

# Reduce your risks of Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome

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## 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 invadens* and causes sores and deep ulcers, sometimes resulting in death.

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

## Where does it occur?

EUS is reasonably common in NSW coastal catchments and has been previously reported in the Darling River in NSW. Cases of EUS have also been reported previously from aquaculture facilities east of the Great Dividing Range.

In mid-2016 EUS was confirmed in farmed fish from the Riverina in NSW. This is 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:

Wash hands and disinfect equipment when moving between different ponds and 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 waste water 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)

## 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

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) 4982 1232 for advice.

## For more information on EUS

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

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