Section 2.3.
 **Diseases of fish**

CHAPTER 2.3.0.
 **general information**

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**B. MATERIALS AND BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS REQUIRED FOR THE
ISOLATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF FISH PATHOGENS**

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**2. Techniques**

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**2.5.** **Use of molecular techniques for surveillance testing, confirmatory testing and diagnosis (third paragraph)**

As with all PCR protocols, optimisation may be necessary depending on the reagents, equipment and the plasticware. PCR is prone to false-positive and false-negative results. False-positive results (negative samples giving a positive reaction), may arise from either product carryover from positive samples or, more commonly, from cross-contamination by PCR products from previous tests. Therefore, each assay and tissue extraction should include a negative control to rule out contamination. False-negative results (positive samples giving a negative result), may occur due to the presence of a new variant that is not recognised by the PCR primer/probe set, which may lead to unwanted transmission of pathogens and biosecurity failure. Negative molecular results should be investigated further when clinical signs indicate the presence of a specific disease, or other positive test results have indicated that a false negative result may have been obtained.

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