

NSW Shellfish Program

Relay Procedures

Requirements for movement of shellfish and associated records that must be kept

November 2023

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Introduction

The Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program (ASQAP) sets out requirements to ensure shellfish harvested for human consumption are safe and suitable for this purpose. ASQAP allows shellfish to be relayed (moved) from areas where harvest is not permitted to areas where harvest is permitted. This allows the shellfish to naturally flush out any contaminants that may have been present. The NSW Food Authority (Food Authority) has established relay procedures to apply ASQAP requirements to the movement of NSW shellfish stock (shellstock) and ensure NSW growers can demonstrate compliance with these requirements.

Holding requirements for shellstock moved to Restricted or Approved Harvest Areas

- **Shellstock moved from an unclassified area or from a classified harvest area that is closed due to biotoxin and/or phytoplankton results or sampling compliance (including areas under a seasonal closure):** The shellstock must be held in a destination harvest area classified as either approved or restricted for at least 60 days before being harvested unless testing approved by the Food Authority shows they are free of all contaminants.
 - **Shellstock moved from a harvest area classified as either approved or restricted but is closed due to a sewage spill:** The shellstock must be held in a destination harvest area classified as either approved or restricted until at least 21 days has passed since removal from the affected harvest area or the end of the sewage discharge, whichever is shorter.
 - **Shellstock moved from a closed harvest area, due to rainfall or salinity that is classified as Approved or Restricted, that meets current biotoxin management plan requirements, and is not impacted by a sewage spill:** The shellstock must be held in a destination harvest area classified as either approved or restricted for at least 14 days before being harvested unless testing approved by the Food Authority shows they are free of all contaminants.
 - **Shellstock moved between harvest areas of similar classification while in the open status:** There is no minimum withholding period applicable if both harvest areas are in the open status.
 - Other events may have different withholding periods and will be assessed pending event circumstances.
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Other requirements that apply to relayed shellstock

- All shellstock that is moved for relay must be clearly marked to distinguish it as relayed product during transport and in the destination harvest area for the duration of the holding period; and
 - All shellstock that is moved for relay must be adequately separated from market-ready shellfish to avoid cross-contamination or inadvertent harvest before the holding period expiry date.
 - All shellstock that are moved for relay must remain in the control of the food business(s) conducting the relay.
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Movement records

It is important growers maintain good shellstock movement records to ensure compliance with movement and holding requirements. All shellstock movement records must be kept and made available for auditing, compliance and verification purposes. The Food Authority provides a [NSW Shellfish Stock Movement Diary](#) that growers can use for this purpose and is available via foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/industry/shellfish/shellfish-cultivation-or-harvesting.

If another system is being used, the following formal records must be kept as a minimum at the time of the relay movement:

- the name of the harvest area or location from which the shellfish was relayed, and
 - the date and time at which the shellfish was relayed from the harvest area, and
 - the name of the harvest area to which the shellfish was relayed, and
 - the date and time at which the shellfish was relayed to the harvest area, and
 - the species of shellfish relayed and the quantity of each species relayed, and
 - the location of the shellfish within the harvest area that the shellfish were relayed to.
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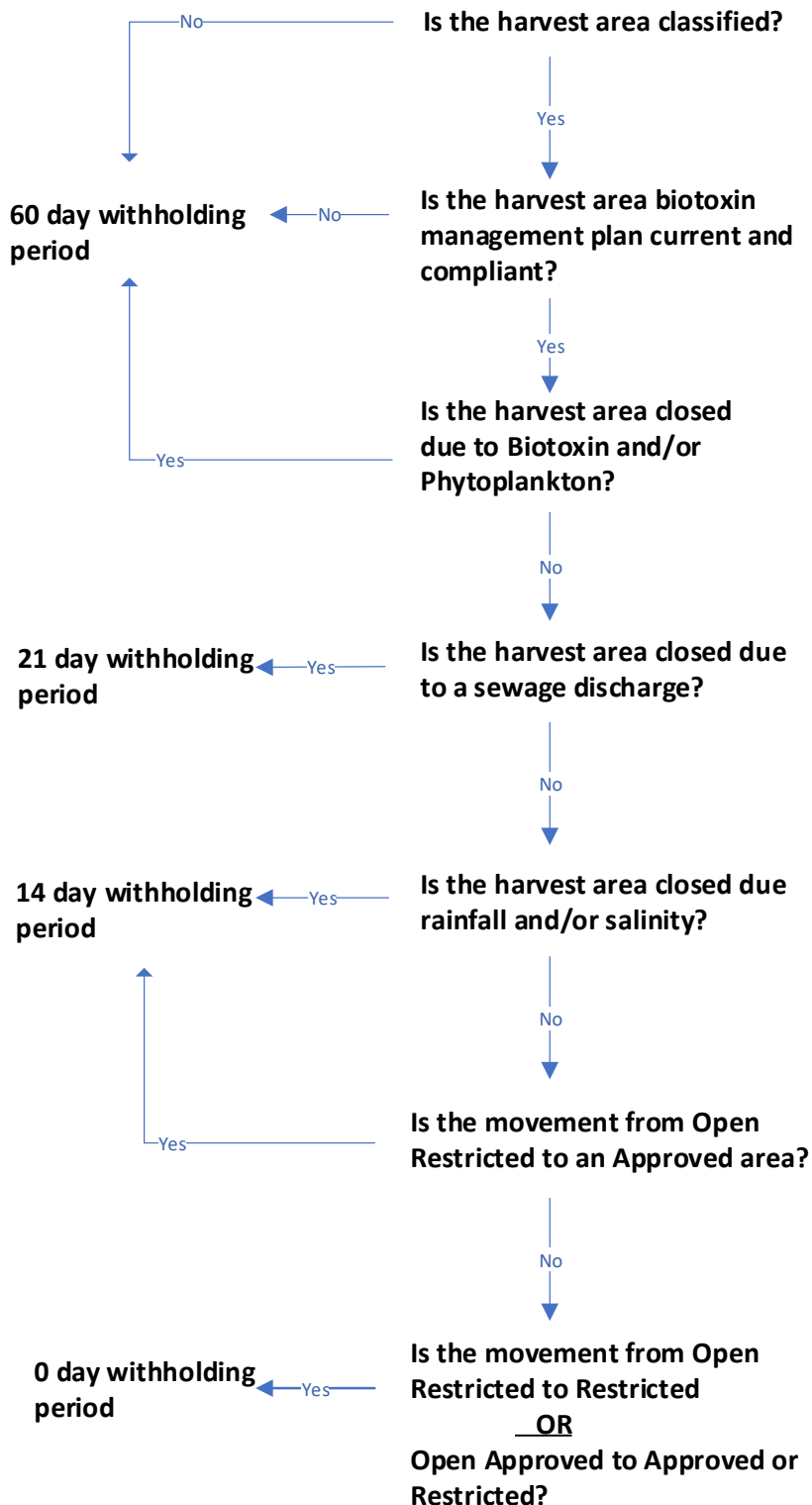
Movement record exemption for spat

All relay movements of shellstock intended to be sold for human consumption must be recorded. Movement of shellstock that is classed as spat does not need to be recorded if it will be on-grown at its destination for at least 60 days.

Further information

The procedures outlined in this document only relate to ASQAP requirements for the relay of shellstock. Further information relating to oyster movements is available from the [NSW Department of Primary Industries Oyster Industry Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy](#).

Appendix 1: Flow chart of relay movements



This flow chart only applies to harvest areas with a current biotoxin management plan and is in compliance with the plan. This flow chart does not apply to inactive harvest areas or harvest areas in a seasonal closure.