

APPENDIX 4

WTO CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

Chronology of events relating to the Fish Import Risk Analyses and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) process (Attachment B)

Jun 1975	Import restrictions place on salmonid product
1975-1993	Numerous exchanges with Canada re salmon restrictions
1989	First discussion paper on risk associated with the importation of wild, ocean-caught Pacific salmon released for comment by AQIS
1992	AQIS commissioned the comprehensive study <i>Aquatic Animal Quarantine in Australia</i>
Jan 1994	Canada requests consultations in the GATT
Mar 1994	Consultations held with Canada in the GATT
Jul-Aug 1994	AQIS sends technical delegation to Canada and USA (included industry member)
Dec 1994	Preliminary draft import risk analysis provided to Tasmanian Salmonid Growers Association, Canada, USA and CSIRO for technical review
May 1995	Draft IRA released for public comment draft recommendation that consumer-ready product be permitted entry
May 1995 – Dec 1996	Numerous meetings and exchanges with Tasmanian industry and Government representatives
Oct 1995	Canada request WTO consultations
Nov 1995	WTO consultations held with Canada
Nov 1995	USA request WTO consultations
Dec 1995	WTO consultations held with USA
Apr-May 1996	Scientific peer review, including industry participation, of draft final revised IRA
May 1996	Revised draft IRA released for public comment

Nov 1996	Scientific peer review, including industry participation, of draft final IRA
20 Dec 1996	Decision on salmon announced existing ban on uncooked salmon maintained
Jan 1997	Final Report circulated
Mar 1997	Canada requests WTO dispute settlement panel
Apr 1997	Panel established
June 1998	Panel finds against Australia on various grounds
Jul 1998	Australia and Canada appeal Panel's findings
Oct 1998	Appellate Body finds against Australia (though upholding some of Australia and Canada's appeals)
6 Nov 1998	WTO DSB adopts Panel findings as modified by the Appellate Body
24 Dec 1999	Canada asks for binding arbitration on period Australia will be allowed to implement
23 Feb 1999	Arbitration hands down decision giving Australia until 6 July to implement Appellate Body findings
Mar 1999	AQIS announces its intention to conduct import risk analyses on salmonids, non-viable non-salmonid marine finfish and ornamental fish
April 1999	AQIS convenes meeting of key stakeholders
Apr-Jul 1999	Sections of draft risk analyses published for comment progressively on AQIS's web-site
May-Jun 1999	Series of public stakeholder meetings in NSW, Victoria, Tasmania, SA and WA
4 Jul 1999	AQIS announces deferral of decision to 19 July 1999
16 Jul 1999	AQIS convenes meeting of key stakeholders
19 Jul 1999	Announcement of AQIS' decision

