



Australian Government



Seasonal
Worker
Programme

The aquaculture industry and the Seasonal Worker Programme

This information reflects the changes announced by the Australian Government, effective from 5 November 2018.

A seasonal labour solution

Australian employers in the agriculture sector, including in the aquaculture industry, unable to find enough local Australian workers to meet their seasonal labour needs can access the Seasonal Worker Programme (SWP).

The SWP provides employers with access to workers from Pacific island countries and Timor-Leste for up to nine months. Seasonal workers can return in following seasons, providing employers with access to a reliable, returning workforce.

The SWP is a labour initiative that contributes to the economic development of some of Australia's closest regional neighbours, while also providing labour certainty to employers in the agriculture sector nationwide, accommodation sector in selected locations in the tourism industry.

What work can seasonal workers undertake in the aquaculture industry?

Seasonal workers can undertake a range of work in the aquaculture industry, including:

- ✓ Feeding
- ✓ Attending mooring pens
- ✓ Washing and changing nets
- ✓ Moving materials and equipment

- ✓ Loading, unloading, moving, packing and construction of shellfish culture mediums (including baskets, cages, droplines and oyster racking)
- ✓ Operating boats (including loading and unloading boats)
- ✓ Harvesting and husbanding fish
- ✓ Recording data
- ✓ Operating mechanical equipment such as grading machines
- ✓ Preparing of products for market/transport, and
- ✓ General maintenance duties (but not mechanical duties)

Employment arrangements

Seasonal workers recruited under the programme earn Australian wages and are subject to Australian employment conditions. In addition to this, employers have a few additional responsibilities – such as contributing to the seasonal worker's airfare to Australia and helping to organise accommodation. For a full list of responsibilities, refer to the factsheet on 'Approved Employers'.

Since the SWP commenced on 1 July 2012, employers who have participated in the SWP have benefited from a reliable, increasingly experienced workforce, and have enjoyed the benefits resulting from greater labour certainty.

How to access seasonal workers?

Employers in the aquaculture industry with unmet demand for labour can either:

- ✓ contact an Approved Employer who can manage the recruitment of seasonal workers for you and take care of all the administrative arrangements during the seasonal workers' stay; or
- ✓ apply to become an Approved Employer

Find out more

More information about the Seasonal Worker Programme can be found at:

Website: www.dese.gov.au/seasonal-worker-programme and

www.homeaffairs.gov.au/trav/visa-1/403-

Email: seasonalworker@dese.gov.au

Phone: + 61 2 6240 5234

Twitter: @SWPAustralia

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SWPAus