

DPI Primefact

Reduce your risks of Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome (EUS)

September 2023, Primefact PUB23/986, Second edition
DPI Aquatic Biosecurity, Animal Biosecurity, Biosecurity and Food Safety

What is EUS?

Epizootic ulcerative syndrome (EUS), also known as red spot disease can affect many species of fish. EUS is caused by a fungus, *Aphanomyces invadans*, and causes red lesions (sores) and deep ulcers, making affected fish unmarketable and sometimes resulting in their death.

EUS is a notifiable disease in NSW and suspected outbreaks must be reported to NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI).

Where does it occur?

EUS is reasonably common in NSW in wild fish in coastal catchments and has previously been detected in fish from the Darling and Namoi Rivers. Cases of EUS have also been reported previously from aquaculture facilities east of the Great Dividing Range. However, EUS is poorly understood, and the full extent of its distribution is unknown.

In mid-2016 EUS was confirmed in farmed fish from the Riverina in NSW. This was the first detection of EUS in an aquaculture facility west of the Great Dividing Range in NSW.

Steps to help minimise the impacts of EUS on industry

Follow these steps to protect your land-based aquaculture business, and to help stop the spread of EUS and other aquatic disease:

- Ensure thorough disinfection of transporters and transport equipment between sites
- Wash hands and disinfect equipment when moving between different ponds.
- Use separate equipment between ponds where possible.
- Monitor water quality regularly.
- Keep good records of fish health and stocking/fish movements.
- Seek assistance from NSW DPI if you suspect any aquatic disease.

Once in an aquaculture farm, EUS can continue to cause further outbreaks over time.

NSW DPI will work with industry in cases of suspected diseases such as EUS to provide advice on how to minimise losses associated with disease outbreaks.

If you suspect EUS or other aquatic disease you should:

- Report suspected cases of EUS or other aquatic diseases to NSW DPI as soon as possible.
 - Prevent discharge of wastewater into the local environment.
 - Not sell or move any fish to any other aquaculture facility.
 - Not send severely ulcerated fish to market (NSW Food Authority standard recommendation).
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What does EUS look like?

EUS may cause one or more signs:

- Small pinpoint red spots
- Areas of swelling
- Protruding or missing scales
- Skin sores or ulcers
- Reddened areas of the skin under the scales
- Fish deaths in severe cases



Figure 1 Bony Bream from the Darling River showing EUS lesion (Photo: R. Reece)

Report suspected disease

If you observe sick or dying fish, contact NSW DPI at your local DPI Fisheries Office or contact DPI Aquatic Biosecurity Risk Management on (02) 4916 3900 for advice.

For more information

Visit: <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/pests-diseases/animal-health/wildfish-shellfish/red-spot>

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