

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission Report

USA Comments

October 2008

CHAPTER 2.3.X.

MILKY HAEMOLYMPH DISEASE OF SPINY LOBSTERS

Article 2.3.X.1.

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Article 2.3.X.4.

Milky haemolymph disease free country

A country may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from MHD if it meets the conditions in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a country shares a *zone* with one or more other countries, it can only make a *self-declaration of freedom* from MHD if all the areas covered by the shared water are declared MHD free countries or *zones* (see Article 2.3.X.5.).

1. ...

OR

2. A country where the *susceptible species* referred to in Article 2.3.X.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the *disease* for at least the past **10** years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from MHD when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

3. A country where the last observed occurrence of the *disease* was within the past 10 years or where the *infection* status prior to *targeted surveillance* was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to its clinical expression as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*) may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from MHD when:

a) *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and

- b) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapters 3.3.1. of the *Aquatic Code* and X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of the bacterial agent of MHD.

OR

4. ...

General Comment/Question: With respect to Article 2.3.X.4, point 2, the United States requests clarity on the recommendation of requiring 10 years for a country where the *susceptible* (crustacean and mollusk) *species* of a particular *disease* are present, but when there has been no observed occurrence of the *disease*, for that country to declare freedom? Specifically, what is the rationale for setting the requirement at 25 years for finfish, but at 10 years for crustaceans and mollusks?

Article 2.3.X.5.

Milky haemolymph disease free zone or free compartment

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