

Preventing the spread of Abalone disease

October 2020 | DPI Aquatic Biosecurity and Risk Management

What is Abalone Disease?

Abalone viral ganglioneuritis or AVG is a disease caused by a virus which affects the nervous system of Abalone.

Symptoms can include: curling of the foot, swelling of the mouth, weakness and death of Abalone.

AVG affects Blacklip and Greenlip Abalone and their hybrids.

AVG does not have any impacts on human health.

Where does it occur?

AVG occurs in Tasmania and has caused significant mortality in farmed and wild abalone in parts of Victoria.

Steps to help protect the NSW abalone industry

Follow these steps to protect your business and to help stop live abalone spreading AVG:

- Wash hands and/or gloves thoroughly with warm soapy water after handling abalone.
- Dispose of all waste into a covered bin which goes to landfill.
- Dispose of water from holding tanks into the sewerage system.
- Thoroughly clean equipment used for holding and transport of abalone with a detergent and warm water, rinse in fresh water and allow to dry.
- Wipe areas of any transport vehicle and its containers/bins which came into contact with abalone with dilute detergent or disinfectant.
- If you suspect AVG in your tanks NSW DPI can assist you.

If you observe sick or dying abalone contact NSW Emergency Animal Diseases (EAD) Hotline on 1800 675 888 for advice.

Diseased greenlip abalone displaying symptom of AVG – curling of the foot (Photos: DPI Victoria)



Diseased blacklip abalone displaying symptom of AVG – curling of the foot (Photos: DPI Victoria)



For more information on abalone disease visit:

https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/aquatic-biosecurity/aquatic-industries/wildfish-shellfish/AVG

This information is also available in **multiple languages** on the DPI website

© State of New South Wales through the Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development, 2020. You may copy, distribute and otherwise freely deal with this publication for any purpose, provided that you attribute the NSW Department of Primary Industries as the owner. Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (October 2020). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser. INT16/62440 JTN 14040