

People Development Program: Aquatic Animal Health Training Scheme

Boosting Biosecurity Capability

in Western Australia

FHMP Emergency Fish Disease Outbreak Plan Checklist

ACWA



AQUACULTURE COUNCIL
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Australian Government
Fisheries Research and
Development Corporation



Government of Western Australia
Department of Fisheries

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Emergency Fish Disease Outbreak Plan Checklist

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1 The emergency fish disease outbreak plan should address:

1.1 Adequate knowledge and skills of key personnel

Disease control to minimise spread and reduce mortalities

Carry out water quality tests, gross & wet mount examinations of diseased fish

Sampling for laboratory examinations to aid investigations

1.2 Control of disease spread can be achieved by minimising contamination from:

1.2.1 Diseased and dead fish

Farm manager initiates quarantine & movement controls

Established SOP for disposal of estimated maximum quantities of dead and diseased fish from farm site

1.2.2 Personnel and equipment via farm policies

Personnel and equipment will not be shared between sites.

Restriction of movement to cover casual staff, divers, suppliers and visitors.

Equipment includes that used for fish handling, feeding, monitoring and vessels.

If movement unavoidable, strict biosecurity and disinfection measures must be adhered to between sites.

1.2.3 Disinfection procedures

SOP for disinfection practices for personnel and equipment

list of appropriate chemicals and duration of exposure

appropriate disposal of waste water, used chemicals and spent drugs

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1.3 Establishment of a cause for disease outbreak

assessment of recent farm records, history and environmental events

submission of fish and water samples for diagnosis

1.4 Mitigation measures to reduce mortality of affected fish

Water Quality Contingency Plan

Stop fish movement and/or handling

Treatment and/or management measures as indicated by diagnosis

Reduction to withholding feed

1.5 Reporting to authorities

In Western Australia, significant disease incidences should be reported to the Department of Fisheries within 24 hours. The notifiable disease list is available from http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/PC_92820.html. Disease reporting mechanisms in Australia together with a list of reportable aquatic animal disease in Australia is available from <http://www.daff.gov.au/animal-plant-health/aquatic/reporting>.

The competent authority to which notifiable diseases must be reported to in Western Australia is the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO), Department of Agriculture and Food of Western Australia (DAFWA). The Department of Fisheries Western Australia will report any notifiable diseases to CVO, DAFWA who then reports to the CVO, Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), Canberra.

The following websites will be useful in cases of aquatic animal disease outbreaks:

Laboratory submission of fish or other samples, please refer

<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/Sustainability-and-Environment/Fisheries-Science/Aquatic-Animal-Health/Pages/Disease-Diagnostic-Service.aspx> (accessed 10 Nov 2012)

For contacts at Fish health Unit, Fisheries Western Australia, please log onto

<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/Sustainability-and-Environment/Fisheries-Science/Aquatic-Animal-Health/Pages/default.aspx> (accessed 10 Nov 2012)

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In cases where toxic algae is suspected, this website may be useful:

<http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/Sustainability-and-Environment/Fisheries-Science/Aquatic-Animal-Health/Pages/Poisonous-Algae.aspx> (accessed 10 Nov 2012)