

# FINAL REPORT

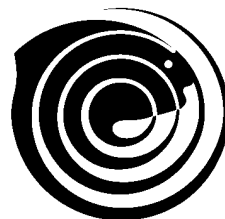
## Code of Practice for the Yabby Industry

*Aquaculture Council of Western Australia*



AQUACULTURE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

F I S H E R I E S  
R E S E A R C H &  
D E V E L O P M E N T  
C O R P O R A T I O N



**Project No. 95/097**

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ISBN 0-646-35595-3

# NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

95/097

Code of Practice for the Yabby Industry

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PO Box 55  
Mt Hawthorn  
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## OBJECTIVES

1. A major objective of this program has been to develop a quality standard through the Western Australian industry that will have National application. The project concentrated on simple, practical, achievable standards that provide growers with sufficient information to produce consistently high quality product i.e. live yabbies of export standard. Producers nationally are being encouraged to participate in the adoption of the Code(refer to Extension section).
2. To produce a written Code of Practice in a format that will be readily adopted by industry and easily update. The format will be modified B5 loose-leaf. This is consistent with similar Codes produced (or in press) for the pearling and rock lobster industries. The Code will also be formatted to compact disc.
3. To promote the Code as widely as possible and at all levels of the industry using a video. The video will demonstrate which practices to adopt (and which to avoid). It will be consistent in format with one currently under consideration by the Rock Lobster industry (FRDC Project 94/134.02. The video will enable new and inexperienced producers to become familiar with the latest equipment and processes that are difficult to access due to geographical isolation.
4. To survey the industry following the twelve month period during which the Code is to be adopted.

## NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

A major reason for the code is to ensure that quality of product is maintained throughout the industry, particularly with new entrants. With the appointment of a full-time extension officers to the freshwater crayfish industry and an increased profile of the support agencies at field days and agricultural shows, there is an expected increase in people taking up yabby farming. The Western Australian yabby industry has a number of processors that receive product from growers and various depots that act as staging facilities for receiving product. The supply network varies from State to State however the processor network in Western Australia does provide an excellent model for industries in other States when developing a coordinated supply and marketing chain.

The code outlines the do's and don'ts of growing yabbies. It does not discuss the higher technological aspects of processing.

The Code identifies best practice farming methods and quality processes for product(including safety).

All sectors of the freshwater crayfish industry will benefit from the Code. Developing sectors of the industry, such as new producers, will be able to adopt quality standards that result in high returns without having to suffer mortalities and loss of quality through poor handling or packaging. The Code provides a mechanism for informing and teaching producers of advances in handling their product.

## **RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH**

### **Production of the Code.**

#### **Manual**

The Code manual is in a modified B5 format, in a plastic coated loose-leaf binder. It is also accompanied by a thirty minute video that completes the package.

The Code has been printed as a “how to” guide and does not dwell on why the practices should be adopted. This enables users of the Code to pass on their knowledge to employees and suppliers with comparative ease.

#### **Video**

The video has been professionally produced. It is thirty minutes in duration. It follows the procedures of the written Code in a format designed for the target farmer audience. The contents of the video are the same as the manual. The script for the video was based on the manual.

#### **Compact Disc-ROM**

The CD format allows other industry or States to modify the Code to suit their needs It also allows easy update of the Code. The disc is simply a copy of the manual and covers the following topics as listed below.

The Code links production from dams though to harvesting and the transport of product to points of export. It addresses the following areas:

- How to become a yabby farmer
- How to choose the most suitable dams
- How to stock a dam
- Feeding
- Seasonal influences on the management of dams
- Harvesting and handling
- Quality assurance
- Water management
- Practices for healthy yabbies
- Safety
- Various problems and solutions encountered by farmers
- Sources of help and information
- Issues concerning the translocation of yabbies
- Example of a yabby planner for farmers
- Example of a yabby farm record worksheet
- Glossary

The information contained within the Code was obtained from freshwater crayfish farmers and various State Fisheries extension officers across Australia. A questionnaire was used to collect the necessary information to include in the Code. The circulation of the questionnaire was done on a national basis but mainly included the licenced farmers and processors in Western Australia who have clearly shown they are the benchmark for the production and handling of yabbies.

A working group that was formed from yabby farmers and processors within Western Australia, assisted in collating the information. The group also had carriage of the production of Code. The group comprised representatives from ACWA and Fisheries Western Australia and was responsible for validating the contents of the Code.

Information was also gathered from visits and discussions with farmers of freshwater crayfish in Eastern Australia. Discussions were also held with members of the Australian Freshwater Crayfish Association

Copies of the manual, video and compact disc are available from :

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PO Box 55  
Mt Hawthorn  
Western Australia 6016

Telephone: 089 2442933 Fax: 089 2442934

The video and manual are sold together for a cost of \$30.00 including postage. The disc is sold separately at a cost of \$80.00 including postage.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

ACWA and the Yabby Producers Association of WA believe that all the objectives identified in the original application have been achieved. The only objective to still be evaluated is the evaluation of the level of adoption and implementation of the Code. This is currently in progress with the Fisheries of WA, Yabby Producers Association and ACWA actively promoting the Code to growers(Appendix 4). Feedback is being received from recipients of the Code and to date this has been very positive. ACWA is keeping a master file on all comments received in its office so that it can incorporate any necessary changes into the next edition of the Code. It is anticipated to update the Code in approximately two years.

Members of the Australian freshwater Crayfish Association and other regional producers organisations are being requested to implement the Code wherever possible. There will need to be certain modifications to adapt to the different situations that occur. Preliminary discussions with producers in these States indicates that this should not be a problem. Producers in WA and the Principal Investigator will do everything possible to ensure that adequate extension of the Code occurs in the other States.

The resulting Code has been received extremely well to date. This is the first major effort to introduce product quality and standards into the freshwater crayfish industry on this scale. It was never expected to be the perfect product for all species, however it does provide an excellent starting point and benchmark for those who wish to develop similar products specific to their need or species.

## **FURTHER WORK**

Further work will necessitate updating the Code after two years by incorporating outcomes from other research and development work and industry improvements in best practices. It is hoped this will be financed by sales of the Code.

## BACKGROUND

The estimated Yabby production in Australia is indicated in TABLE 1 below.

**Table1: Farmed Yabby Production(tonnes)**

	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
NSW	9	15	6	16	32	34
SA <b>a</b>	19	12	10	26	10	17
Vic	20	5	5	5	na	na
WA	42	81	127	289	210	112
Total	90	113	148	336	252	163

**a includes marron**

Source: Australian Aquaculture; ABARE Research Report 97.3

The above figures reflect the impact of drought on the industry in 1994 and 1995. The interest in the industry is growing rapidly particularly with farmers keen to diversify their existing activities. In Western Australia the industry is growing rapidly with the intensification of production from farm catchment and livestock dams as well as purpose built ponds. It is currently estimated that only 6% of farms in WA are in production. There is significant room for expansion of the industry within Australia. WA is easily the country's largest producer of Yabbies and has one of the most successful networks for the production and marketing of freshwater crayfish.

It is expected that 30% of the dams will be in production within the next five years(2003), increasing production to at least 1000 t. p.a. Western Australian producers have developed significant exports to Europe and Asia and intend to continue the development with the anticipated increase in production. Failure to do so will result in a glut on the domestic market and poor returns for producers throughout Australia in all the smart crustacean species.

Despite the Code being developed with an emphasis on WA practices the Code can easily be adapted to other species and practices in other States. This can be done by altering the Code on the CD ROM format or accessing the library video tape from the Aquaculture Council of Western Australia.

## NEED

There is an urgent need for the whole of the Yabby industry in Australia to develop a best practice philosophy. This begins at the dam production stage through to harvesting, purging and post harvest handling techniques just prior to export.

Processing procedures can be influenced by cultural practices of specific markets (e.g. Scandinavia) or by the packaging techniques required for live product being transported over long distances.

Producers and exporters have acquired valuable skills and knowledge in the above areas and these have been incorporated into a Code that is accessible to the industry participants. There has been an urgent need to develop a Code incorporating all the best practices currently adopted by industry. Common Standards must be adopted by producers to ensure market access and improve returns. Industry has recognised the need to develop buyer confidence in their product and a Code of Practice is recognised as the major tool in achieving this end. Industry has recognised the limitations of the domestic market and recognises the need to develop export markets.

## **OBJECTIVES**

1. A major objective of this program has been to develop a quality standard through the Western Australian industry that will have National application. The project concentrated on simple, practical, achievable standards that provide growers with sufficient information to produce consistently high quality product i.e. live yabbies of export standard. This also involves the adoption of National Standards such as those in the residue program. Producers nationally are being encouraged to participate in the adoption of the Code(refer to Extension section).
2. To produce a written Code of Practice in a format that will be readily adopted by industry and easily updated. The format will be a modified B5 loose-leaf. This is consistent with similar Codes produced for the pearling and rock lobster industries. The Code will also be formatted to computer disc that will facilitate access by over forty percent of the people in the rural community who are known to have P.C.s.
3. To promote the Code as widely as possible and at all levels of the industry using a video. The video will demonstrate which practices to adopt (and which to avoid). It will be consistent in format with one currently under consideration by the Rock Lobster industry (FRDC Project 94/134.02). The video will enable new and inexperienced producers to become familiar with the latest equipment and processes that are difficult to access due to geographical isolation.
4. To survey the industry following the twelve month period during which the Code is to be adopted.

## **METHODS**

### **Consultation with Industry**

A Working Group was initially formed at the commencement of the project which comprised the majority of processors and producers within the industry, extension and research people from Fisheries WA This was to ensure proper and effective consultation was successfully achieved in developing the Code. Both Industry and Fisheries WA extension personnel have been closely involved with the production of the Code to ensure successful adoption and implementation. Representatives have provided their expert comment through their membership on the working group. This has resulted in a great deal of anecdotal information now being properly documented in a code format

The task for this group was to oversee the production of the Code and provide the majority of the material upon which the best practices for the Code would be benchmarked.

A professional video production company was used to produce the video.

### **Interstate Visits/ Best Practice Meetings**

In July 1997 a scheduled visit to the eastern States was completed(details Appendix 3). This visit was intended to benchmark on best practices of freshwater crayfish production and handling and to evaluate the common practices between the various freshwater crayfish industries. A number of the major successful producers were visited as well as one new entrant who was an example of the type of farmer the Code is intended to target.



The visit to the facilities was also used as an opportunity to encourage producers to embrace the Code concept and the basic standards discussed within the document.

### **Questionnaire.**

The questionnaire elicited current practices in the industry, so that a picture of these and where they are deficient could be built up. Adoption of best practices and National Standards were integrated with the current practices. Extensive interviews were conducted. The results of the questionnaire have been incorporated into the Code.

## **RESULTS**

### **Production of the Code.**

#### **Manual**

The Code manual is in a modified B5 format, in a plastic coated loose-leaf binder. It is also accompanied by a thirty minute video that completes the package. A compact disc is also available. The information within the manual has resulted from the findings of a questionnaire sent to producers and processors. The working group assisted in the collation of the results from the questionnaire and in the process validated the information. The questions related directly to the data and information documented in the manual.

The Code has been printed as a “how to” guide and does not dwell on why the practices should be adopted. This enables users of the Code to pass on their knowledge to employees and suppliers with comparative ease. The contents of the manual include issues covered in the areas listed under the compact disc section below.

#### **Video**

The video has been professionally produced by a competent company familiar with this type of production. It is thirty minutes duration. It follows the procedures of the written Code in a format designed for the target farmer audience. The contents of the video are the same as the manual. The script for the video was based on the manual.

#### **Compact Disc ROM**

The CD format allows other industry or States to modify the Code to suit their needs It also allows easy update of the Code. The disc is simply a copy of the manual and covers the following topics as listed below.

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- Glossary

The information contained within the Code was obtained from freshwater crayfish farmers and various State Fisheries extension officers across Australia. A questionnaire was used to collect the necessary information to include in the Code. The circulation of the questionnaire was done on a national basis but mainly included the licenced farmers and processors in Western Australia who have clearly shown they are the benchmark for the production and handling of yabbies.

A working group that was formed from yabby farmers and processors within Western Australia, assisted in collating the information. The group also had carriage of the production of Code. The group comprised representatives from ACWA and Fisheries Western Australia and was responsible for validating the contents of the Code.

Information was also gathered from visits and discussions with farmers of freshwater crayfish in Eastern Australia. Discussions were also held with members of the Australian Freshwater Crayfish Association

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The video and manual are sold together for a cost of \$30.00 including postage. The disc is sold separately at a cost of \$80.00 including postage.

Despite the Code being developed with an emphasis on WA practices the Code can easily be adapted to other species and practices in other States. This can be done by altering the Code on the CD format or accessing the library video tape from the Aquaculture Council of Western Australia.

The production of the Code has definitely improved communication between sectors of the industry including government.

The code has been packaged in a format that is acceptable to Government agencies and industry. The Code has been modeled on similar successful Codes produced within the seafood industry and is therefore in a format that has been tested and found acceptable amongst farmers, fishermen and processors.

The Code will provide a template for future Codes.

Surveying the industry to evaluate the acceptability(Objective Four) and success of the Code is currently in progress. Indications to date are the farmers are finding the Code an excellent guide to farming practices and quality control.

## **BENEFITS**

All sections of the freshwater crayfish industry will benefit from the Code, particularly those entering the industry. New producers will be able to adopt standards that will improve product survival and quality. This will in turn increase financial returns to producers. It is difficult to quantify the increase but it could amount to an extra twenty to thirty percent. The Code identifies standards of product quality that informs the new producers what consumers expect.

Other benefits to the industry will be to:

- **improve the professionalism of the industry.** This has been highlighted by poor management and quality of product by growers
- **increase productivity through better feeding, water quality, management, handling, packaging etc.**
- **provide a training mechanism to the various operators (farmers, harvesters, depot managers and Fisheries extension officers), so that a minimum level of standards is attained.**
- **improve profitability through quality assurance (uniform grades, product handling).** This will in turn benefit growers/processors with a reduction in mortalities.
- **increase the participation by growers as a result of the adoption of standardised practices (ie. -shortened learning curve).** This relates to new entrants in particular. The objective being to encourage them to adopt industry standards as soon as possible. This will allow them to also access the expertise in the processing sector. This will enable new producers to immediately adopt the size ranges and quality measures recommended by the market place.
- **provide a mechanism of compliance to national and State certification programs (eg. National Residue Survey, Health certification, National Food Authority, Chemical Registration Authority).** Broadly address use /non-use and avoidance of chemicals. The Code will assist in providing a marketing edge and show a level of responsibility by industry that in some cases will avoid a legislative basis for compliance to Government requirements.
- **provide a non-legislative process by which industry can adopt occupational health and safety requirements where required.** Government has expressed concern over the level of responsibility being shown by industry in developing guidelines for safety. The YPAWA has recognised the need to provide safe practices on information circulated amongst the industry.
- **provide consumers with quality assurance (security in the knowledge that producers are complying with a code).** This has particular reference to chemical and micro-organism contamination. It will impact on importing countries. This becomes a marketing advantage for

producers. It also reassures the Government agencies, such as AQIS, Bureau of Resource Sciences-national residue survey, and Health agencies that the industry is acting responsibly in the best interests of public health

- **bring together the various types of literature that can best advance the industry in a code format.**
- **optimise the time and expertise of extension officers and participants in the industry.**

## **EXTENSION STRATEGY**

### **Distribution**

A list of some of the persons contacted in regard to the distribution of the Code is provided in Appendix 2. This list is by no means final and is growing every day. It does identify some of the members of the Australian Freshwater Crayfish Association. All the major producers and Associations will receive a letter and a copy of the brochure. In many instances complimentary copies have been distributed.

### **Great Southern Aquaculture Conference**

ACWA had a stand at this conference and the video was on continuous play whilst S Bennison attended the stand and sold copies of the Code and generally promoted the concept.

### **Roadshow**

There is a roadshow planned for August which will involve workshops at the following locations:

August 12<sup>th</sup> Geraldton: August 13<sup>th</sup> Tammin; August 14<sup>th</sup> Corrigin; August 17<sup>th</sup> Beverley; August 18<sup>th</sup> Lake Grace: August 19<sup>th</sup> Esperance: August 20<sup>th</sup> Jerramungup: August 21<sup>st</sup> Cranbrook(am) Wagin(pm). An itinerary for the roadshow is provided in more detail in Appendix 5.

It is intended that the results from Craig Lawrence's(Fisheries WA) work will be presented at the same time.

The Dowerin field days in August represent the largest rural show in Western Australia and there is a stand organised to distribute the code and have the video running continuously.

### **Other Venues**

The Code of Practice has been discussed at public forums specifically at the following venues:

Calingiri Yabby Festival.

Beverley Yabby Field Days (2).

Marron Growers Association Field Day.

## **Radio**

A weekly radio show has been organised by ACWA on rural stations. The Code is promoted at every opportunity on this show.

## **Interstate Extension**

Extension of the Code interstate began with a number of visits to producers and at meetings of the Australian Freshwater Crayfish Association. Some members of the Association have been with copies of the Code.

## **Cost of the Code**

A cost of \$30.00 is being charged for the Code of Practice which includes a 30 minute video and a manual which comprises a 50 page loose-leaf document in an A5 plastic binder.

## **FURTHER DEVELOPMENT**

### **Revenue from Sales**

It can be appreciated that a \$30.00 charge on the Code does not cover the cost of production postage, package and handling amounts to at least \$15.00 per copy. It is anticipated that the sale of 500 copies will generate enough funds to do a re-run in approximately 24 months. This will enable the industry to incorporate the results from other research projects as well as update Best Practices in the Code.

### **Promotion of the Code**

As can be seen from the extension strategy above, the Code is being very well promoted at every opportunity. This includes all major rural regional shows, radio and regional newspapers and magazines.

In Western Australia alone over ten thousand brochures have been distributed in rural magazines to promote the Code.

The Code was promoted at the recent Murray Region Aquaculture Association Aquaculture Week details provided in Appendix 2).

The Code was advertised in Farm Weekly and The Countryman.

### **Survey**

The industry is already providing feedback as can be seen from the correspondence in Appendix I.

### **National Extension**

The Code was promoted at the recent Murray Region Aquaculture Association Aquaculture Week.

It is intended to advertise the Code in AUSTASIA AQUACULTURE.

## **CONCLUSION**

ACWA and the Yabby Producers Association believe that all the objectives identified in the original application have been achieved. The information contained within the Code has been obtained directly from participants in the industry. A template is now available to the industry upon which the various species and regional sectors can customise similar Codes that embrace the same principles.

It will be up to the other States to take the initiative and adopt and implement the Code. There will need to be certain modifications to adapt to the different situations that occur. Preliminary discussions with producers in these States indicates that this should not be a problem. Producers in WA and the principal investigator will do everything possible to ensure that adequate extension of the Code occurs in the other States.

The major objective that will require further work is to survey the industry in regard to evaluating the adoption and implementation of the Code.

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Intellectual Property**

There is no intellectual property associated with this project.

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **Staff**

Those associated with the project included members of the working group along with staff from Fisheries Western Australia, consultants Mr Peter Batt, Mr Dennis Gaunt and Mr Simon Bennison (ACWA).

### **List Of Recipients Of The Code Brochure And Accompanying Letter**

Maureen Rutherford, Box 273, Deniliquin NSW 2710

Keith Keen, President, Australian Freshwater Crayfish Growers Association, PO Box 683, Bordertown SA 5268

John Luckens, Secretary/Treasurer, Australian Freshwater Crayfish Growers Association, 51 Blakewell Road, Evandale SA 5069

Judith Rosenzweig, Australian Freshwater Crayfish Growers Association, PO Box 73, Angaston SA 5353

Kay Ebsary, Australian Freshwater Crayfish Growers Association, RMB Snowtown SA 5520

Margaret Hurrell, Australian Freshwater Crayfish Growers Association, PO Coffin Bay, SA 5607

Rick Hinge, Australian Crayfish Growers Association, PO Box 53, Mundulla SA 5270

Gavin Solly, Australian Freshwater Crayfish Growers Association, PO Box 59, Parndana SA 5220

Sid McConachy, Roselargh, RMD, Inverleigh Victoria 3321

Senior Aquatic Biologist, Office of Environment Protection, 77 Grenfell St, Adelaide SA.

aquaculture Group PISA, GPO Box 1625 Adelaide SA.

Many of the above are members of the Australian Freshwater Crayfish Association.

Copies of the final report have or will be sent to:

The Murray Region Aquaculture Association, PO Box 273 Deniliquin, NSW 2710.

The Librarian, Battye Library, Western Australia.

The Librarian, CSIRO Division of Marine Research GPO Box 1538 Hobart Tasmania 7001.

Acquisitions Section, National Library of Australia, Canberra, ACT 2600

Relevant FRABS: WA, SA, NSW, QLD, VIC.



Garth Newman, 33 STEPHENS St, North Balwyn, Vic 3104

MAFRI, Private Mail Bag 20, Alexandra, 3714

Anthony Foster, Aquaculture Manager, Fisheries Victoria, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, 8 Nicholson St, East Melbourne.  
3002.

Authorities responsible for management of the Yabby industry;

Fisheries Western Australia, PISA, QDPI, Fisheries Vic, NSW Fisheries.

Max Wingfield: Industry Development Officer: Freshwater Fisheries and Aquaculture Centre,  
Walkamin, Qld, 4872.

## **APPENDIX 3**

### **A brief coverage of benchmarking visits to the Eastern States.**

A visit was made to the to the freshwater crayfish farm of Barbel Masch in Queensland whilst attending a conference in that State. Barbel was the Queensland representative on the Australian Freshwater Crayfish Association and was in the process of being part of a Queensland DPI redclaw evaluation programme when I visited. This evaluation was being conducted by Professor Norm Millward and provided a very useful insight into the problems facing the industry.

#### **Robin Hutchings from Freshwater Australian Crayfish Traders, Kalbar Queensland.**

The facility owned by R Hutchings was visited in order to obtain an update on the redclaw industry within Queensland and to obtain his views on the development of codes of practice in the freshwater crayfish industry.

Robin has long been regarded as one of the most experienced and professional farmers in the freshwater crayfish industry. It was useful to see how his production and post harvest handling technology had stood the test of time.

#### **Aqua Farms Australia Pty Ltd, Tim Dawes. Moama. NSW.**

The principal investigator visited one of the largest yabby farms in Australia near the Murray River. The farm is managed by Tim Dawes.

The farm comprises 30ha of ponds that, according to Tim, currently produces around 20t per annum. The farm is currently the largest purpose built yabby farm in Australia. There are many unique features about this operation, particularly the production technology. Unlike most of the production in WA, yabbies from this farm are harvested from purpose built ponds which are drainable and can be filled by pumping water. However the yabbies are harvested in a similar manner to those in the West and therefore most of the harvesting and post harvest technology is similar to that in WA. The Code will therefore have wide application to this and other similar farms based on the same farming practices.

The size ranges marketed by Tim consist of:

30 - 50gm  
51 - 70  
71 - 90  
91 - 110  
110 +  
Seconds

It was pleasing to see that the eastern states producers were starting to adopt similar grading sizes to those in Western Australia. It was also pleasing to hear Tim discuss the approach the company was adopting in general quality control.

## **Rick Mailler/ Steve Vidler**

This integrated farming property near Jerilderee in NSW is shaping up to be one of the best inland aquaculture projects in Australia. The property is owned by Rick Mailler. There is currently 1,000 ha under rice, wheat and canola.

This farm is now beginning to rival some of the larger yabby production facilities in Australia. Discussions with Steve Vidler indicate that they are keen to develop some of the Western practices particularly where they apply to post harvest. Much of the product grown at this farm is done so in a polyculture situation with native fish such as silver and golden perch. Although the ponds can be drain harvest Steve indicated that harvesting by trapping was still a common practice.

Having visited a number of the larger facilities and better farmers, it was clear that they all wished to standardise and adopt the best harvesting and handling technology in order to minimise the occurrence of poor quality product in the market place and improve prices and returns to farmers.

# **APPENDIX 4**

## **Roadshow**

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**YABBY RESEARCH ROADSHOW  
AUGUST 12 – 21**

**Would you like to learn how to increase your yabby harvest  
and maintain product quality?**

Fisheries WAA are running a series of seminars on yabby farming, visiting nine locations throughout the agricultural region.

**AIM:**

- To provide information on the latest research and development work being carried out in the yabby industry.
- To describe how the results can be applied to your farm in a practical manner.

**RESEARCH**

For the past three years, Fisheries WA have been conducting research, funded by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, on how to increase yabby harvests from WA farm dams. The research team have worked closely with industry to develop practical projects which reflect farmer needs and the results of these experiments are the focus of the half day seminars. Topics to be discussed include feeding, stocking rates, monosex culture, trapping and the search for a hybrid yabby.

A very practical side of the research has been the development of a logbook system with farmers. The farmers maintain records of yabby harvests, feeding and management practices. The researchers keep data on physical, biological and chemical parameters for each dam. From this they are starting to see patterns on what factors affect yabby yields. They also trail research results before passing them on to the wider community. If you are interested in this side of the project, we will be looking for enthusiastic farmers to join up to the programme after each seminar.

**DEVELOPMENT**

The Yabby Producers Association of WA (YPAWA) have just released a Yabby 'Code of Practice' to help farmers develop and maintain product quality, particularly new proponents, by providing a step-by-step manual and video on yabby farming. A representative from the YPAWA will explain the manual and copies will be available for sale at \$30.00 each. An example of what's inside the manual includes, starting up, choosing suitable dams, stocking your farm dams, feeding, water management etc.

**INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE**

At most seminars a local farmer will speak on their experience in the yabby industry. It is always good to get information first hand, on how someone became involved, what they actually do and what sort of returns they are achieving.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Please contact Ms Juana Roe, Aquaculture Development Officer, Fisheries WA, or the Receptionist, Agriculture WA, Narrogin on 08 9881 0222.

<i>Town</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Venue</i>
Geraldton	August 12	12 noon – 3.15pm	Agriculture WA, 283 Marine Terrace
Tammin	August 13	12 noon – 3.15pm	Lesser Hall, Great Eastern Highway, (next to Shire Offices)
Corrigin	August 14	9am – 12.15pm	Senior Citizens Hall, Lynch Street
Beverley	August 17	9am – 12.15pm	Beverley Golf Club, Forrest Street
Lake Grace	August 18	9am – 12.15pm	Lesser Hall, McMahon Street
Esperance	August 19	9am – 12.15pm	Reception Centre, Esperance Civic Centre
Jerramungup	August 20	9am – 12.15pm	Football Club Room
Cranbrook	August 21	8am – 11.15am	Shire Hall
Wagin	August 21	2pm – 5.15pm	Lesser Hall, corner Tudor and Tavistock Streets

RSVP if possible. The seminar is free.