

# Aquaculture Locust Spraying Issues

## The Locust Control Program

A coordinated control program will be conducted by the Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia, to reduce the formation of large, high density swarms which, if left unchecked, could move large distances and cause widespread damage.

Landholders will need to control hoppers and flying locusts that are causing damage on their own properties.

The Department has enough pesticide to spray approximately 150,000 hectares within areas designated as Priority Target Zones.

Other areas needing locust control will have to be sprayed by landholders. It is envisaged that the total area treated for locust control by landholders will be greater than the area treated by the Department.

The main aim of control operations will be to kill locusts in the hopper stage. There is little potential to kill swarms of flying locusts.

### Locust Spraying, Yabbies and Farm Dams

- Use buffer zones to avoid any impact on yabbies in farm dams.
- If spraying inside buffer zones then it is advisable to wait 14 days before attempting to restock the dam.
- After 14 days, restock the dam with a few yabbies in a cage that will act as biological indicators. The yabbies will need access to mud to ensure it replicates their free state within a typical dam.
- If these yabbies are still alive after 7 days, it can be assumed that the dam is now ok to go back into yabbie production.
- If yabbie owners are concerned about residue levels from the spraying they could also get their dam water analysed at their cost (this can be expensive) by the Chemistry Centre of WA or seek the advice of the chemical manufacturer on yabbie withholding times for particular chemicals.

## Insecticide control and water contamination

The chemical used for the Departmental locust spraying program is fenitrothion, which is toxic to crustaceans such as yabbies and marron and may possibly affect the health of other fish.

People involved in the aquaculture activities need to ensure they take appropriate action to safeguard their animals.

Any dam or tank containing crustaceans or fin fish may be at risk from chemical spraying to combat locusts.

In addition, other animals like sheep and poultry can also be affected and therefore early liaison and communication with your Local Operations Coordinator and neighbours is essential.

For further information contact the Department of Agriculture and Food:

**Pest and Disease Information Service**

**Freecall 1800 084 881**

**Email [info@agric.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@agric.wa.gov.au)**

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