

DPI Primefact

Notifiable aquatic diseases in NSW

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DPI Aquatic Biosecurity, Animal Biosecurity, Biosecurity and Food Safety

A number of aquatic diseases are notifiable under NSW legislation.

This means there is a duty, or legal obligation, to notify authorities if you know or suspect the occurrence of one of these diseases or if you have any suspicion or awareness of a biosecurity event.

Why are certain diseases and biosecurity events notifiable?

Several aquatic diseases are listed as notifiable because they are exotic to Australia and if established here could impact severely on animal production, the economy, human and animal health or the environment.

Some other diseases that already exist in Australia are notifiable because there is a control program in place, the disease occurs in parts of Australia other than NSW, or because aquaculture products, or their properties of origin, need to be certified in terms of their disease status to facilitate trade.

By remaining vigilant and notifying as soon as you suspect a notifiable disease or event, you can play a vital role in protecting aquatic industries and preventing disease spread in the NSW aquatic environment.

What is notifiable?

All aquatic diseases which are notifiable in NSW are tabled in Appendix 1. In NSW you must notify the suspicion or awareness of:

Prohibited matter

Prohibited matter is high risk matter we do not want in NSW and is not established in NSW, although there may have been previous detections that were quickly eradicated. Examples of prohibited matter include Abalone viral ganglioneuritis, White spot disease of crustaceans, and Yellowhead disease. A full list is contained in Schedule 2 of the *Biosecurity Act*.

Notification obligations apply with respect to prohibited matter. It is also an offence to deal with prohibited matter, which includes acquiring, keeping, selling, disposing, moving, supplying, propagating, experimenting and other actions as defined under Clause 12 of the Act.

Other listed notifiable diseases of aquatic animals

In addition to Prohibited Matter, Schedule 1 of the *Biosecurity Regulation 2017* lists several species and diseases as notifiable. It is illegal in NSW to possess, sell or move species and diseases listed as notifiable biosecurity matter except as outlined under Clause 18 (2) of the

Biosecurity Regulation (e.g. oysters with QX diseases are safe to consume and can be sold for human consumption). A person has a duty to notify an authorised officer if they suspect the presence of any of these pests or diseases.

Examples of notifiable matter include Epizootic haematopoietic necrosis of fish (EHN virus), Winter mortality (of Sydney Rock Oysters) and QX disease of oysters.

Biosecurity events

Under the Biosecurity Act 2015, a biosecurity event means an occurrence that is likely to have an adverse effect on the economy, the environment or the community that is caused by biosecurity matter or by dealing with that biosecurity matter.

Biosecurity events include new or emerging disease events, a significant disease event from a listed notifiable disease (other than prohibited matter), or chemical contamination events.

Under the Biosecurity Regulation 2017 an unexplained and significant increase in mortality or morbidity rates in animals; an unexplained and significant fall in production; or the appearance of other unexplained and significant clinical signs in animals are biosecurity events and must be notified immediately.

Who must notify?

There is a duty to notify any awareness or suspicion of notifiable matter or a biosecurity event. The duty to notify is detailed in the Biosecurity Act 2015 (Sections 30 and 38) and the Biosecurity Regulation 2019 (Clause 7).

This duty applies to an owner, occupier, or person in charge, care, control or custody of a premises (such as a property), or a carrier or thing (such as an animal, animal product, vehicle or equipment) to which the notifiable matter or biosecurity event relates.

This duty also applies to a person consulting in their professional capacity (such as a veterinarian, aquaculture staff or commercial fisher). There is no requirement to report if you know the matter has already been reported.

How do you notify?

By notifying as soon as you suspect a notifiable disease or event, you can play a vital role in protecting the economy, human health and the environment from aquatic diseases.

Suspicion or awareness of **prohibited matter** and **biosecurity events** must be immediately reported to an authorised officer. This can be done by phoning:

- The Emergency Animal Disease Hotline **1800 675 888** (24-hour hotline)

Suspicion or awareness of **other listed notifiable diseases** of aquatic animals must be notified within one working day. This can be done by:

- Call the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline **1800 675 888** (24-hour hotline)
- Emailing aquatic.biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au
- Complete the online form (<https://forms.bfs.dpi.nsw.gov.au/forms/9247>)
- Contacting a NSW Department of Primary Industries authorised officer

When in doubt as to whether you are dealing with prohibited matter, a biosecurity event, or another listed notifiable disease of animals, it is better to phone to ensure you fulfil your duty to notify.

When samples from healthy animals are being submitted and tested for the purpose of meeting the requirements of an export protocol or accreditation program, notification is only required when there are positive or inconclusive test results.

Any laboratory, research institution, business or individual that is providing testing for prohibited matter has a requirement to inform the NSW Chief Veterinary Officer of their testing facility and testing program.

What information must be included in the notification?

A person must notify of the following:

- a. the person's full name and contact phone number
- b. details of the notifiable matter
- c. the location of the notifiable matter including, if the notifiable matter is on a property with a property identification code (PIC), the property identification code. If the property does not have a PIC, the location must include the road/street/lane number. If this is unavailable, the lot and deposited plan (DP) number must be provided.
- d. in the case of a biosecurity event, details of the significant biosecurity impact
- e. any other information requested by the authorised officer.

Further information:

DPI Aquatic Biosecurity Program
Port Stephens Fisheries Institute
Nelson Bay NSW 2315

P: 02 4916 3900

E: aquatic.biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au

W: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/aquatic-biosecurity

Appendix 1: List of prohibited matter¹ and Schedule 1 notifiable diseases

Diseases of Finfish		
Prohibited Matter?	Common Name	Scientific Name
Yes	Bacterial kidney disease	<i>Renibacterium salmoninarum</i>
Yes	Channel catfish virus disease	
Yes	Enteric redmouth disease	<i>Yersinia ruckeri</i> - Hagerman strain
Yes	Enteric septicaemia of catfish	<i>Edwardsiella ictaluri</i>
	Epizootic haematopoietic necrosis of fish (EHN virus)	
	Epizootic ulcerative syndrome of fish	infection with <i>Aphanomyces invadans</i>
Yes	European catfish virus	
Yes	European sheatfish virus	
Yes	Furunculosis	<i>Aeromonas salmonicida</i> subsp. <i>salmonicida</i>
	Goldfish ulcer disease	<i>Aeromonas salmonicida</i> —atypical strains
Yes	Gyrodactylosis	<i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i>
Yes	Infectious haematopoietic necrosis of finfish	
Yes	Infectious pancreatic necrosis of finfish	
Yes	Infectious salmon anaemia virus	
Yes	Infectious spleen and kidney necrosis virus-like viruses (ISKNV)	
Yes	Koi herpesvirus disease	
Yes	Piscirickettsiosis	<i>Piscirickettsia salmonis</i>
Yes	Red sea bream iridoviral disease	
Yes	Salmonid alphavirus	
Yes	Scale drop syndrome virus	
Yes	Singapore grouper iridovirus (Ranavirus)	
Yes	Spring viraemia of carp	
Yes	Tilapia lake virus (TiLV) disease	
Yes	Turbot reddish body iridovirus (TRBIV)	
	Viral encephalopathy and retinopathy (VER)	<i>Betanodavirus</i>
Yes	Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia of finfish	
Yes	Whirling disease	<i>Myxobolus cerebralis</i>

¹ It is an offence to deal with prohibited matter.

Diseases of Molluscs		
Prohibited Matter?	Common Name	Scientific Name
Yes	Abalone viral ganglioneuritis	
	Bonamia	<i>Bonamia</i> spp. all species except <i>Bonamia ostreae</i> & <i>B. exitiosa</i>
Yes	Bonamia exitiosa	<i>Bonamia exitiosa</i>
Yes	Bonamia ostreae	<i>Bonamia ostreae</i>
Yes	Iridoviroses of molluscs	
Yes	Marteilia refringens	<i>Marteilia refringens</i>
Yes	Marteilioides chungmuensis	<i>Marteilioides chungmuensis</i>
Yes	Mikrocytos mackini	<i>Mikrocytos mackini</i>
	Ostreid herpesvirus– 1 μ variant—OsHV–1 μ var (OSHV1) that causes Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS)	
	Perkinsosis	<i>Perkinsus olseni</i>
Yes	Perkinsus marinus	<i>Perkinsus marinus</i>
	QX disease	<i>Marteilia sydneyi</i>
	Winter mortality (of Sydney Rock Oysters)	
Yes	Xenohaliotis californiensis	<i>Xenohaliotis californiensis</i>

Diseases of Crustaceans		
Prohibited Matter?	Common Name	Scientific Name
Yes	Acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease (AHPND) of crustaceans	
Yes	Crayfish plague	<i>Aphanomyces astaci</i>
Yes	Decapod iridescent virus 1	
Yes	Enterocytozoon hepatopenaei	<i>Enterocytozoon hepatopenaei</i>
	Gill-associated virus disease (GAV)	
	Infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis of crustaceans	
Yes	Infectious myonecrosis of crustaceans	
Yes	Monodon slow growth syndrome	
Yes	Necrotising hepatopancreatitis of crustaceans	<i>Hepatobacter penaei</i>
Yes	Taura syndrome of crustaceans	
	Thelohaniosis of crustaceans	
Yes	White spot disease of crustaceans	
Yes	White tail disease of crustaceans	
Yes	Yellowhead disease/Yellowhead virus	

Diseases of Amphibians		
Prohibited Matter?	Common Name	Scientific Name
Yes	Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans	<i>Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans</i>
	Chytridiomycosis in amphibians	<i>Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis</i>
Yes	Ranavirus of amphibians	

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