

AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION

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Assessment for listing of Infection with ostreid herpesvirus-1 (including OsHV-1 μ var) as an emerging disease

Infection with ostreid herpesvirus-1 (including OsHV-1 μ var) was assessed against the criteria for listing an emerging aquatic animal disease in Article 1.2.2. of the *Aquatic Code*.

Case definition

An increased mortality in Pacific oysters associated with the presence of OsHV-1 or OsHV-1 μ var in affected animals.

Criterion 2: An infectious agent is strongly associated with the disease, but the aetiology is not yet known

OsHV-1, including μ var (Segarra *et al.*, 2010), has been predominantly associated with increased mortality of Pacific oysters. This suggests that OsHV-1 infection is one of the causative factors. However, it may not be sufficient by itself as other factors appear to be important (EFSA, 2010; Garcia *et al.*, 2011). OsHV-1 μ var has not been sufficiently characterised to be defined as a new genotype but may be considered as a different strain. OsHV-1 μ var seems to be the dominant viral strain in the 2008-2010 increased mortality events, but it is not clear if this is a result of increased virulence or other epidemiological factors (EFSA, 2010). There are observations indicating emergence of different OsHV-1 variants (Martenot *et al.*, 2011).

Criterion 4: Significant spread in naive populations of wild or cultured aquatic animals

Since 2008, severe mortality events in cultured Pacific oyster were reported from the main European producing countries. Information provided to OIE (WAHIS) shows that in 2009, Ireland and France experienced mortality rates ranging between 15-95% and 50-75% respectively. In 2010, United Kingdom reported mortalities of 60%. New Zealand also reported increased mortality ranging between 50-80%. In 2011, reports were received from the Netherlands and Australia. In Australia, mortality has been 100% for spat and 95% for market sized stock.

Conclusion

Infection with ostreid herpesvirus-1 including OsHV-1 μ var is eligible for listing as an emerging disease because it meets the criteria 2 and 4.

Note

Diagnostic methods are listed in the draft *Aquatic Manual* chapter Infection with ostreid herpesvirus-1. Definition of a confirmed case should require the identification of the variants involved.

References

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