



Ref: CTO 2018 038 [G]

Aquatic Animal Product: Australian Sea Mullet (*Mugil cephalus*) for Human Consumption, Petfood Consumption, and Fish Bait

CTO direction as to equivalent measures in relation to Australian sea mullet (*Mugil cephalus*) for Human Consumption, Petfood Consumption, and Fish Bait

Pursuant to section 27(1)(d)(iii) of the Biosecurity Act 1993 I, Vicki Melville, Manager Animal Trade, Ministry for Primary Industries (under delegated authority), give the following direction for clearance of consignments of Australian sea mullet (*Mugil cephalus*) for human consumption, petfood consumption, or as fish bait in relation to the following Import Health Standards:

- *Import Health Standard for the Importation of Marine Fisheries Products for Human Consumption from All Countries* (FISMARIC.ALL; 6 October 2008)
- *Import Health Standard for the Importation into New Zealand of Marine Fish for Petfood from All Countries* (PETFISIC.ALL; 12 November 1999)
- *Import Health Standard for Fish Food and Fish Bait from All Countries* (FISFOOIC.ALL; 2 December 2011)

Clause 6.2 of FISMARIC.ALL, Clause 8 of PETFISIC.ALL, and Clause 7.2.4 of FISFOOIC.ALL allow importation of marine finfish products for human consumption, petfood consumption and as fish bait respectively. MPI uses the online aquatic animal database www.fishbase.org to determine the marine or freshwater origin of finfish species, which lists *Mugil cephalus* as having a freshwater lifecycle and therefore not eligible for biosecurity clearance under the above IHSs.

Based on the above information, MPI Border detained a consignment (Consignment # C2018/330826) of uncooked sea mullet products from Australia as there is no import health standard for this commodity. Australia's Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) requested release of the consignment by providing MPI information showing the sea mullet to be of marine origin and therefore met the import requirements under the above IHSs. Drawing upon information from www.fishbase.org, DAWR advised MPI that *Mugil cephalus* does not have an obligate freshwater lifecycle, and that this species may never enter freshwater in its entire lifetime. MPI accepted this advice, which is included in the [Bridging Document for Marine Fisheries Products for Human Consumption from All Countries](#).

Sea mullet (*Mugil cephalus*) from Australia could be considered for importation for human consumption, petfood consumption and for use as fish bait under the permit system. Each consignment must be accompanied by export documentation issued by DAWR demonstrating the Australian provenance of the commodity.

The reason for this direction is that the biosecurity risk associated with *Mugil cephalus* has been assessed and managed effectively.

This direction takes effect from the date of signing and continues in effect until amended or revoked.