

Our Ref: 26-02910

Mr Allan Bennett
Assistant Secretary
The Koi Society Of Western Australia
20 Rosetta Rise
GNANGARA WA 6065



MINISTER FOR MINES
AND PETROLEUM;
FISHERIES;
ELECTORAL AFFAIRS;
LEADER OF THE
GOVERNMENT IN THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Dear Mr Bennett

INCLUSION OF DOMESTICATED KOI FISH ON THE NATIONAL ORNAMENTAL FISH GREY LIST

Thank you for your letter of 20 May 2009 concerning the status of Koi carp. I apologise for the delay in responding.

As you know, the Ornamental Fish Management Implementation Group (OFMIG) is progressing the actions identified in the national strategy, *A Strategic Approach to the Management of Ornamental Fish in Australia*.

The "consultation draft" of the national strategy was distributed as part of extensive, and ongoing, consultation associated with the reform of the management of ornamental fish in Australia. Submissions received (including those from Koi associations) were incorporated into the document with the final strategy endorsed in 2006 by the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council. Please find enclosed a copy of the finalised document.

The Department of Fisheries' (the Department) current focus is on having the species included in the Noxious Fish List in Appendix 2 of the national strategy added to the Western Australian noxious fish list in the *Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995*. These species were subject to broad consultation prior to being added to the National Noxious Fish List.

Once this initial listing has been achieved, the Department will commence the process of consultation for species identified in the "Grey List" in Appendix 2 of the national strategy. Koi carp are contained on this list. This consultation will provide opportunity for input from all identified stakeholder groups.

Species listed on the "Grey List" have already been assessed using a framework developed by the OFMIG. The assessment was undertaken by scientists and industry representatives at meetings convened by the Bureau of Rural Sciences and considered the risk of particular species establishing in the wild and their potential environmental impact. The process identified species that were considered high and low risk and species that were of direct importance to the aquarium trade and hobby sector.

As a result of this assessment:

- high risk species unlikely to be of direct importance to the trade and hobby sector will be released for a public comment period before states and territories consider listing them as noxious; and
- high risk species identified as being of importance to industry and the hobby sector will be subject to stakeholder consultation to discuss management options. Note: domesticated Koi carp have been classified in this group.

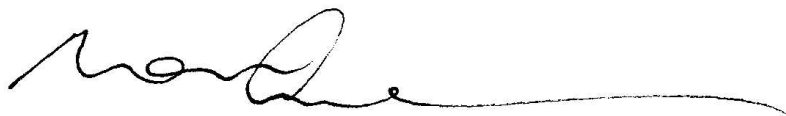
Any alteration in requirements for the keeping of Koi carp will not be known until public consultation is undertaken. I can confirm however, that there is no intent to change the way in which the Department assesses whether an Aquaculture Licence is required. Currently, there is no legal requirement for people conducting aquaculture as a "hobby" to hold an Aquaculture Licence. This does not preclude the generation of incidental income associated with the hobby. Determination of what constitutes a hobby, as opposed to a commercial operation, takes into consideration the commercial intent and characteristics of the enterprise generating the income. Information to assist in determining when an Aquaculture Licence is required can be obtained by visiting the DoF website at <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/pub/AquaNeedLic/index.php?0307>.

The capacity for fish keepers to generate revenue is not central to the national strategy. The implementation of the national strategy is in response to the release of ornamental fish being the primary source of new freshwater pest incursions in Australia. Within this context, efforts are directed toward those species deemed to represent an environmental threat. The impact of Koi carp on the Western Australian environment would be expected to be consistent with those of the species in other regions of Australia, with the degree of impact being related to distribution and density.

Western Australia is in a privileged position in having relatively few pest species. The endeavour of the State's participation in the implementation of the national strategy is to work with industry and hobbyists in maintaining this position.

Thank you for your ongoing interest in this matter. Please be assured that input of hobbyists in this process is highly valued, and further consultation will be initiated at appropriate stages. For further information, please contact Mr Bill Bardsley, A/Principal Management Officer, Biosecurity at the Department of Fisheries on 9482 7385.

Yours sincerely



NORMAN MOORE MLC
MINISTER FOR FISHERIES

27 OCT 2009