

THE HANDLING PROCESS: FACTORY TO CONSUMER

Eel processors routinely transport eels live in polystyrene or cardboard boxes to the customer. Prior to pack-out eels are usually chilled to make them easier to handle and to slow down their metabolism. Eels are then tightly packed in polystyrene boxes. Crushed ice is added to the box so that eels remain cold and moist during the transport. Eels are then sent to the customer for a time period usually ranging from 2 to 45 hours.

Treatment of eels with AQUI-S® can be integrated with the chilling process where AQUI-S® is added to the holding tank prior to eels being removed and packed. Sedated eels are essentially 'asleep' during packing and transport. This means they are less stressed and conserve energy, improving their general condition and survivability. Increased resilience to transport stress allows extended transport events and accessibility to more lucrative markets. Lower activity makes them easier to handle reducing packing time and increasing the number of animals per transport unit.

HOW TO USE AQUI-S® IN A LIVE EEL PACK-OUT

Step 1: Gradually lower the water temperature in the live holding tank. Final temperature will depend on the species and personal preference.

Step 2: Determine the amount of AQUI-S® required and make up as a stock solution at a 1:10 dilution. Final concentration in the tank should be between 5 and 15 ppm. Care must be taken to ensure animals are able to remain in the AQUI-S® bath for prolonged exposure.

Step 3: Add AQUI-S® to the tank and ensure that dissolved oxygen levels remain above 80% saturation for the treatment duration. This can be ensured by providing auxiliary aeration in the form of a portable air blower or compressor.

Step 4: Remove eels once they have loss of response to being removed from the water. This will usually take 10 to 20 minutes.

Step 5: Pack the sedated eels according to normal operating procedures.

PROCEDURE



AQUI-S® and ice being added to tank containing eels



A large sedated eel ready to be packed



Sedated eels being packed in a polystyrene box with ice



Polystyrene box containing sedated eels filled with oxygen and transferred to a transport truck