



Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

**APPLICATION FORM FOR A PERMIT UNDER THE
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION (SEA DUMPING) ACT 1981
TO DISPOSE OF FISH WASTE OR MATERIAL RESULTING
FROM INDUSTRIAL FISH PROCESSING OPERATION AT SEA**

Introduction

The purpose of this form is to enable the assessment of the need for, and potential environmental impacts of disposing fish waste or material resulting from industrial fish processing operation (the waste material) at sea. On the basis of this assessment the Minister may grant, or refuse to grant a permit for the disposal under Section 19 of the *Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981* (the Sea Dumping Act).

Under the Act, an application fee of \$5000 must be forwarded before a permit may be issued. The application fee must be received within 30 days of the application being forwarded and no assessment will commence until such fees are received. The Minister may waive the requirement for payment of all or part of such fee where it is considered necessary or desirable to do so.

Completed applications should be sent to:

Director
Ports and Marine Section
Approvals and Wildlife Division
Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts GPO Box 787
Canberra ACT 2601

Further information may be obtained from the Sea Dumping Program

Ph: (02) 6274 2995

PART I – SUMMARY

Name of applicant:

Type of waste material requiring disposal:

Location of disposal site:

Dates of proposed disposal operations:

Permit required by:

Quantity of waste material to be disposed:

Length of permit applied for in this application:

Details of previous permits applied for (include dates, volumes and whether granted/refused):

PART II - APPLICANT

1.0 Identity of applicant

Name:

Address:

Postal address (if different):

Contact person:

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

2.0 Identity of the owner of the material to be disposed at sea (if different to 1.0)

Name:

Address:

Postal address (if different):

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

PART III – DESCRIPTION OF THE WASTE MATERIAL PROPOSED FOR DUMPING

3.0 Description of waste material

A detailed description and assessment of the waste material is a precondition for the consideration of alternatives to sea dumping and the basis for a decision as to whether it can be dumped.

Provide a comprehensive and detailed description of the waste material including:

- total quantity and form produced;
- origin and species (location and nature of wild harvest or hatchery);
- composition;
- age (if further processing of the waste or material to fish meal is a viable alternative, fish waste must be fresh or if fish waste is proposed for dumping, it must not be significantly degraded);
- physical, chemical, biochemical and biological properties including:
 - potential changes in oxidation-reduction conditions at the dumpsite
 - potential for eutrophication; and
 - potential for introduction of disease vectors including non-indigenous parasites to wild stocks (such as from aquaculture);
- location where material can be inspected; and
- method of storage prior to dumping.

In cases where the fish:

- is rejected by a processing plant and sea dumping is proposed, provide reasons for its rejection; and
- is contaminated by chemicals and their residues (eg used in aquaculture), testing is required. Provide detailed data and methods of testing, and laboratory quality assurance and quality control data and methods.

PART IV – WASTE MANAGEMENT

4.0 Waste prevention audit

The waste prevention audit is a screening exercise to chart the potential impacts of a particular activity. The purpose of the audit is to investigate whether opportunities exist for waste prevention/reduction (point source and/or diffuse). If such opportunities exist, develop and implement a waste prevention strategy which includes specific waste reduction targets in collaboration with relevant local and national agencies. Targets are set to address the total quantities of wastes produced and/or their contaminants.

As part of the waste prevention audit evaluate:

- the types, amounts and the hazards of wastes generated;
- details of the production process and the sources of wastes within the process (including all inputs of raw materials, all outputs including byproducts, emissions and fugitive losses, and the final composition including additives and contaminants) of the product itself including total quantities of waste or material generated on a daily/weekly basis and cumulative hazard of each type of waste generated; and
- the feasibility of waste reduction/prevention techniques including waste minimisation and control/prevention of contaminants.

4.1 Waste management options

Provide a comparative assessment of dumping at sea and the practicable alternatives based on the following hierarchy of waste management options (which implies an order of increasing environmental impact):

- Re-use (for example as an industry or agricultural product);
- Off-site recycling;
- Disposal on land; and
- Disposal into sea.

In the assessment indicate the environmental impact and associated costs, risk to human health, hazards (including accidents) associated with transport and disposal, and economics (including energy costs) for each waste management option.

PART V - DESCRIPTION OF DISPOSAL SITE AND PROCEDURES

5.0 Carrier of Material

5.1 Name and port of registration of vessel to be used for sea disposal

5.2 Owner of vessel

Name:

Address:

Postal address (if different):

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

5.3 Person to be in charge of disposal operation

6.0 Method and procedure of dumping

Describe proposed method and procedure of dumping, including, at a minimum, details on:

- method of dumping and precautions taken during dumping;
- frequency of dumping and quantities per disposal; and
- time frame between production of the waste or material and its proposed dumping.

7.0 Description of Proposed Disposal Site

7.1 Location of site

Attach a suitably scaled map of the proposed disposal site (the relevant sector from an AusMap), including a clear grid reference, showing bathymetric contours, the boundaries of the site and distance from land. Care should be taken to specify the co-ordinate system (WGS84 preferred over AGD66) and units used; eg. degrees, minutes, decimals of minutes or degrees, minutes, seconds. Does this site differ from the site used under previous permits? If so, relationship to previous site is to be indicated clearly on the map.

7.2 Position fixing

Describe method to be used in positioning the dumping vessel.

7.3 Depth of Water

- depth of water from seabed to surface water at Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT).

7.4 Indicate whether the proposed disposal site is subject to 'Marine Park' or other zoning which may have a bearing on its intended use. Describe any sensitive areas in the vicinity of the proposed site.

7.5 Provide information on the physical and other relevant characteristics of the disposal site. Include:

- sea-bed topography;
- sediment characteristics;
- biological characteristics; and
- other relevant information.

7.6 Reasons for the selection of the site.

7.7 Describe the history of the site if previously used for sea disposal.

Describe intended program for collecting reference data on site characteristics to enable the monitoring of the consequences of the disposal operation should monitoring be required.

PART VI - IMPACT HYPOTHESIS

8.0 Projected impact of disposal

Describe the projected physical, chemical and biological impacts on the dump site and surrounding areas.

- Predict the impact of the disposal, based on what is being dumped, when disposal is taking place and disposal method;
- Delineate the area of sea bed that will be substantially impacted (the zone of impact) and the long term movement of dumped material;
- Assess physical impacts such as smothering of biota, change in substrate, light attenuation for sea grasses;
- Assess the severity of effects on marine life, including possible translocation of species, increased predation and loss of available habitat. Also consider the existence and effects of other disposals at the site or other nearby dump sites;
- Assess changes in the concentration of nutrients, oxygen depletion, and any increased bio-availability of contaminants;
- Assess possible effects on other users of the area; and
- The potential effects of the waste or material and its constituents on human health, living resources, amenities and other legitimate uses of the sea including the safety of surface and subsurface navigation.

Describe any intended investigations or studies of the possible impacts on the environment of the proposed action.

PART VII - MONITORING

9.0 Proposed Monitoring Program

Within the predicted zone of impact, describe the program to determine the actual extent of change, especially effects on the benthic community. This should include boundary measurements to determine how reliable the prior prediction of the extent of this zone was.

Any proposed monitoring program should include aspects of both compliance and effects monitoring.

Outside the predicted zone of impact, describe the program to determine whether:

- the actual zone of impact is as predicted; and
- the projected extent of change is within the scale projected.

PART VIII – NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE

10.0 Referring Actions Under the EPBC Act

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act) requires Commonwealth assessment and approval for any action that will have, or is likely to have a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance. For a detailed discussion of assessment under the EPBC Act and how it interacts with the Sea Dumping Act refer to Section 1.3.2 of the National Ocean Disposal Guidelines for Dredged Materials.

Where an action includes only those activities for which approval is required under the Sea Dumping Act, the applicant is not required to separately refer that action under the EPBC Act. If a referral is required, this will be done by the determining authority as part of the assessment of the permit application.

The proponent will need to refer the proposal for a separate assessment and approval under the EPBC Act where the action also includes activities not covered by the Sea Dumping Act which may significantly impact on matters of national environmental significance.

To ensure efficient co-ordination of the assessment process, it is important that the determining authority is aware of any referrals the proponent has made under the EPBC Act. As such, it is advisable that proponents discuss proposed actions with Environment Australia and answer the following questions:

10.1 Has the proposed action been referred to the Commonwealth Environment Minister under the EPBC Act?

Yes No

10.2 Has a decision on this proposed action been reached?

Yes No

If 'Yes', please provide details of the decision.

PART IX - CONSULTATION

11.0 Consultation with advisory bodies

Please consult with the Sea Dumping Program for advice on relevant stakeholders within your region and the method of consultation required.

List the organisation or interests that you have consulted with on the proposed sea disposal activity.

Attach the record of consultation to this application.