





# ASSESSING ALTERNATIVES TO PLASTIC BAIT PACKAGING



To support and encourage uptake of alternatives to plastic packaging within the fishing bait industry, OceanWatch initiated two trials for 8 weeks.

Bait	Prawn 		Squid 		Pilchard 		Chicken guts 
	frozen	fresh	frozen	fresh	frozen	fresh	frozen
Cold water soluble packaging	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Hot water soluble packaging	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★
Recyclable packaging	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★
Home compostable packaging	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★
Sugar cane tray and lid	★	★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★
Cardboard box	★	★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

★ Quality of the bait visibly degrading after **1 week**

★★ Quality of the bait visibly degrading after **4 weeks**

★★★★ Quality of the bait not visibly degrading after **8 weeks**

ReefClean is funded by the Australian Government's Reef Trust and delivered by Tangaroa Blue Foundation in partnership with OceanWatch Australia.



OTHER CRITERIA	1 Ability to contain fresh yet to be frozen bait	2 Ability to contain frozen bait	3 Sealability with a vacuum heat sealer	4 Degradability in seawater	5 Cost of packaging
Cold water soluble packaging	★	★	★	★★★★	\$\$
Hot water soluble packaging	★★	★★★★	★★	★★★★	\$\$\$
Recyclable packaging	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★	\$\$
Home compostable packaging	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★	\$
Sugar cane tray and lid	★★	★★★★	★	★★	\$\$
Cardboard box	★★	★★★★	★	★★	\$

#### EVALUATION CRITERIA

##### 1 Packaging resistance/Ability to contain fresh yet to be frozen bait over 8 weeks

- ★ Packaging failed to retain bait
- ★★ Average containment of fresh bait: Retained bait but packaging was soft to touch
- ★★★★ Contained fresh bait for length of trial (8 weeks)

##### 2 Packaging resistance/Ability to contain frozen bait over 8 weeks

- ★ Packaging failed to retain bait
- ★★ Average containment of frozen bait: Retained bait but packaging was soft to touch
- ★★★★ Contained frozen bait for length of trial (8 weeks)

##### 3 Sealability with a vacuum heat sealer

- ★ Not heat sealable at all
- ★★ Partly heat sealable
- ★★★★ Heat sealed well

##### 4 Degradability in seawater

- ★ Does not degrade after 30 days in seawater
- ★★ Partly soft and weaker in seawater within 30 days
- ★★★★ Degrades in seawater within 7 days

##### 5 Cost of packaging relative to alternatives trialed

- \$ Low    \$\$ Medium    \$\$\$ High

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