. Classification of new growing areas, development of programs for new products.

In my view this covers the required business and reporting systems.

- a. Electronic database of results
- b. procedures/operations manual with annual review.
- c. Annual reporting (closures, shoreline surveys, statistical analyses) to meet audit requirements.