

Presentation to ACERA

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Risk

- Combination of:
 - probability of pest entry establishment and spread;
 - and
 - Consequences of this event.



International agreements

- International Plant Protection Convention
- OIE
- WTO- Sanitary and phytosanitary agreement
 - Legally binding dispute settlement system
- Largely compatible with the Australian standard but not identical



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Government policy

- Appropriate level of protection (ALOP)
 - “Very low” not zero
 - Set by government not BA
 - Reflected by past quarantine decisions
 - No specific guidance provided as to issues related to time, economic loss etc
 - Implemented by “guidelines” and “rules” that have been endorsed by all governments



Appropriate level of protection

Likelihood of entry and exposure

<i>High likelihood</i>	Negligible risk	Very low risk	Low risk	Moderate risk	High risk	Extreme risk
<i>Moderate</i>	Negligible risk	Very low risk	Low risk	Moderate risk	High risk	Extreme risk
<i>Low</i>	Negligible risk	Negligible risk	Very low risk	Low risk	Moderate risk	High risk
<i>Very low</i>	Negligible risk	Negligible risk	Negligible risk	Very low risk	Low risk	Moderate risk
<i>Extremely low</i>	Negligible risk	Negligible risk	Negligible risk	Negligible risk	Very low risk	Low risk
<i>Negligible likelihood</i>	Negligible risk	Negligible risk	Negligible risk	Negligible risk	Negligible risk	Very low risk
	<i>Negligible impact</i>	<i>Very low</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Extreme impact</i>

Consequences of entry and exposure

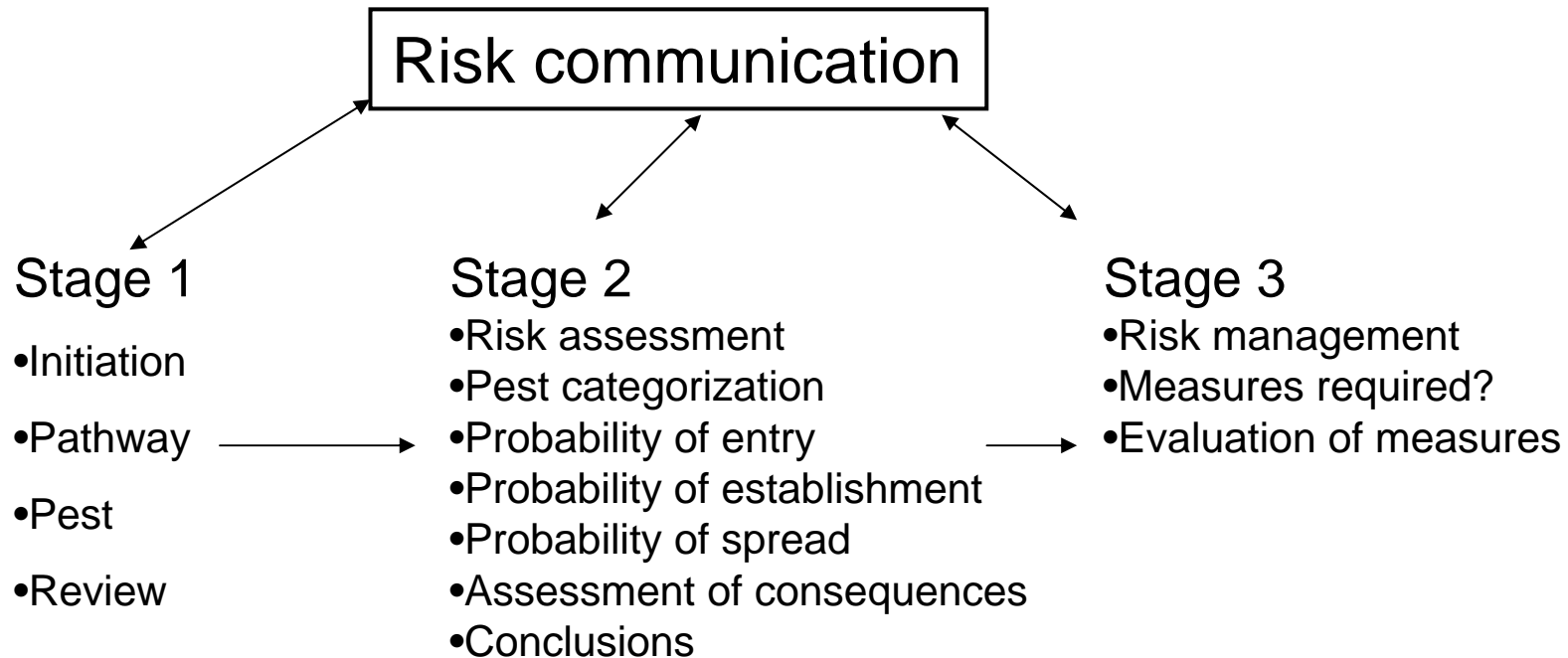


Risk analysis methodology

- Uses IPPC and OIE standards
 - Qualitative, semi-quantitative and quantitative
 - Most are qualitative
- 16 Qualitative vs 2 quantitative
since 2001



The IPPC risk analysis framework





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Risk analysis

- Hazard identification is simple
 - Search literature, pest and disease information from exporting country
- Entry is simple
 - Prevalence of pest and estimated volume of imports
- Establishment is difficult
 - What is the chance that a piece of salmon discarded at a picnic will be carrying a disease, will be picked up by a seagull, will be dropped in the water, will be eaten by a fish
- Consequence
 - Based on worst case biological assumptions



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Analysis issues

- Critical data is always lacking
 - Experimentation difficult – sufficient sensitivity and replication often not practical
- Sophisticated analysis tools are not much help if critical data lacking
 - Using ranges can lead to estimates that are so wide as to be useless
- If data good then sophisticated analysis tools not needed



Stakeholders

- Industries that might be affected by pests
- Public that might consume imports
- Exporting countries



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Consultation with stakeholders

- Mandated at various stages
 - Eg on draft risk analysis report
- Based on a stakeholder register
 - 2000+ registered stakeholder
- Additional consultation initiated by BA and by stakeholder groups



Stakeholder interaction

- There is no “up-side” for industry groups facing imports
 - Potential pest introductions
 - Significant competition
- Industry uses scientists, lawyers and public relations companies
 - Voluminous submissions
 - Public campaigns
 - Political lobbying
- BA cannot negotiate on conditions with stakeholder



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Domestic stakeholder concerns

- We are on the edge of failure all the time?
 - Evidence shows that the regulated imports of products is a very low risk pathway
 - High risk pathways include natural entry via northern Australia and illegal activities
- If only quarantine worked properly we would have no new pests
- Every pest that enters will completely devastate the affected industry



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Domestic stakeholder concerns

- The proposed measures are only “good” for one year
 - One year trade used as input
- Industry does not have a direct role in the risk analysis
- Methodology is BA’s not the Government’s
- The process is not transparent
- Imports should not be allowed if there is any doubt about the science



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International stakeholder concerns

- Australia's quarantine measures are a disguised barrier to trade
- Import conditions are not scientifically justified
 - Australia the defendant in a WTO case on salmon
 - Philippines and EU have commenced disputes
- The analysis and decision making process is very slow and subject to significant political interference



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