

Australian Marine Sciences Association Inc.



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Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR)

1 Spring Street

Melbourne, Victoria, 3000

Dear DJPR,

Re: Invasive Marine Pest module consultation

On behalf of the members of the Australian Marine Sciences Association Victoria branch (AMSA (Vic)), we are pleased to provide this submission in response to the Invasive Marine Pest module of the Invasive Plants and Animals Policy Framework<sup>1</sup>.

The Australian Marine Sciences Association Inc. (AMSA) is Australia's peak professional body for marine scientists from all disciplines, and for over 50 years has promoted all aspects of marine science in Australia. The AMSA (Vic) actively contributes to management, research, advocacy, education, student grants, mentoring and community awareness programs regarding Victoria's marine and coastal ecosystems.

AMSA (Vic) is generally supportive of the Invasive Marine Pest module. We support the development and implementation of an active surveillance program at high-risk ports and marinas in Victoria. We believe this is critical for the early detection of new marine pest species and will increase the likelihood of a successful eradication.

We welcome the inclusion of research priorities relating to the use of molecular techniques and assessing impacts from environmental, social, and economic perspectives. The involvement of marine scientists in research to address knowledge gaps will be important for successful outcomes of the Invasive Marine Pest module and associated frameworks.

We have two recommendations to optimize the framework:

- 1) We recommend research priorities include cultural values and genuine partnership with Traditional Owners. Pathways of communication and information sharing between DJPR and Traditional Owners should be developed and included in the Victorian Marine Pest Response Plan.
- 2) We recommending including population modelling as a surveillance and monitoring tool in additional to eDNA and Remote Operated Vehicles. This is a cost-effective, risk-based

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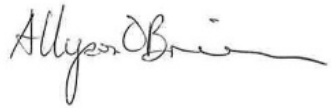
<sup>1</sup> Victorian Government (2010) Invasive Plants and Animals Policy Framework, DPI Victoria, Melbourne.

approach to tracking existing pest species and can be used to trigger management responses<sup>2</sup>.

Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Kind regards

On Behalf of the AMSA (Vic) Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allyson O'Brien". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of a vertical line that extends downwards.

Dr Allyson O'Brien

Chair of AMSA Victoria

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<sup>2</sup> Peterson, D.P. and Fausch, K.D. (2003) Testing population-level mechanisms of invasion by a mobile invertebrate: a simply conceptual framework for salmonids in streams. *Biological Invasions* 5: 239-259