

Information Sheet

August 2020

Infectious hypodermal and hematopoietic necrosis virus



Photo by Canva.com

What is infectious hypodermal and hematopoietic necrosis virus?

- Infectious hypodermal and hematopoietic necrosis virus (IHHNV) is a virus that affects some farmed and wild shrimp species.
- Signs of IHHNV include sluggish swimming and motionless or sinking shrimp. Shrimp farms with infected shrimp may experience mass die-offs and an increase in shrimp with cuticular deformations.
- IHHNV may cause infection in yellowleg shrimp, giant tiger prawn, northern white shrimp, blue shrimp, and white leg prawn. The virus is not known to affect other crustaceans.
- A diagnostic test is required to confirm the presence of the virus in a facility or population. There is currently no treatment or vaccine available for IHHNV.
- **IHHNV is not a threat to human health.**

Distribution of IHHNV

- In 2019, shrimp farms in Texas, New Mexico, and Florida and a research facility in California were quarantined due to the detection of IHHNV in shrimp. The virus has previously been confirmed in several regions of Africa, Asia, and Central and South America, Europe, and Australia.

Transmission and prevention

- Transmission can occur through cannibalization, contaminated water, and infected eggs. Those purchasing live shrimp or breeding shrimp on a shrimp farm should review their biosecurity practices and take steps to address potential gaps as listed below.

Recommended biosecurity practices

- Purchase live shrimp and germplasm from sources tested negative for the virus.
- Quarantine and monitor all new shrimp stocks upon arrival to a farm, disinfect and properly dispose of water used to transport live shrimp, and note any unusual rise in mortality, followed by appropriate diagnostic testing.
- Implement measures to control virus spread such as pretreating all water sources and minimizing or eliminating water exchange between populations.
- Routinely sanitize equipment with appropriate disinfectants.

Report Suspicious Cases

Suspect cases should be reported to your State Animal Health Official.

For more information, contact:

The Center for Epidemiology
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