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Aquaculture Health

Last Modified:

Aquaculture, the production of aquatic animals and plants under controlled conditions, is an ever-growing agribusiness in the United States and worldwide. The impact of disease on aquatic livestock, like all livestock sectors, includes production and market loss and increased costs. APHIS supports U.S. aquaculture industries by protecting aquatic livestock health, promoting U.S. farm-raised aquaculture products, and protecting natural resources.

APHIS works with U.S. aquaculture producers, allied businesses, associations, and partners to improve, establish, and maintain healthy aquatic livestock and promote sustainable production practices. We support risk-based approaches to demonstrate and protect aquatic livestock health and ensure farm-raised aquatic animals' safe and secure movement.

Infectious Salmon Anemia Virus

Infectious salmon anemia (ISA) is a serious viral fish disease that affects wild and farm-raised Atlantic salmon, rainbow trout, and brown trout.

Spring Viremia of Carp Virus

Spring viremia of carp (SVC) is a viral disease of fish that primarily affects farmed carp and related species. It is an acute and highly contagious disease.

Tilapia Lake Virus

Tilapia lake virus is a serious viral fish disease that affects farmed and wild tilapia.

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Virus

Viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus (VHSV) is a highly contagious and often fatal viral disease of freshwater and saltwater fish.

Report Signs of Animal Disease

Producers or owners who suspect an animal disease should contact their veterinarian to evaluate the animal(s). Find an accredited veterinarian.

Animal health professionals (veterinarians; diagnostic laboratories; public health, zoo, or wildlife personnel; and others) report diagnosed or suspected cases of nationally listed reportable animal diseases to APHIS Area Veterinarians in Charge.

Information on Reportable Diseases and Pathogens of Concern

Diseases and pathogens of concern to U.S. aquaculture are in the National List of Reportable Animal Diseases. This also includes a number of World Organisation for Animal Health -listed aquatic animal diseases.

If you suspect diseases or pathogens on these lists, report it.

APHIS works continually to identify potential risks and respond to requests for epidemiological information about diseases that could threaten commercial aquaculture industry sectors in the United States.

Expand All

Fish Diseases

- **Salmonid Pathogen Pathways Assessment and Hazard Identification (ID) Information**
  - Pathways Assessment for Live Salmonid Fish, Eggs, and Gametes Susceptible to Six World Organization for Animal Health Listed Pathogens (2.5 MB)
  - Hazard ID - Epizootic hematopoietic necrosis virus (EHNV) (580.1 KB)
  - Hazard ID - *Gyrodactylus salaris* (669.55 KB)
  - Hazard ID - Infectious hematopoietic necrosis virus (IHNV) (681.4 KB)
  - Hazard ID - Infectious Salmon Anemia Virus (ISAV) (654.54 KB)
  - Hazard ID - Salmonid alphavirus (SAV) (716.44 KB)
  - Hazard ID - Viral Haemorrhagic Septicemia Virus (VHSV) (724.74 KB)
- **Megalocytivirus Pagrus-1**
  - Red Sea Bream Iridovirus Disease (RSIVD) Rapid Risk Assessment (389.48 KB)
- **Virulent *Aeromonas hydrophila (vAh)***
  - Potential Pathways of Exposure to ST251 Strains of Virulent Aeromonas Hydrophila in Farmed Catfish (1.1 MB)
- **Tilapia Lake Virus (TiLV)**

- Assessment of the Risk of Introduction of TiLV by Live Tilapia Imported to Terminal Markets (270.88 KB)
- Rapid Risk Assessment for Tilapia Lake Virus (TiLV) (569.5 KB)
- Analysis of U.S. Imports/Exports of Live Tilapia and Eggs/Milt (318.38 KB)
- Emerging Risk to Animal Health Notice: TiLV (164.9 KB)
- Preliminary Risk Assessment for TiLV (221.12 KB)

Crustacean Diseases

- Decapod Iridescent Virus (DIV1) Rapid Risk Assessment (946.91 KB)
- Infection With Infectious Hypodermal and Hematopoietic Necrosis Virus (IHHNV)
  - IHHNV: Rapid Risk Assessment (1.2 MB)
  - Emerging Risk Notice: IHHNV (106.18 KB)
  - Information Sheet: IHHNV (358.03 KB)

Mollusk Diseases

- Ostreid Herpevirus (OsHV)
  - Frequently Asked Questions: Infection by OsHV-1 Microvariants
  - Information Sheet: OsHV-1 (289.75 KB)
  - Potential Introduction Pathways of OsHV-1 in the United States (746.37 KB)
  - Optimizing surveillance for early disease detection: Expert guidance for Ostreid herpesvirus surveillance design and system sensitivity calculation (Gustafson et al. 2021)

Aquatic Animal Health Status Reviews

We conduct annual reviews to determine the health status of select aquatic animal pathogens of concern for the United States or regions within the United States.

Learn More About Aquatic Animal Health Status Reviews

Comprehensive Aquaculture Health Program Standards

The Comprehensive Aquaculture Health Program Standards (CAHPS) provide a framework for improving and verifying the health of farmed aquatic animals produced in the United States.

The goals of the standards are to:

- Improve the health of U.S. farm-raised aquatic animals
- Facilitate safe interstate and international trade or movement of live aquatic animals
- Improve the marketability of animals produced by CAHPS participants

To be effective, our program standards need cooperation from States, other Federal agencies, and private industry. With industry support, APHIS initiated the rulemaking process to codify CAHPS. Stay tuned for open commenting opportunities in the Federal Register.

Comprehensive Aquaculture Health Program Standards (CAHPS) - USAS Webinar

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Related Programs and Resources

- Aquaculture Resources Map (Interstate Movement Requirements Lookup Tool)
- National Animal Health Monitoring System Aquaculture Studies
- National Aquaculture Health Plan & Standards

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