

APEC Guidebook on Early Detection of Diseases Affecting Tilapia and Rainbow Trout

APEC Oceans and Fisheries Working Group

September 2026



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**



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APEC Project: OFWG 204 2024A

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List of Acronyms

APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
AMR	Antimicrobial Resistance
BKD	Bacterial Kidney Disease
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IPN	Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis
ISKNV	Infectious Spleen and Kidney Necrosis
IHN	Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis
NACA	Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific
OFWG	Oceans and Fisheries Working Group
SOFIA	State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture
SANIPES	National Authority for Health and Safety in Fisheries and Aquaculture in Peru
SERNAPESCA	National Fisheries and Aquaculture Service in Chile
TiLV	Tilapia Lake Virus
VHS	Viral haemorrhagic septicemia
WAHIS	World Animal Health Information System
WOAH	World Organization for Animal Health

1. Executive Summary

Developed under APEC project OFWG_204_2024A, this Guidebook provides practical guidance to support the early detection, notification and response to priority diseases affecting tilapia and rainbow trout. It is based on a systematic review of scientific literature, as well as international and regional disease reporting systems and domestic notification frameworks across APEC economies. A structured, evidence-based approach was used to analyse diseases by species and subregion, identifying those of the highest impact and relevance for early detection.

For tilapia, the guidebook prioritises streptococcosis, tilapia lake virus (TiLV), edwardsiella infections and infectious spleen and kidney necrosis virus (ISKNV). For rainbow trout, the priority diseases are infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN), infectious pancreatic necrosis (IPN), flavobacteriosis and bacterial kidney disease (BKD). These diseases pose the greatest health risks to APEC economies due to their mortality impact, frequency and, in some cases, relevance to the One Health approach and transboundary nature.

The guidebook focuses on the early detection of disease through Level 1 diagnosis. Level 1 diagnosis relies on observations of abnormal behaviour, water parameters changes, mortality, and clinical signs at farm level. This is complemented by a basic environmental assessment and veterinary anamnesis. The guidebook is a practical application for early disease detection called 'Watch, Write and Warn', which aims to support small-scale farmers in the field, particularly regarding bacterial diseases. The app provides recommendations to reduce the incidence and impact of diseases.

The Guidebook reviews disease notification procedures across APEC economies, highlighting common structures, as well as areas of transparency, digitalization and producer engagement that could be improved. Although systems vary, the analysis identifies clear opportunities to strengthen early warning systems by providing practical tools, improving communication and achieving progressive harmonisation in line with international standards.

Overall, this guidebook provides APEC economies with a practical reference to help them strengthen their early detection systems for tilapia and rainbow trout,

enhance their biosecurity measures and support the development of sustainable aquaculture, resilient food systems and safe trade within the region.

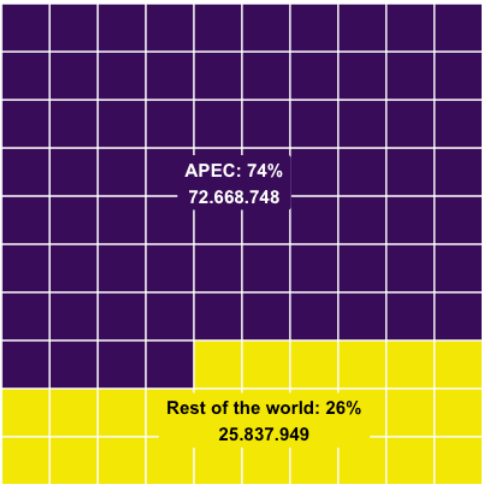
2. Introduction and Background

Aquaculture has become an essential component of global food security, trade, and employment in recent decades. According to SOFIA 2024, global fisheries and aquaculture production reached 185.4 million tonnes live weight equivalent in 2022, of which aquaculture contributed 94.4 million tonnes: for the first time, aquaculture production surpassed capture fisheries in total supply. In the same year, apparent per capita consumption of aquatic products of animal origin was estimated at 20.7 kg, maintaining a long-term upward trend. On the trade front, exports of aquatic products of animal origin reached 70 million tonnes (live weight equivalent) for a value of nearly USD 192 billion, an all-time high (FAO, 2024).

Based on official data compiled by FAO, 2023 and processed for this project, the 21 APEC economies account for approximately 74% of global aquaculture production of aquatic animals in recent years (Figure N°1).

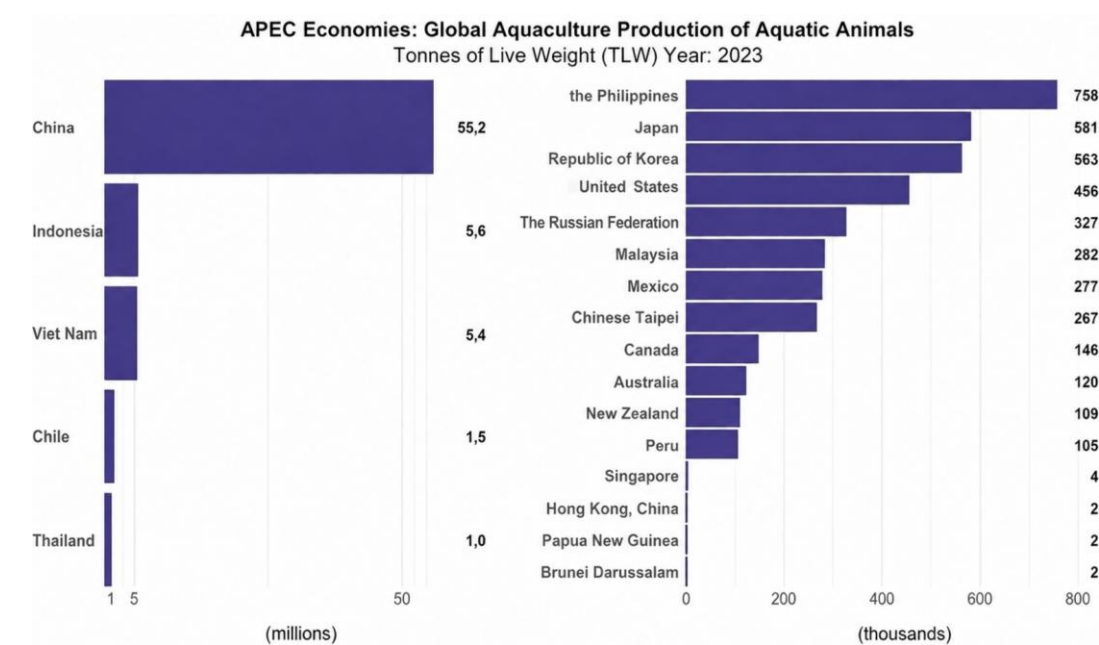
Figure N°1
APEC aquaculture production versus rest of the world

Global Aquaculture Production - APEC Economies vs. Rest of the World, 2023
Tonnes of Live Weight (TLW) - Aquatic animals

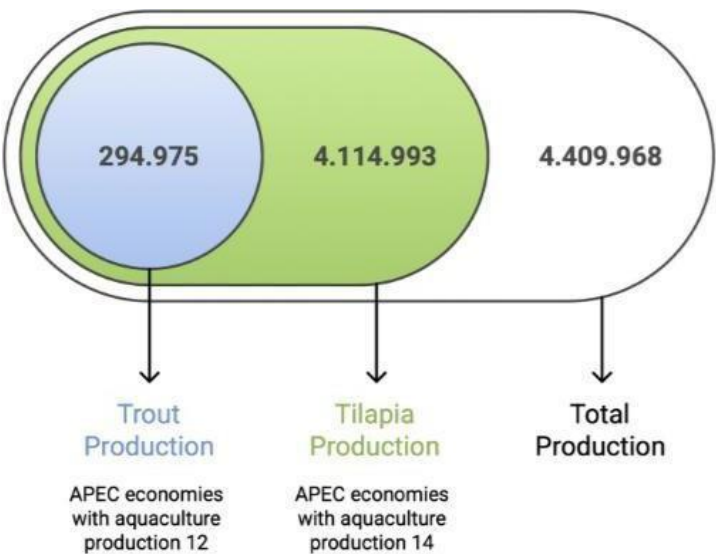


The following shows the aquatic animal production by economy:

Figure N° 2
APEC Economies: Global aquaculture production of aquatic animals

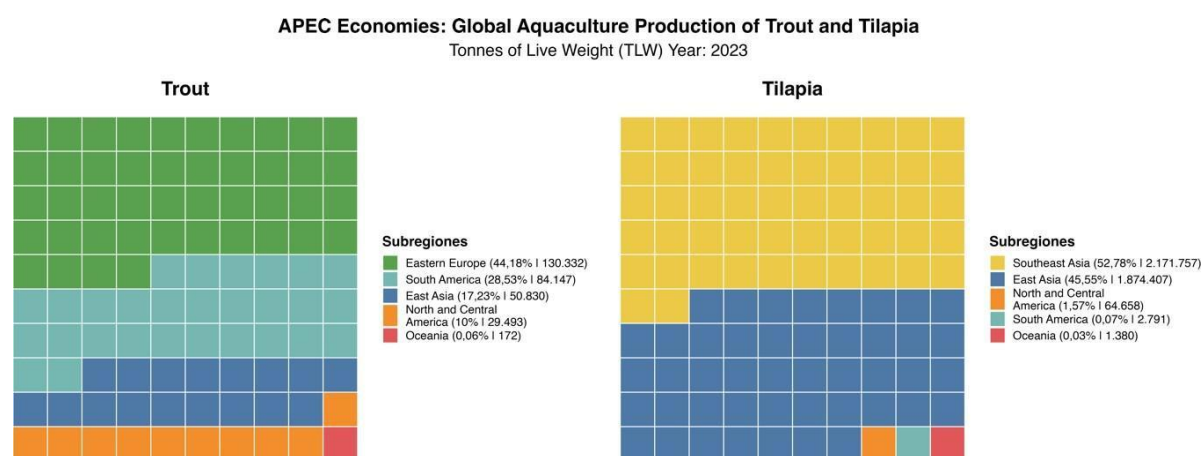


Regarding the distribution of tilapia and trout, the situation is as follows:



The distribution in APEC economies is shown in Figure N°3 below:

Figure N° 3
APEC Economies: Global production of trout and tilapia in aquaculture



Tilapia and rainbow trout are among the most economically and nutritionally significant aquaculture species in APEC economies. Together, they represent a substantial proportion of inland and cold-water aquaculture production. Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) dominates freshwater systems in Asia and Southeast Asia, while rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) play a strategic role in temperate and high-altitude production systems across the Americas, East Asia, and Oceania. These species support food security, rural livelihoods, domestic markets and international trade, particularly for small- and medium-scale producers.

However, the rapid expansion and intensification of tilapia and trout farming have increased the risk of infectious diseases emerging and spreading, including transboundary viral and bacterial pathogens. These diseases have the capacity to cause high mortality rates, chronic production losses, trade disruptions, and increased antimicrobial use. These impacts disproportionately affect small-scale producers, who often have limited access to diagnostics and veterinary services.

Early disease detection is therefore critical to the sustainable development of aquaculture. Recognizing abnormal mortality patterns and clinical signs in a timely manner enables rapid reporting, confirmatory diagnosis and the implementation of control measures, thereby reducing the scale and duration of outbreaks. Early detection also strengthens domestic and regional surveillance systems, supports

compliance with WOAHA reporting obligations and improves confidence in the health status of aquatic animals for domestic and international markets.

In the context of APEC, enhancing the capacity for early detection of tilapia and rainbow trout directly contributes to the resilience of food systems, biosecurity and responsible trade, while aligning with the FAO Blue Transformation Roadmap and the WOAHA Aquatic Animal Health Strategy.

3. Methodology

A systematic literature review (2000–2025) was conducted to inform the creation of a practical guidebook on the early detection of significant diseases affecting tilapia and rainbow trout in APEC economies.

The period 2015–2025 was emphasized, reflecting the increased emergence and spread of aquatic animal diseases over the last decade. Sources in both English and Spanish were reviewed to ensure broad geographic and institutional coverage.

For the purposes of the analysis, the economies were grouped according to the following table:

TABLE 1: APEC ECONOMIES BY GEOGRAPHICAL SUBREGION

SUBREGION	ECONOMIES
North and Central America	Canada; Mexico; United States.
South America	Chile; Peru.
Southeast Asia	Brunei Darussalam; Indonesia; Malaysia; The Republic of the Philippines; Singapore; Thailand; Viet Nam.
East Asia	People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Republic of Korea; Chinese Taipei.
Eastern Europe	The Russian Federation
Oceania	Australia; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea.

Information was collected from official international and regional reporting systems, including WAHIS, NACA Quarterly Aquatic Animal Disease (QAAD) reports, the FAO databases, the websites of domestic competent authorities, legal instruments, technical guidelines and peer-reviewed scientific literature.

The methodological approach comprised four components:

- (I) Identification of the main diseases affecting tilapia and rainbow trout in APEC subregions.
- (II) Compilation of technical information for standardized disease data sheets.
- (III) Collection of representative images of behaviour, significant lesions to facilitate visual identification and training.
- (IV) Documentation of economy-wide disease notification procedures and early warning systems.

Based on literature review and criteria, diseases affecting tilapia and rainbow trout in APEC economies were selected to support early detection guidance.

4. Main Diseases Affecting Tilapia and Rainbow Trout in APEC Economies

4.1 Tilapia

The main infectious diseases (both viral and bacterial) affecting tilapia in APEC economies are shown below, because of the analysis.

TABLE 2: APEC TILAPIA VIRAL DISEASES

DISEASE	CAUSATIVE AGENT	KEY REMARKS	REFERENCES
Tilapia Lake Virus disease (TiLV)	Tilapia lake virus (TiLV)	Emerging disease; high mortalities; trade relevance; WOA- listed	WOAH, 2023; SANIPES, 2023a;Taukhid et al., 2024; Abdullah et al., 2018; Dong et al.,2017; Tran et al., 2022.
Infectious splenic and renal necrosis virus (ISKNV), now listed as infection by <i>Megalocytivirus pagrus 1</i>	<i>Megalocytivirus pagrus 1</i> (ISKNV)	Emerging disease; mass mortalities; trade relevance; WOA- listed	WOAH, 2023; Al-Hussinee et al., 2019; Saksmerprome et al., 2025; Suebsing et al., 2016.
Tilapia parvovirus (TiPV)	Tilapia parvovirus	Emerging disease reported mainly in Asia	Yamkasem et al., 2021; Das & Dong, 2024; Hatkaewchai et al., 2025.

TABLE 3: APEC TILAPIA BACTERIAL DISEASES

DISEASE	CAUSATIVE AGENT	KEY REMARKS	REFERENCES
Streptococcosis	<i>Streptococcus agalactiae</i> ; <i>Streptococcus iniae</i>	Major cause of economic losses; outbreaks linked to high temperatures; zoonotic potential	Hernández-Hernández et al., 2023; Haenen et al., 2023; SANIPES, 2023b; Taukhid et al., 2023; Anshary et al., 2014; Syuhada et al., 2020; Barkhamet al., 2019; Koh et al., 2004; Chitmanatet al., 2016; Tahliluddin et al., 2021; Zhang et al 2022; Zhang et al., 2024; Sapugahawatte et al., 2022; Li et al., 2025; Sudpraseart, et al., 2021.
Edwardsiellosis	<i>Edwardsiella tarda</i> ; <i>Edwardsiella ictaluri</i>	Systemic septicemia; frequent co-infections	Soto et al., 2012; Mohanty & Sahoo, 2020; Sierralta et al., 2020; Chitmanatet al., 2016; Ninh et al.,2022; Trung et al., 2024; Oh et al., 2020; Ninh et al.,2022;
Aeromoniasis	<i>Aeromonas hydrophila</i> ; <i>Aeromonas veronii</i>	Opportunistic disease associated with stress and poor water quality	Haenen et al., 2023; Castañeda et al., 2025; Quek et al., 2020; Ridzuan et al., 2022; Chitmanatet al., 2016; Tahliluddin et al.,2021; Ninh et al.,2022; Lam, 2023; Ivanov & Sidorova, 2022
Francisellosis	<i>Francisella noatunensis</i> subsp. <i>orientalis</i>	Chronic disease in intensive farming systems	Ortega et al., 2016; Ming Xu et al., 2024; Tsai et al., 2017.
Flavobacteriosis	<i>Flavobacterium columnare</i> ; <i>Flavobacterium oreochromis</i> ; <i>Flavobacteriumdavisii</i>	Skin and gill lesions; common in warm-water systems	LaFrentz et al., 2022; Chitmanatet al., 2016; Ridzuan et al., 2022; Ahmed et al., 2025)
Pseudomonas infections	<i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i> <i>Pseudomonas putida</i> <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	Opportunistic bacterial septicemia under stressful farming conditions Coinfections (e.g. Streptococcosis, Aeromoniasis)	Chitmanatet al., 2016 ; Tahliluddin et al., 2021.

4.2 Rainbow Trout

The main infectious diseases (both viral and bacterial) affecting rainbow trout in APEC economies are shown below, as a result of the analysis.

TABLE 4: RAINBOW TROUT VIRAL DISEASES

DISEASE	CAUSATIVE AGENT	KEY REMARKS	REFERENCES
Infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN)	Infectious haematopoietic necrosis virus (IHNV)	WOAH-listed disease; high mortality in juveniles	Kim et al., 2023; Li et al., 2024.
Infectious pancreatic necrosis (IPN)	Infectious pancreatic necrosis virus (IPNV)	Acute disease and chronic carriers; wide distribution	Dopazo, 2020; Salgado-Miranda et al., 2020; Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 2017; SANIPES, 2024; Duan et al., 2021;
Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS)	Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia virus (VHSV)	WOAH-listed disease; regional genotypes	Thompson et al., 2011; Garver and Hawley, 2021

TABLE 5: RAINBOW TROUT BACTERIAL DISEASES

DISEASE	CAUSATIVE AGENT	KEY REMARKS	REFERENCES
Bacterial kidney disease (BKD)	<i>Renibacterium salmoninarum</i>	Chronic disease; vertical transmission	Boerlage et al., 2017; Honeyfield et al., 2015; SERNAPESCA, 2024; Kong K et al., 2024; Alontseva et al., 2021
Flavobacteriosis / Cold-water disease	<i>Flavobacterium psychrophilum</i>	High mortality in fry; cold-water systems	Cipriano & Holt, 2005; Deng et al., 2024; Alcántara-Jauregui et al., 2022; Seafood Watch, 2023; León et al. 2009; Távara et al., 2019; Apayco et al., 2020; Deng et al., 2024; Park et al, 2021; Nikiforov-Nikishin et al., 2017

Enteric redmouth disease (Yersiniosis)	<i>Yersinia ruckeri</i>	Systemic disease; globally distributed	Silva & Austin, 2017; Carson et al., 2019; Wade, J., 2019; Alcántara-Jauregui et al., 2022; Silva & Austin, 2017; Rosadio et al., 2018; Mesías et al., 2019; Droshnev et al., 2019; Carson et al., 2019
Typical and atypical furunculosis.	<i>Aeromonas salmonicida</i> subsp. <i>salmonicida</i> (typical) other subspecies or strains of <i>A. salmonicida</i> (atypical)	Acute outbreaks; muscle abscesses (typical) Atypical: Subacute or chronic conditions; less defined skin lesions. There are not always classic abscesses.	Boily et al., 2019; Toro Montenegro, 2020; Liu et al., 2025; Ivanov & Sidorova, 2022; SERNAPESCA, 2024
Emerging bacterial infections	<i>Weissella</i> spp., <i>Pseudomonas</i> spp., <i>Edwardsiella</i> spp., <i>Acinetobacter johnsonii</i> <i>Weissella ceti</i> <i>Edwardsiella</i> <i>Lactococcus garviae</i> <i>Vagococcus salmoninarum</i>	Emerging/regional relevance	Droshnev et al., 2019; Oh et al., 2019; Wang et al., 2019; Yaun et al., 2023; Medina et al., 2020; Reichley et al., 2017; Alcántara-Jauregui et al., 2022; Yardimci et al., 2016.

4.3 Selection of Priority Diseases for Early Detection

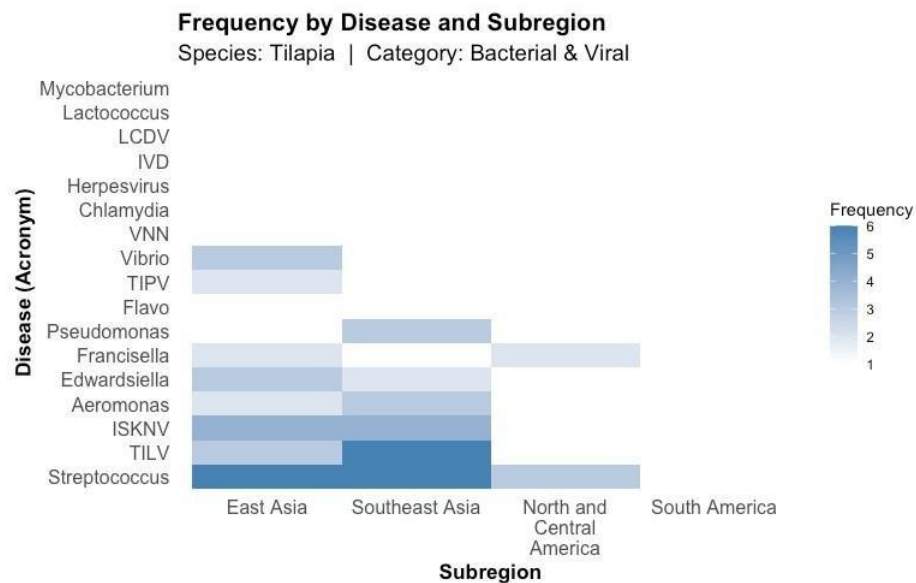
4.3.1 Disease Selection Criteria

The criteria used to select the diseases in the guidebook considered mortality rates; frequent farm-level losses; trade impacts and potential implications for zoonoses and AMR.

4.3.2 Tilapia

The diseases frequency by disease affecting tilapia in APEC economies are shown in the following heat map:

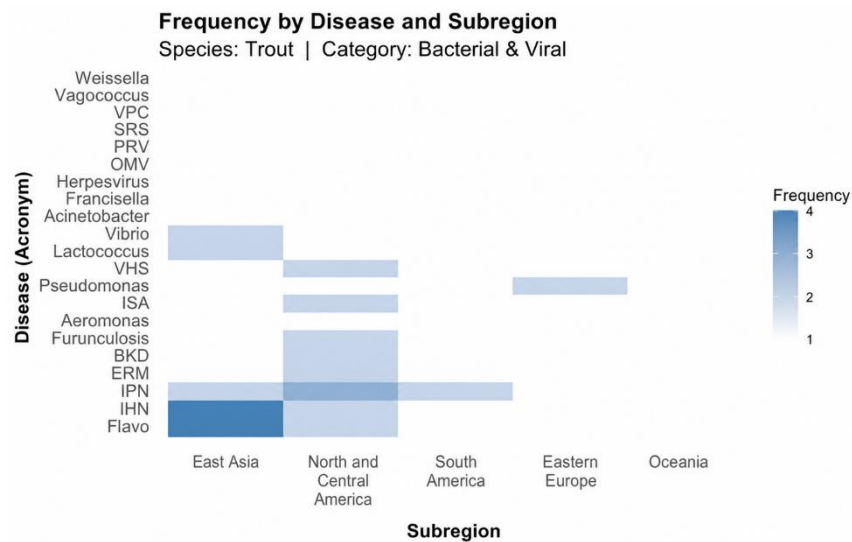
Figure N°4
Tilapia: APEC frequency by disease and subregion
 Own elaboration



4.3.3 Rainbow Trout

The frequency of disease affecting rainbow trout in APEC economies is shown in the following heat map:

Figure N° 5
Rainbow Trout APEC frequency by disease and subregion
 Own elaboration



The prioritized diseases for the APEC guidebook on early detection, as described in 4.3.1, are as follows:

TABLE 6: PRIORITY DISEASES SELECTED FOR INCLUSION IN THE APEC EARLY DETECTION GUIDEBOOK

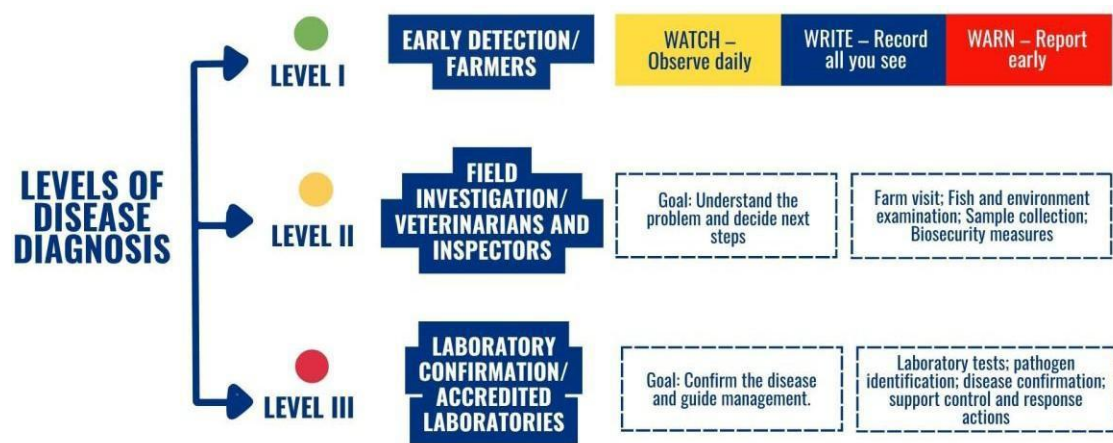
TILAPIA	RAINBOW TROUT
Viral diseases 1. Tilapia lake virus (TiLV). 2. Infectious spleen and kidney necrosis virus (ISKNV).	Viral diseases 1. Infectious hematopoietic necrosis (IHN) 2. Infectious pancreatic necrosis (IPN)
Bacterial diseases 1. Streptococcosis (principally <i>Streptococcus agalactiae</i> and <i>S. iniae</i>), 2. <i>Edwardsiella</i> spp. (<i>E. tarda</i> / <i>E. ictaluri</i>).	Bacterial diseases 1. Flavobacteriosis 2. Renibacteriosis (BKD)

5. Early Disease Detection in Aquaculture: A Guidebook for Fish Farmers

Early disease detection is one of the most effective tools to protect fish health, farm productivity, and livelihoods. In aquaculture, diseases rarely appear suddenly, they usually start with small changes in fish behaviour, appearance, or water quality.

To help farmers, technicians, and authorities respond in a timely and organized way, aquatic animal health diagnosis is commonly described using three progressive levels: Level I, Level II, and Level III. These levels move from simple observation on the farm to advanced laboratory confirmation, depending on the severity and complexity of the problem.

Figure N° 6
Levels of disease diagnosis



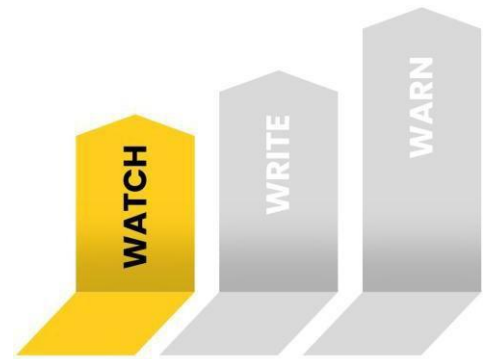
5.1 Early Disease Detection at Farm Level

Watch, Write & Warn (W, W & W) is a simple and practical approach designed to help fish farmers recognize health problems early and take timely action to reduce losses and prevent disease spread.





WHAT DO YOU WATCH FOR?



MORTALITY PATTERNS

- Sudden mortality
- Increasing daily mortalities
- Most of the fish deaths are concentrated in one pond or cage

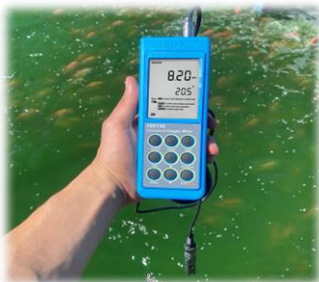


EXTERNAL APPEARANCE: "WHAT DO YOU SEE ON THE FISH BODY"

- Colour changes.
- Skin ulcers or wounds.
- Frayed or damaged fins.
- Red spots or bleeding.
- Bulging or clouding eyes.
- Excess mucus on skin.
- Internal lesions if possible.



WATER QUALITY



- Low oxygen.
- Sudden temperature changes.
- Dirty, green or foamy water.
- Recent rainwater exchange or management.

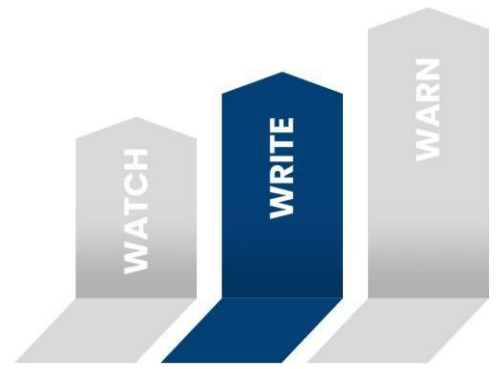
BEHAVIOUR: "HOW FISH ACT"

- Stops eating or eats less than normal.
- Look tired, move slowly, and do not react normally (lethargy).
- Slow swimming, weak or isolated fish.
- Abnormal swimming (spinning, rolling, swimming sideways).
- Fish gasping at the surface.
- Fish staying at the bottom or near water inlets.





WHAT TO RECORD EVERY DAY?



IMAGES OR VIDEOS OF STEP 1 "WATCH"



- Behaviour
- External lesions
- Internal lesions
- Water colour and appearance

WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

- Water temperature
- Oxygen (if you can measure it)
- Weather
- Water: clear or dirty
- Algae blooms
- pH (if available).



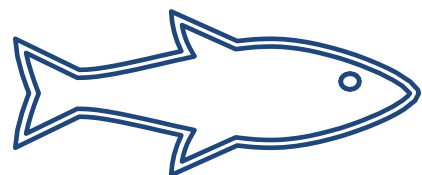
PRODUCTION PARAMETERS



- Colour changes.
- Date of event; life stage and identification pond or cage
- Feeding: normal or less
- Growth: Bigger or no
- Deaths: ¿How many?
- Any work done

FISH MOVEMENTS

- Where the fish came from?
- How many fish?
- Date and time





REPORT EARLY



What is reported?

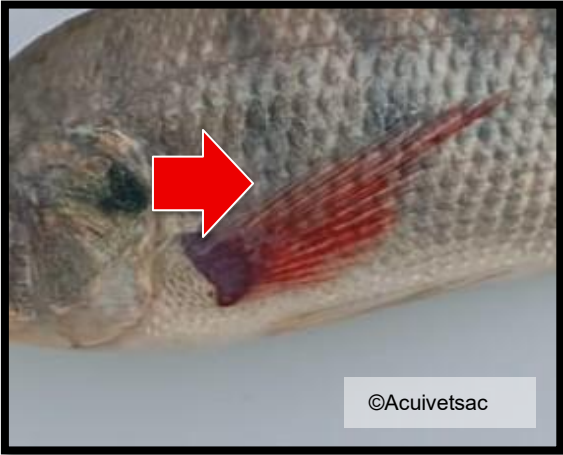
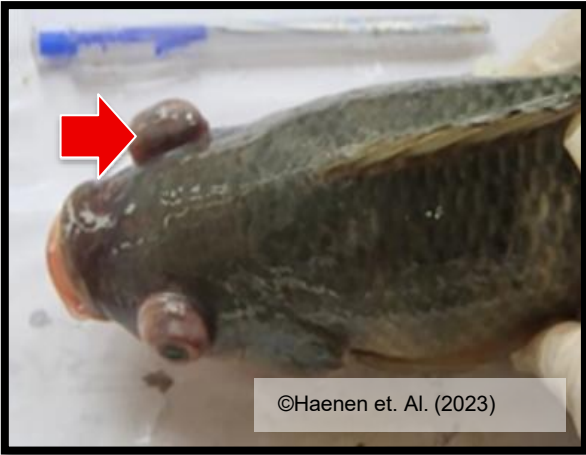
- Information about the suspicion
- Key information about step 1 and 2
- Photographs or videos, if possible



5.2 Practical Application Watch, Write and Warn in Priority Diseases for an Early Warning System.

5.2.1 Tilapia

STEP		TILAPIA LAKE VIRUS INFECTION (TiLV)	INFECTIOUS SPLEEN AND KIDNEY NECROSIS (ISKNV)	ESTREPTOCOCCOSIS	EDWARSIELLOSIS
WATCH	BEHAVIOUR	Lethargy or reduced swimming activity - Reducing feeding or loss of appetite - Isolation from the group - General weakness - Reduced response to external stimuli (e.g., feed or disturbance)			
		Respiratory distress (breathing at surface).	- Abnormal swimming. - Obvious opercular movement (indicating respiratory distress/increased respiratory effort. - Presence of cannibalism (infection is more likely).	- Spiral swimming, loss of balance and disorientation - Surface gasping. - Rapid or labored breathing	- Erratic swimming. - Fish remaining near surface or bottom.

	MORTALITY PATTERNS	• Sudden unexpected increase in mortalities (greater than 2% per day) over several days during the summer months. • Cumulative mortality up to 90% or more within 1 month of stocking fingerlings into freshwater or brackish water ponds. • High mortalities in 1 to 50 g., lower mortalities (approximately 10%) in medium or large fish.	• Low to high mortality (up to 100%) and can depend on water temperature, with higher mortalities occurring at higher water temperatures. • Mortalities 2 to 4 weeks after exposure in areas where the disease is confirmed. • Juveniles are more susceptible to disease than adults.	• Unusual or rising mortalities. • Deaths scattered through cages/ponds (not just one area)	• It can affect fish at all life stages, with a higher susceptibility in juveniles.
	EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL SIGNS	 ©Acuivetsac Hemorrhage in the pectoral fin  ©Haenen et. Al. (2023) Exophthalmia with bilateral ocular hemorrhage			



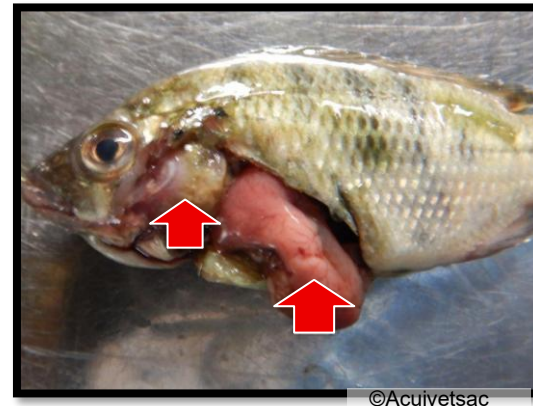
Focal cephalic skin erosion



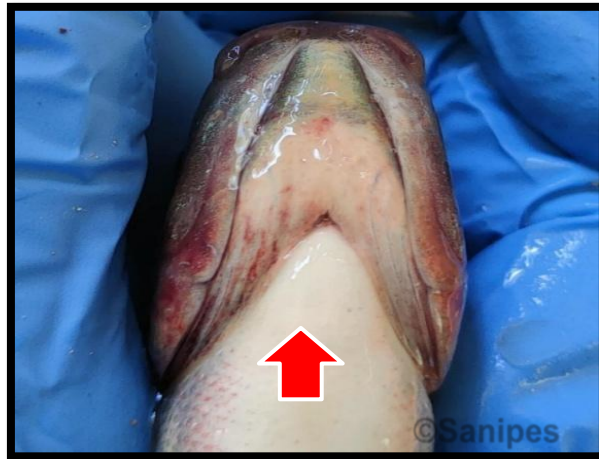
Caudal fin erosion



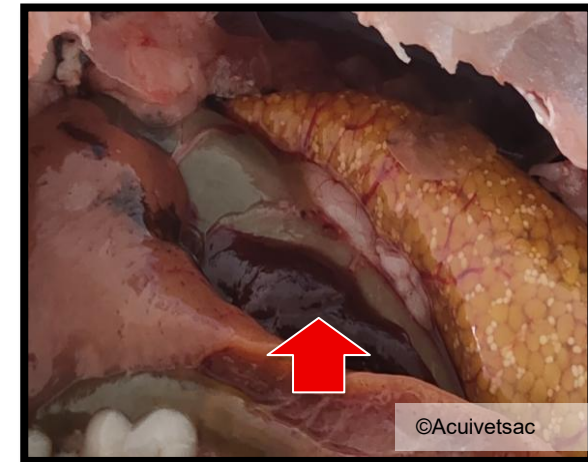
Hemorrhage in the pectoral



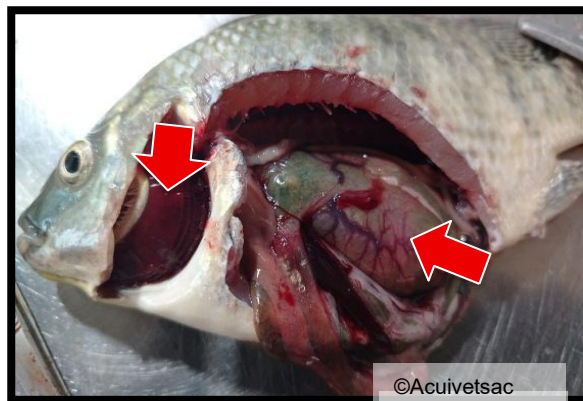
Hepatomegaly with branchial hemorrhage and scale loss



Bilateral submandibular and sublingual hemorrhage



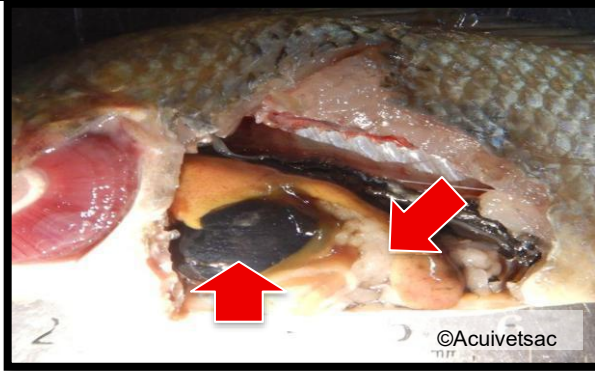
Splenomegaly



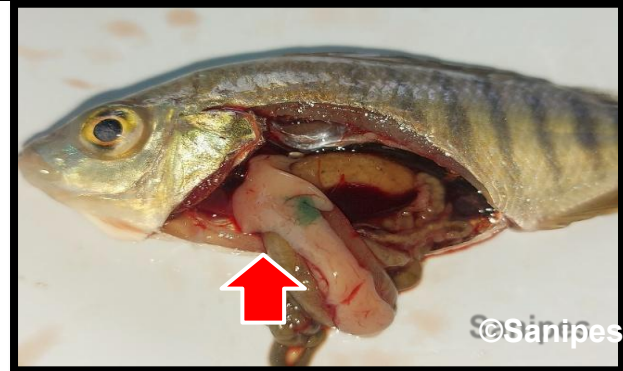
Gastric congestion with perioral haemorrhage



Perioral pustule



Yellow liver with biliary dilation



Haemorrhagic ascites / intra-abdominal haemorrhage associated with systemic septicaemia



Congestive and haemorrhagic branchitis with focal lamellar



Meningoencephalitis with cerebral congestion and haemorrhage

	WATER QUALITY PARAMETER S (thresholds)	• Temperature < 28°C • pH <7.0 o >9.0 • Ammonia > 0.1 mg/L • Nitrite > 0.05 mg/L • Sudden temperature changes • Dissolved Oxygen (DO) ≤ 2 mg/L	• Temperature 25 – 32°C • Dissolved Oxygen (DO) ≤ 2 mg/L • Unionized ammonia (NH₃) 0.15 - 0.2 mg/L	• Temperature ≥ 28°C • Dissolved Oxygen (DO) ≤ 3.5 mg/L • Unionized ammonia (NH₃) 0.42 ≥ mg/L • Sudden temperature changes	• Temperature higher 25°C. • Dissolved Oxygen (DO) ≤ 2.6 mg/L. • Unionized ammonia, NH₃ ≥ 0.29 mg/L • Nitrite ≥ 2.01 mg/L • Salinity 10-20 ppt • High organic matter, uneaten feed, sludge accumulation
WRITE		• Production parameters • Mortality rates. • Life stage affected. • Management practices. • Water parameters (temperature, ammonia and others). • Fish movements.			
WARN		• Disease suspicions must be reported to Aquatic animal health authorities, Veterinarian, extension officer or laboratory according to domestic regulation. • TiLV and ISKNV are WOAHA listed diseases.			

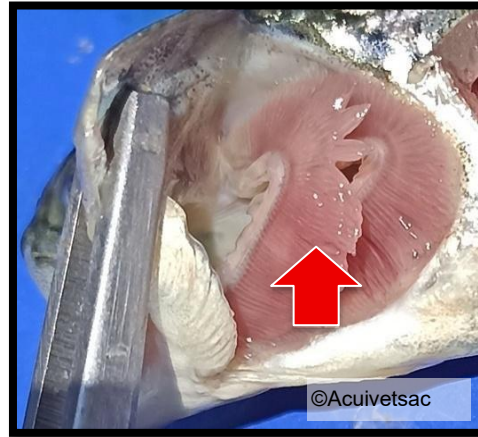
Tilapia disease Factsheets are available in **Annex 3**.

5.2.2 Rainbow Trout

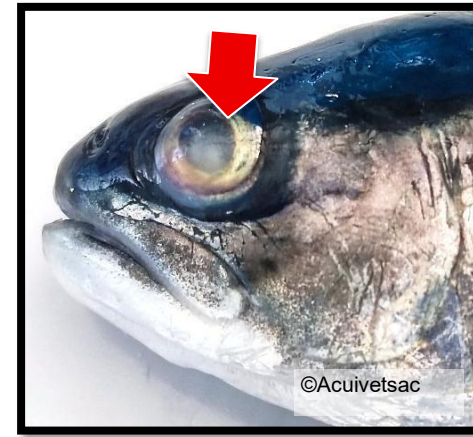
STEP		INFECTIOUS HEMATOPOIETIC NECROSIS (IHN)	INFECTIOUS PANCREATIC NECROSIS (IPN)	FLAVOBACTERIOSIS	RENIBACTERIOSIS (BKD)
WATCH	BEHAVIOUR	• Lethargy or reduced swimming activity • Reducing feeding or loss of appetite • Isolation from the group • General weakness			
		• Lethargic swimming with intermittent bouts of frenzied, abnormal activity. • Fish can display spiral swimming, flashing, and have trailing faecal casts.	• Erratic spiral swimming • Pseudo feces	• Fish congregating near inflows (seeking oxygen) • Increased surface activity when gills are affected.	• Loss of balance and irregular swimming
	MORTALITY PATTERNS	• Mass mortality of up to 90 % can occur in hatcheries, typically with 100% of the population infected	• Fry and juveniles in freshwater and in smolts recently transferred to seawater, although outbreaks have also been	• It primarily affects fry and juveniles, especially in cold water, and can cause significant	• Chronic pattern: prolonged low mortality

		• Increased mortality in fry or fingerlings and in adults during or just following spawning. • Mortality can occur between 8 and 10°C, but increases significantly above 12°C.	reported in post-smolts and adult fish. • The disease can cause significant death rates in fry and fingerlings from 1 to 4 months of age. Mortality rates are high, reaching 100% in the fry stage.	mortality if not detected early. • Flavobacteriosis caused by <i>F. psychrophilum</i> mortality ranges are between 50-60% in all production stages at temperatures of 8 to 14°C	• Broodstock history (vertical transmission risk) • Mortality ranging from 40 to 80 % in all phases of cultivation • Stressors: handling, high density, poor water quality
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EXTERNAL AND
INTERNAL SIGNS



Branchial pallor



Corneal opacity



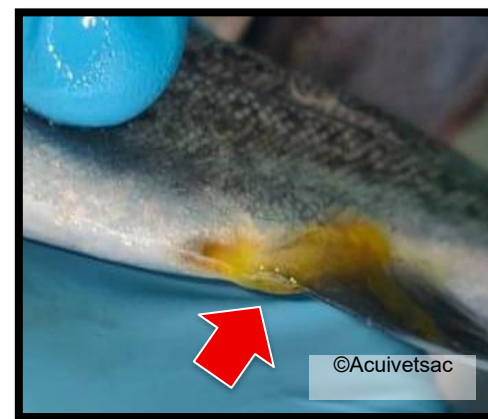
Ocular hemorrhage



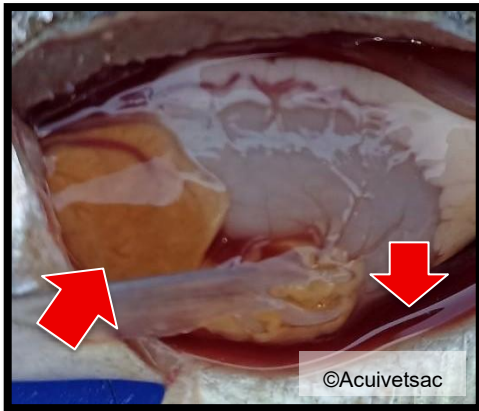
Exophthalmia



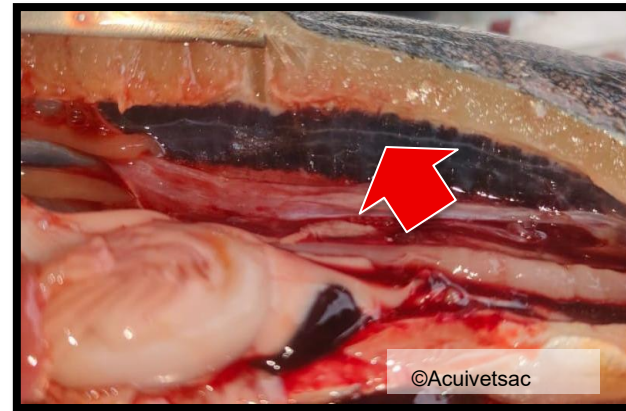
Anal hemorrhage



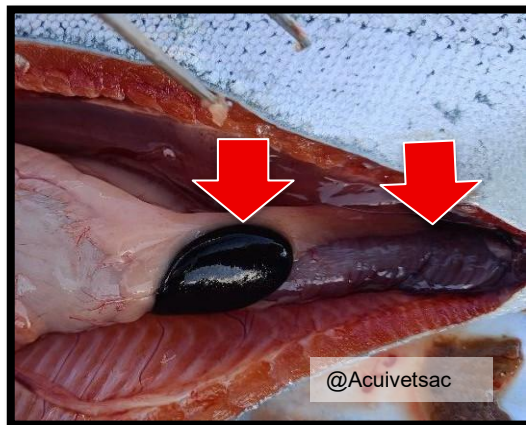
Yellow fecal discharge



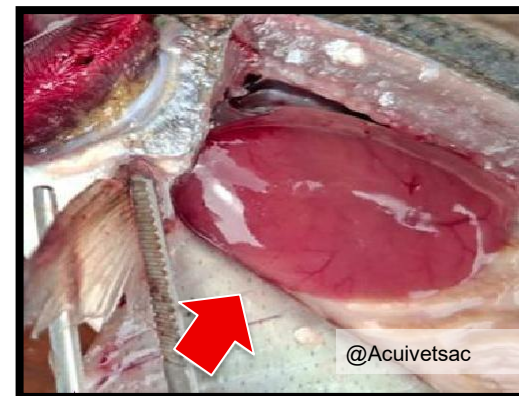
Hepatic icterus with ascites



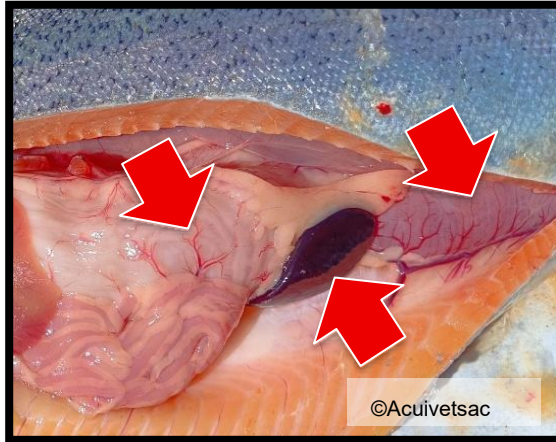
Renal enlargement with irregular margins and congestive



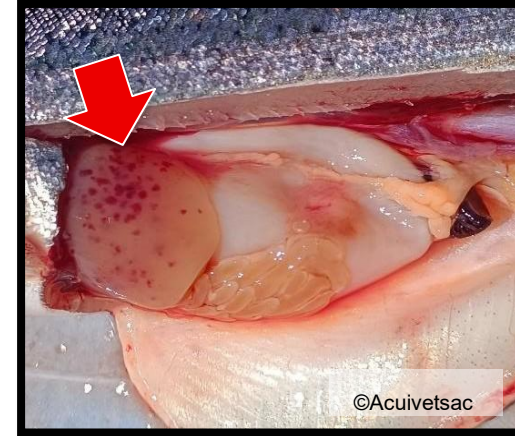
Splenomegaly with intestinal congestion



Hepatic congestion



**Gastric and intestinal congestion
with splenomegaly**



Petechial hepatic



Abdominal swelling with fluid accumulation (ascites)



Visible tear in the gill tissue with localized bleeding



Red bruise under the mouth



Unusual dark color in juveniles



Fish with swollen belly

	WATER QUALITY PARAMETER S (thresholds)	• Dissolved Oxygen, DO ≤ 6 mg/L • Temperature 8-12 °C	• Dissolved Oxygen (DO) ≤6 mg/L • Temperature 8 -15 °C.	<i>F. psychrophilum</i> • Temperature 8–16 °C • pH 6.5 <i>F. columnare</i> • Dissolved Oxygen (DO) ≤ 5 mg/L • Temperature 15–20°C • Nitrites ≥ 0.1 mg/L • Salinity 0.0-0.5%	• Dissolved Oxygen (DO) ≤6 mg/L • Temperature 8-12°C • Dureza <100 mg/L
WRITE		• Production parameters • Mortality rates. • Life stage affected. • Management practices. • Water parameters (temperature, ammonia and others). • Fish movements.			
WARN		• Disease suspicions must be reported to Aquatic animal health authorities, Veterinarian, extension officer or laboratory according to domestic regulation. • IHN is a WOAHA listed disease			

Rainbow trout disease Factsheets are available in **Annex 4**.

6. Conclusions

1. A limited number of diseases pose the greatest sanitary risk to tilapia and rainbow trout aquaculture systems in APEC economies.
2. For Tilapia, the dominant threats are Tilapia Lake virus (TiLV), infectious spleen and kidney necrosis virus (ISKNV), streptococcosis and Edwardsiella infections due to high mortality rates, frequent outbreaks and transboundary relevance.
3. The most significant diseases for rainbow trout are infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN), infectious pancreatic necrosis (IPN), flavobacteriosis, and bacterial kidney disease (BKD), particularly affecting juvenile stages.
4. There is significant variability among APEC economies in terms of digitalization, diagnostic capacity, and feedback mechanisms within disease notification systems.
5. Standardized disease fact sheets and visual guidance tools effectively support early warning and improve the timeliness of disease reporting.

7. Recommendations for Future APEC Projects

Based on the identified findings, the following strategic recommendations are proposed to guide future APEC initiatives:

1. Develop minimum APEC guidance on the notification of aquatic animal diseases. Establish non-binding regional guidance that defines the minimum elements required for disease notification systems, including timelines, roles and reporting channels.
2. Support the alignment of production profiles with disease surveillance priorities.
3. Encourage economies to periodically review and update their lists of notifiable diseases based on key farmed species, such as trout and tilapia.
4. Improve the transparency and accessibility of disease notification information.

5. Encourage the development of centralized, publicly accessible online platforms that describe disease notification procedures in clear, practical terms.
6. Strengthen farmer engagement in early disease detection.
7. Support training, awareness campaigns and digital tools that enable producers to recognize, and report suspected diseases at an early stage.
8. Consider developing training material in the native language of aquaculture communities.
9. Use digital solutions to enable early detection and reporting. Pilot projects on electronic notification systems, mobile applications and interoperable databases suitable for different levels of capacity should be encouraged. It is recommended to implement a pilot in a given area and time required to validate the designed systems.

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Annex 1. Overview of Disease Notification Systems Across APEC Economies

APEC economies have established a wide range of disease notification systems for aquatic animal health. These systems reflect differences in production methods, institutional frameworks, regulatory maturity and risk profiles. Despite this diversity, several common structural elements can be identified across economies. However, there are also important variations and capacity gaps that directly affect the early detection and timely response to aquatic animal diseases.

Across most APEC economies, disease notification systems are anchored in a competent domestic authority responsible for aquatic animal health. This authority is usually located within a ministry or agency that oversees fisheries, aquaculture, agriculture or food safety. These authorities usually base their lists of notifiable diseases on the WOA Aquatic Animal Health Code, and some economies also include additional diseases of economy or regional importance.

The next table shows the types of notifiable diseases in each APEC economy.

APEC ECONOMY	COMPETENT AUTHORITY FOR AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH	TYPE OF LIST / INSTRUMENT	LINK
Australia	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)	Domestic list of reportable aquatic animal diseases	https://www.agriculture.gov.au https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/sitecollectiondocuments/animal-plant/aquatic/field-guide/4th-edition/amphibians/aquatic-diseases.pdf

Brunei Darussalam	Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism	Domestic aquatic animal pathogen list	https://www.fisheries.gov.bn/Theme/Home.aspx
Canada	Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)	Reportable Aquatic Animal Diseases	https://inspection.canada.ca https://inspection.canada.ca/en/animal-health/aquatic-animals/diseases/reportable-diseases
Chile	Servicio Nacional de Pesca y Acuicultura (SERNAPESCA)	High-risk aquatic animal diseases (mandatory notification)	https://www.sernapesca.cl https://www.sernapesca.cl/app/uploads/2025/01/ResEx_2858-2024.pdf
China	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA)	Domestic aquatic animal disease surveillance list	https://www.moa.gov.cn https://www.moa.gov.cn/govpublic/
Hong Kong, China	Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)	Quarterly Aquatic Animal Disease Reports	https://www.afcd.gov.hk
Indonesia	Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF)	Domestic aquatic animal pathogen list (WOAH-based)	https://jdih.kkp.go.id

Japan	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF)	Target diseases of aquatic animals	https://www.maff.go.jp https://www.maff.go.jp/ags/english/animal/pdf/finfish_diseases.pdf
Korea	National Fishery Products Quality Management Service (NFQS)	Listed diseases of aquatic organisms for quarantine	https://www.nfqs.go.kr https://www.nfqs.go.kr/hp/mg/quar/actionEng_sub002.do?utm
Malaysia	Department of Fisheries Malaysia (DOF)	Domestic Fish Health Strategy (WOAH-based)	https://www.dof.gov.my https://www.researchgate.net/publication/336825797_National_Fish_Health_Strategy_Malaysia_2018_-_2022
Mexico	Servicio Nacional de Sanidad, Inocuidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria (SENASICA)	Notifiable diseases (terrestrial and aquatic)	https://www.gob.mx/senasica https://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5545304&fecha=29/11/2018#gsc.tab=0
New Zealand	Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)	Biosecurity Notifiable Organisms Order	https://www.mpi.govt.nz https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/6403-Biosecurity-Notifiable-Organisms-Order-2016
Papua New Guinea	National Fisheries Authority (NFA)	No formal aquatic disease notification list identified	-

Peru	Autoridad Nacional de Sanidad e Inocuidad en Pesca y Acuicultura (SANIPES)	List of infectious diseases of hydrobiological resources	https://www.gob.pe/sanipes https://www.gob.pe/institucion/sanipes/normas-legales/7576507-138-2025-sanipes-pe
the Philippines	Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)	Domestic aquatic animal disease list (WOAH-based)	https://www.bfar.da.gov.ph https://elibrary.judiciary.gov.ph/thebookshelf/showdocs/10/49962
The Russian Federation	Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (Rosselkhoz nadzor)	Notifiable animal diseases list (WOAH-based)	https://fsvps.gov.ru
Singapore	Animal & Veterinary Service (AVS)	Notifiable diseases based on WOA H aquatic list	https://www.nparks.gov.sg https://isomer-user-content.by.gov.sg/30/10c9acae-dacf-4955-b137-bbc625d4de67/Guidelines%20for%20reporting%20ND_2019%20Edition%20Final1updatedApr2020.pdf
Chinese Taipei	Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine (APHIA)	Aquatic animal quarantine disease list	https://www.aphia.gov.tw https://www.aphia.gov.tw/ws.php?id=9578

Thailand	Department of Fisheries (DOF Thailand)	Domestic aquatic animal disease list (WOAH-based)	https://www.fisheries.go.th https://www.angrin.tlri.gov.tw/English/2011Th/2011Th_ch3.pdf
The United States	US Department of Agriculture – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS)	Domestic List of Reportable Animal Diseases (includes aquatic)	https://www.aphis.usda.gov https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/nlrads-nahrs-disease-list.pdf
Viet Nam	Department of Animal Health (DAH), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Notifiable aquatic animal diseases list	https://www.dah.gov.vn https://www.digicomply.com/food-regulatory-bodies-standards-and-authorities/departments-of-animal-health-dah-and

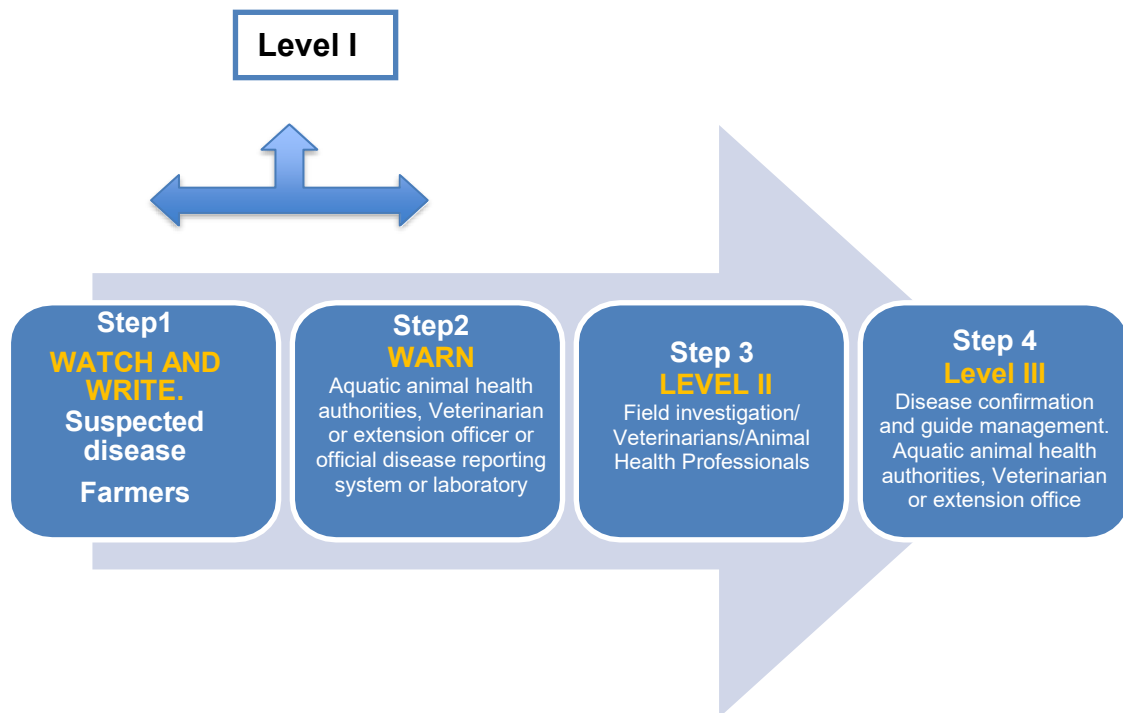
Analysis of institutional information suggests that several APEC economies do not maintain a publicly available, consolidated domestic list of notifiable aquatic animal diseases. In these cases, notification requirements are embedded within broader legislation, technical manuals or inspection-based systems. This limits transparency, producer awareness and regional comparability.

APEC economies use and promote international standards, especially the WOAH Aquatic Animal Health Code (formerly *OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code*) as the primary reference for defining and managing diseases of importance to trade and aquatic animal health

Annex 2. Disease Notification Procedures in APEC Economies.

Notification system Level I focused on farmers.

Figure N° 1
Notification System Step by Step



2.- Main actors participating in notification systems level I across APEC economies.

Aquaculture Producers/Farmers: Fish farmers, hatchery operators

ROLE:

- First to observe abnormal behaviour conduct or mortality, clinical signs or production anomalies
- Mandatory reporters in most APEC economies
- Provide samples and farm-level information
- Increasing use of digital tools, apps, SMS platforms (e.g. Indonesia; Chinese Taipei; and Viet Nam)

Competent Authority (Domestic Level): Veterinary Authority, Fisheries Authority, Aquatic Animal Health Authority

ROLE:

- Receive, validate, and officially register disease reports
- Responsible for international reporting (WOAH / regional)
- Coordinates response and control measures

Regional & Local Government Authorities: Fisheries inspectors, extension officers, regional services

ROLE:

- Forward information to economy level
- Key in community-based surveillance networks
- Observe field conditions
- Support awareness and compliance

Research Institutions & Academia

ROLE:

- Detect emerging diseases through research and surveillance projects
- Share findings with authorities
- Support risk analysis and preparedness

Regional & International Organizations (Complementary): WOAH, FAO, NACA, APEC. Enable regional early warning and cooperation

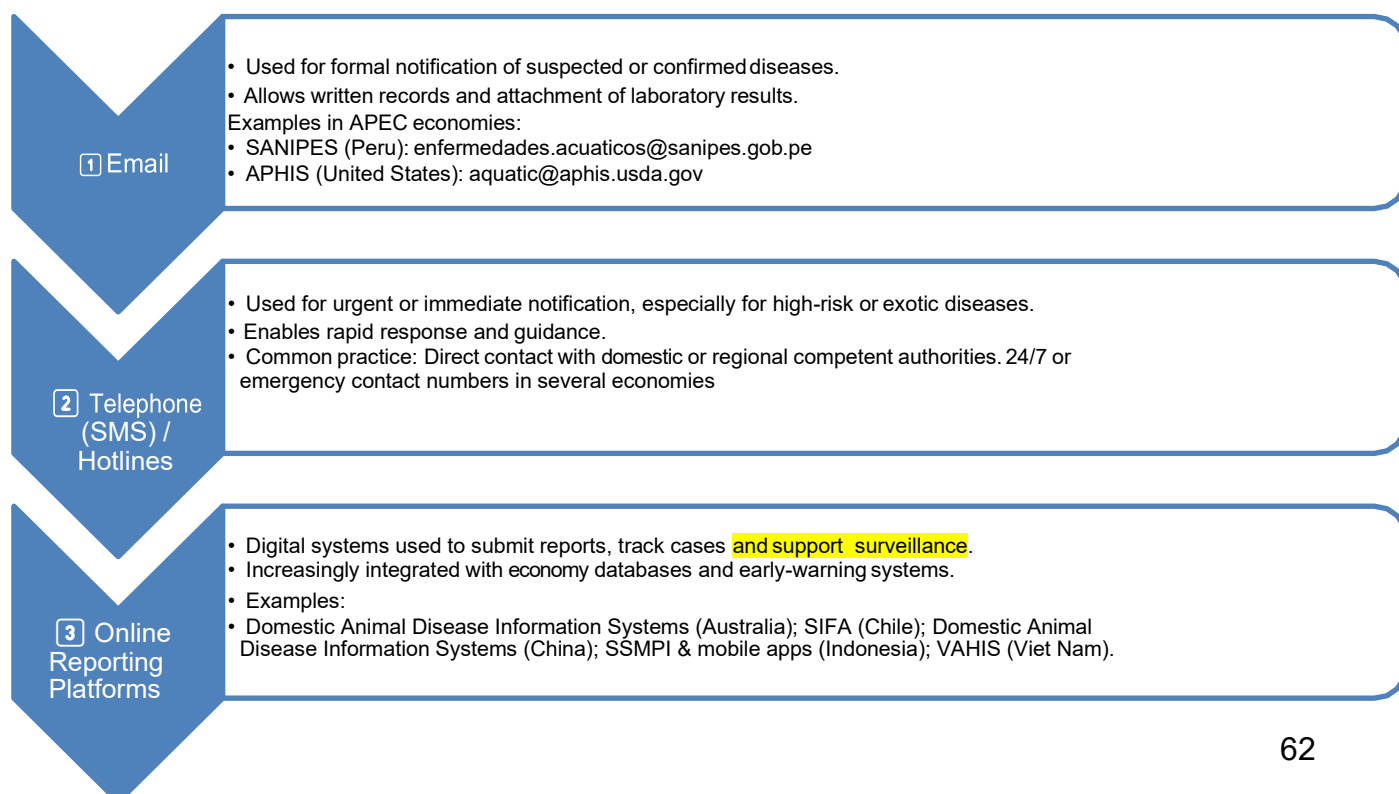
Figure N°2
Actors in the Aquatic Animal Disease Reporting System, level I (APEC).



3.- Aquatic Animal disease Report system in APEC economies

APEC economies use a variety of channels for notification procedures.

Figure N°9
Official Disease Reporting Channels in APEC Economies

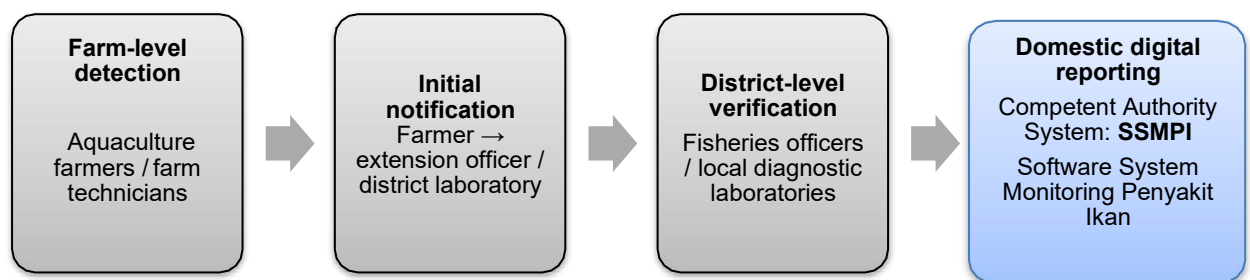


Economies authority validates information, initiates field investigation and laboratory confirmation.

4.- Good practices in notification system at APEC economies

BOX 1 Indonesia – Domestic Aquatic Animal Disease Notification System

Indonesia's notification system combines community-based reporting, digital surveillance (SSMPI) and mobile applications (SiCekatan) to strengthen early detection, accelerate response, and improve domestic and regional transparency in aquatic animal health within APEC economies.



BOX 2 Chinese Taipei Treatment & Diagnosis System (TDS)

TDS is an integrated online platform that supports early detection and risk prediction of aquaculture diseases by linking farm-level diagnostic data with meteorological and environmental information.

TDS compiles standardized data from farms—including diagnostic records, farm and pond location, farming practices, and treatment history—and automatically integrates these with seasonal and weather variables such as temperature and rainfall. Through data analytics and trend analysis, the system identifies seasonal disease risk patterns. In tilapia farming, TDS has been used to anticipate increased risk of bacterial diseases, particularly *Streptococcus iniae* and *Streptococcus agalactiae*, which are strongly associated with elevated water temperatures. The system supports risk-based surveillance, early warning, and timely preventive action by farmers, veterinarians, and authorities.

Key findings on APEC disease notification systems

1. High heterogeneity of disease notification systems
2. The disease notification systems of APEC economies are highly heterogeneous, which limits the comparability of disease data and the effectiveness of regional early warning systems.
3. Uneven accessibility and transparency of notification information
4. Access to official disease notification information varies widely across APEC economies. While some economies have comprehensive, user-friendly online platforms dedicated to aquatic animal health, others rely on fragmented legal texts or documents that are difficult to access and not available in widely used languages.
5. Variable clarity on the role of producers and farm-level reporting
6. In more advanced notification systems, producers and aquatic animal health professionals are legally obliged to report suspected diseases. In contrast, less developed frameworks often primarily assign notification responsibilities to competent authorities or official inspections, providing limited clarity at farm level.
7. Strong potential for APEC-led progressive harmonization
8. Despite their differences, APEC economies face common challenges and have the potential to converge around minimum standards, shared definitions and practical tools for disease notification. APEC provides a strategic platform for progressive harmonisation, based on existing best practices, without the need for uniform regulatory models

Annex 3. Fact Sheets Tilapia

Tilapia Lake Virus Infection (TiLV)

1. Disease name and etiological agent

Tilapia syncytial hepatitis also known as Tilapia Lake Virus Infection, is caused by Tilapia Lake Virus (TiLV), a virus of the genus *Tilapinevirus*, family *Amnoonviridae*.

2. Affected hosts/species/life stages

TiLV primarily affects *Oreochromis mossambicus*, *Oreochromis niloticus*, their hybrids, and *Sarotherodon galilaeus*. The disease can affect fish at all life stages, but mortality is highest in individuals weighing 1 to 50 grams (20–90%) (Surachetpong *et al.*, 2017), while adult fish show lower mortality (~9.2%) (Fathi *et al.*, 2017). In experimental cohabitation models, mortality begins around day 3 post-infection, peaking between days 4 and 12.

3. Geographic distribution

TiLV has been reported in the following APEC economies: Indonesia; Malaysia; Mexico; Peru; the Philippines; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; and the United States. It has also been reported in Bangladesh; Colombia; Ecuador; Egypt; India; Tanzania; and Uganda.



4. Risk factors

Environmental factors

Clinical outbreaks appear more likely during the hot summer months but have been reported within the water temperature range of 22-32°C (Ponsrinivasan *et al.*, 2025; WOAHA, 2025).

Management practices:

- Deficiencies in biosecurity: including personnel, equipment, and untreated water intake.
- Purchase of fry from unverified hatcheries.
- High stocking density.
- Water exchanges causing abrupt changes in physicochemical parameters.

5. Mode of transmission

Direct horizontal: Contact between infected and healthy fish.

Indirect horizontal: Via contaminated water, equipment, personnel, or mechanical vectors (e.g., birds, tools).

Excretions and secretions: Virus is shed through mucus of infected fish (Aich *et al.*, 2022).

Vertical: Possible transmission from subclinical carrier broodstock to offspring.

Reservoirs and asymptomatic carriers: Infected fish can carry and spread the virus without showing clinical signs.

6. Other relevant information

- World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH). (2025). *Aquatic Diseases Field Guide* (Android version) [Mobile application]. Google Play. https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.aquatic_disease_field_guide.app.woah
- https://www.sanipes.gob.pe/archivos/FICHA_TILV.pdf
- <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/aquaculture/tilapia-lake-virus?>
- <https://worldfishcenter.org/publication/overview-tilapia-lake-virus-tilv>
- <https://enaca.org/?id=871&utm>

Infectious Spleen and Kidney Necrosis (ISKNV)

1. Disease name and etiological agent

This disease is caused by the pathogen *Megalocyttivirus pagrus*¹, formerly known as the Infectious Spleen and Kidney Necrosis Virus (ISKNV).

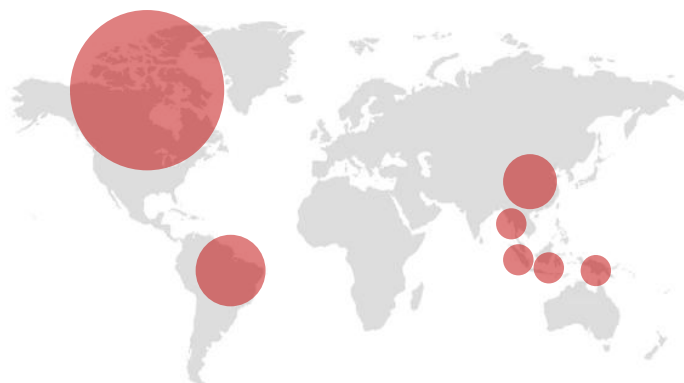
2. Affected hosts/species/life stages

ISKNV affects a broad range of ornamental freshwater and brackish fish species and can also impact farmed species such as tilapia (*Oreochromis* spp.), grouper (*Epinephelus* spp.), and barramundi (*Lates calcarifer*). Mortality rates in affected populations range from 40% to 90%, particularly in juvenile fish.

In experimental cohabitation models, mortality can begin as early as day 3 post-exposure, peaking between days 4 and 12. Under natural conditions, mortalities have been reported 2 to 4 weeks after exposure in areas where the disease is confirmed (Fusianto *et al.*, 2021).

3. Geographic distribution

The disease has been reported in the following APEC economies: Canada; China; Indonesia; Thailand; and the United States. Additional outbreaks have been documented in Brazil.



4. Risk factors Environmental Factors:

Outbreaks of disease occur at water temperatures greater than 20°C, with viral multiplication increasing with water temperatures up to at least 28°C. (WOAH, 2025).

Management practices:

- Deficiencies in biosecurity: including personnel, equipment, and untreated water intake.
- High organic load due to poor feeding practices.
- High stocking density.
- Inadequate water exchange.

5. Mode of transmission

- Direct horizontal: Contact between infected and healthy fish.
- Indirect horizontal: Via contaminated water, equipment, personnel, or mechanical vectors (e.g., birds, tools). Infection via ingestion of excreta or cannibalism is likely
 - Excretions and secretions: Virus is shed through mucus of infected fish.
 - Reservoirs and asymptomatic carriers: Infected fish may harbor and spread the virus without showing clinical signs.
 - There is evidence that some species may be long-term asymptomatic carriers, and the prevalence in infected populations may be high. (WOAH, 2025).

6. Other relevant information

- World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). (2025). *Aquatic Diseases Field Guide* (Android version) [Mobile application]. Google Play. https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.aquatic_disease_field_guide.app.woah
- <https://enaca.org/?id=1378&utm>
- [Ficha ISKNV \(Necrosis infecciosa del bazo y riñón\) – SANIPES \(PDF\)](#)
- https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/infection_infectious-spleen-kidney-necrosis-virus-isknv-like-viruses.pdf?

Streptococcosis

1. Disease name and etiological agent

Streptococcal infection is caused by pathogens of the *Streptococcus* genus, with *Streptococcus agalactiae* and *Streptococcus iniae* being the disease most recognized. *S. agalactiae* is of greater significance in aquaculture, with serotypes Ia, Ib, III, and IV reported.

2. Affected hosts/species/life stages

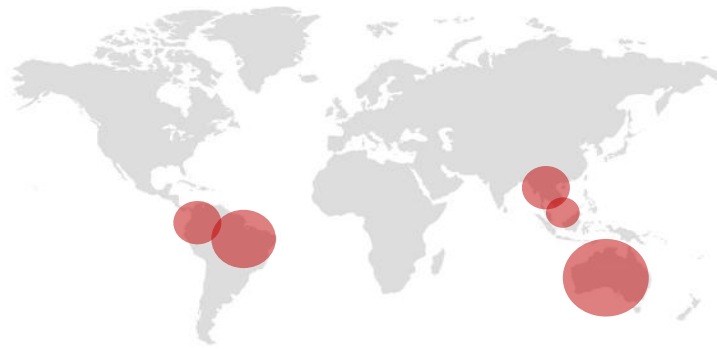
S. agalactiae affects species such as tilapia (*Oreochromis spp.*), catfish (Siluriformes), rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), crucian carp (*Carassius carassius*), and stingrays (Myliobatoidei). *S. iniae* affects tilapia (*Oreochromis spp.*), channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*), rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), European seabass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*), Asian seabass (*Lates calcarifer*), and red drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*).

Mortality rates range from 30% to 80%, depending on environmental conditions, production stage, and pathogen strain. In severe outbreaks, especially in juveniles, mortality can reach up to 90% (Sule *et al.*, 2025).

In experimental cohabitation models, mortality begins around day 3 after infection, peaking between days 4 and 12.

3. Geographic distribution:

Outbreaks of *S. agalactiae* sequence type ST283 have been reported in Malaysia; Singapore; Thailand; and Viet Nam. Serotype Ia has been documented in Chinese Taipei; it has also been reported in Colombia. Significant outbreaks, without serotype specification, have occurred in China; and Peru. In Australia, serotype Ib has been identified in wild fish and captive stingrays; it has also been detected in tilapia in Brazil.



S. iniae has been reported in both farmed and wild fish in Mexico; and the United States. Its presence has also been confirmed in tilapia farming systems in Indonesia; Malaysia; the Philippines; and Thailand.



4. Risk Factors

Environmental factors

Hypoxic conditions can lead to immunosuppression (Dissolved Oxygen less than 3.5mg/l) and high temperatures may promote persistent infections ($\geq 28^{\circ}\text{C}$). (Attia *et al.*, 2025, Sule *et al.*, 2025)

Management practices

- Deficiencies in biosecurity: involving personnel, equipment, and untreated water sources.
- High organic load due to poor feeding practices.
- High stocking density.
- Inadequate water exchange.

5. Mode of transmission

- Direct horizontal: through contact between infected and healthy fish.
- Indirect horizontal: via contaminated water, equipment, personnel, or mechanical vectors (e.g., birds, tools).

6. Other relevant information

- https://arxiv.org/abs/2510.27354https://www.sanipes.gob.pe/documentos_sanipes/comunicado/2023/anexo95.pdf

Edwardsiellosis

1. Disease name and etiological agent

Edwardsiellosis is caused by the pathogenic agents *Edwardsiella tarda* and *Edwardsiella ictaluri*, both belonging to the genus *Edwardsiella* and the family *Enterobacteriaceae*.

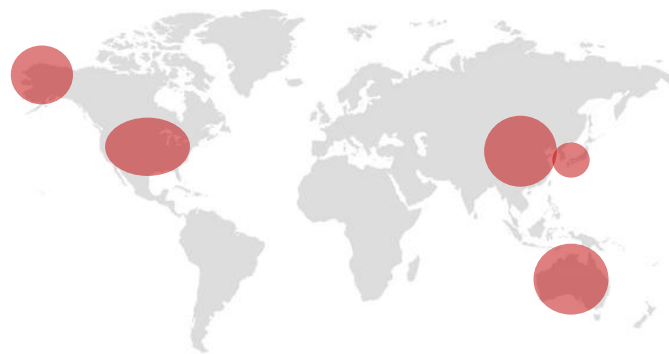
2. Affected hosts/species/life stages

E. ictaluri typically affects ictalurid fish, though it can occasionally infect non-ictalurid species. *E. tarda* has a broader host range, including species such as mullet (*Mugil cephalus*), gilthead seabream (*Evynnis japonicus*), and tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*). It can affect fish at all life stages, with a higher susceptibility in juveniles.

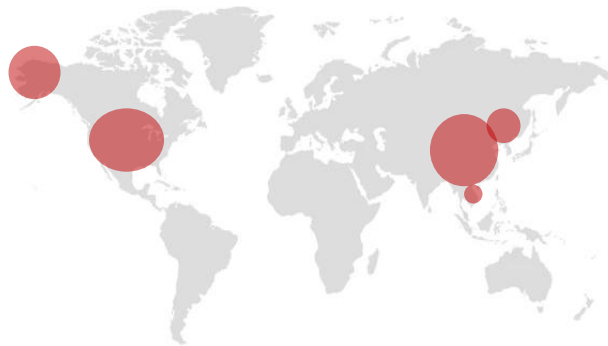
Outbreaks caused by *E. tarda* show variable mortality rates, ranging from 3% to 80%, while *E. ictaluri* infections typically result in 40–50% mortality (Janda *et al.*, 2024). In experimental cohabitation models, infection can occur within 24 hours (Wise *et al.*, 1997).

3. Geographic distribution:

Edwardsiella tarda has been documented in farmed fish in Australia; China; Japan; Korea; and the United States. Reports include marine species such as turbot in China; marine and ornamental fish in Japan and Korea; and primarily marine environments and aquarium systems in Australia and the United States.



Edwardsiella ictaluri has been reported in China; the United States; and Viet Nam.



4. Risk factors

Environmental factors

High temperatures may favour infections (greater than 25°C). Additionally, temperature gradients greater than 6°C can predispose fish to outbreaks. (Mqolomba *et al.*, 1992; Okasha *et al.*, 2025; Takeuchi *et al.*, 2021; Zheng *et al* 2004).

Management practices:

- Deficiencies in biosecurity: including personnel, equipment, and untreated water intake.
- High organic load due to poor feeding practices.
- High stocking density.
- Inadequate water exchange.

5. Mode of transmission

- Direct horizontal: through contact between infected and healthy fish, especially under high-density conditions.
- Indirect horizontal: via contaminated water, equipment, nets, personnel lacking biosecurity measures, or mechanical vectors like aquatic birds.
- Excretions and secretions: mainly through faeces and bodily fluids of infected fish.

6. Other relevant information

[Edwardsiellosis Fact Sheet \(EAZWV Transmissible Disease Handbook\)](#)

Annex 4. Fact Sheets Rainbow Trout

Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis (IHN)

1. Disease name and etiological agent

Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis (IHN) is caused by the Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis Virus (IHNV), a virus belonging to the genus *Novirhabdovirus*, family *Rhabdoviridae*.

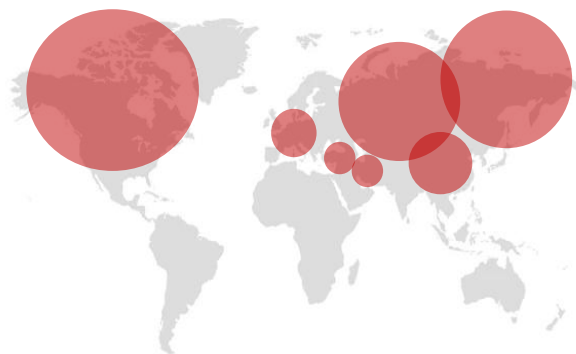
2. Affected hosts/species/life stages

IHNV primarily affects fish in the *Salmonidae* family, especially species of *Oncorhynchus* (e.g., *O. mykiss*, *O. tshawytscha*, *O. kisutch*, *O. nerka*) and *Salmo salar*. It has also been experimentally detected in other species such as *Esox lucius* (family *Esocidae*) and *Coregonus* spp. (family *Salmonidae*). The disease shows highest mortality in fish weighing 40–50 grams (Bergmann *et al.*, 2003).

In experimental cohabitation models, mortality appears by day 4 post-infection (Doumayrou *et al.*, 2019).

3. Geographic distribution

IHNV has been reported in various regions of the Northern Hemisphere and other areas with salmonid farming. The disease is present in the following APEC economies: Canada; China; Japan; Korea; The Russian Federation; Chinese Taipei; and the United States. It has also been reported in France; Germany; Italy; Switzerland; Spain; Turkey; and Iran.



4. Risk factors

Environmental factors:

IHN is a cold-water disease. Clinical signs occur at temperatures between 8°C and 18° C (Marsella *et al.*, 2025: WOAHA, 2025)

Management practices:

- High fish density, especially in juvenile stages.
- Mixing of batches of different ages or origins without quarantine.
- Use of carrier broodstock or those without prior health screening.
- Stress from handling, transport, grading, or treatments.
- Deficiencies in biosecurity: personnel, equipment, untreated water.
- Lack of surveillance protocols and outbreak response measures.

5. Mode of transmission:

- Direct horizontal: contact between infected and healthy fish.
- Indirect horizontal: via contaminated water, equipment, personnel, or mechanical vectors (e.g., birds, blood feeding parasites, tools).
- Excretions and secretions: virus is shed through urine, mucus, and faeces of infected fish.
- Vertical: possible transmission from subclinical carrier broodstock to offspring through contaminated eggs.
- Reservoirs and asymptomatic carriers: infected fish may harbor and spread the virus without showing clinical signs.

6. Other relevant information

- World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH). (2025). *Aquatic Diseases Field Guide* (Android version) [Mobile application]. Google Play.
https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.aquatic_disease_field_guide.app.woah
- <https://www.sernapesca.cl/app/uploads/2025/09/FICHA-TECNICA-DE-ENFERMEDAD-IHN.pdf>
- https://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/infectious_hematopoietic_necrosis.pdf
- [Ficha técnica IHN – SANIPES PDF](#)
- <https://inspection.canada.ca/en/animal-health/aquatic-animals/diseases/reportable-diseases/ihn/fact-sheet>

Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis (IPN)

1. Disease name and etiological agent

Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis (IPN) is an acute viral disease of salmonids caused by IPNV, a double-stranded RNA aquabirnavirus (Mutoloki *et al.*, 2016).

2. Affected hosts/species/life stages

IPN primarily affects farmed salmonids such as Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), and brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), but it has also been detected in other freshwater and non-salmonid species (Dopazo, 2020; Ruane *et al.*, 2009).

The pathogen has also been isolated from various marine species, flatfish, wild fish, and aquatic invertebrates (Dopazo, 2020; Ruane *et al.*, 2009).

Severe cases are most commonly seen in fry and juveniles in freshwater and in smolts recently transferred to seawater, although outbreaks have also been reported in post-smolts and adult fish (Roberts & Pearson, 2005).

3. Geographic distribution

IPN is widespread in intensive salmon farming in Canada; Chile; Japan; Korea; and the United States.



4. Risk factors

Environmental factors:

Water temperature <15 °C (highest risk at 8–12 °C) (Oidtmann *et al.*, 2018).

Management practices:

- Lack of egg disinfection and inadequate broodstock management.
- Shared use of equipment.
- No disinfection of water and effluents.
- Absence of proper vaccination programs.
- High stocking densities.

5. Mode of transmission

- Direct horizontal transmission: Occurs through contact between infected and susceptible fish, facilitated by virus shedding in feces and mucus during outbreaks (Dopazo, 2020; Skjesol *et al.*, 2011).
- Indirect horizontal transmission: Via exposure to contaminated water, equipment, and structures; the virus retains infectivity for long periods in cold water and organic matter (Oidtmann *et al.*, 2018; Dopazo, 2020).
- Vertical transmission: The virus can be present in reproductive fluids, allowing transmission from infected broodstock to offspring through eggs (Smail & Munro, 2008; Wallace *et al.*, 2008; Dopazo, 2020).
- Reservoirs and asymptomatic carriers: Surviving fish and wild species may harbor persistent infections and act as environmental reservoirs that reintroduce the virus into farming systems (Ruane *et al.*, 2009).

6. Other relevant information

- Official reportable disease page with overview and reporting info. [CFIA IPN fact sheet \(Canada\)](#)
- Ficha técnica — Necrosis Pancreática Infecciosa (IPN) (SANIPES PDF) https://www.sanipes.gob.pe/archivos/Ficha_IPN.pdf
- Ficha Técnica de Enfermedad — *Necrosis Hematopoyética Infecciosa (IHN)* (SERNAPESCA / Departamento de Salud Animal, Julio 2025, versión 2) <https://www.sernapesca.cl/app/uploads/2025/09/FICHA-TECNICA-DE-ENFERMEDAD-IHN.pdf>

Flavobacteriosis (*Flavobacterium psychrophilum*)

1. Disease name and etiological agent

Bacterial Cold-Water Disease (BCWD), also known as peduncle disease or RTFS, is caused by *Flavobacterium psychrophilum*, a yellow-pigmented, psychrophilic, Gram-negative bacillus belonging to the family *Flavobacteriaceae* (Barnes & Brown, 2011; Starliper)

2. Affected hosts/species/life stages

Flavobacterium psychrophilum primarily affects cultured and wild salmonids, with rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), coho salmon (*O. kisutch*), chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*), Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), and brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) being the most relevant hosts in aquaculture (Nematollahi *et al.*, 2003; Starliper, 2011).

The bacterium has also been isolated in non-salmonid species such as ayu (*Plecoglossus altivelis*), common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), sturgeons (*Acipenseridae*), eels (*Anguillidae*), and sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*), usually in localized outbreaks or subclinical carriers (Iida & Mizokami, 1996; Lehmann *et al.*, 1991).

The disease affects fish of all ages but is most severe in early life stages; eggs and fry can carry the bacterium. RTFS and BCWD clinical signs are primarily observed in fry, while chronic skin lesions and mild septicemia predominate in juveniles and adults with lower mortality (Cipriano & Holt, 2005; Starliper, 2011).

3. Geographical distribution

F. psychrophilum has a nearly global distribution, with reported cases across the Americas, Europe, and Asia.

4. Risk Factors

Environmental factors:

Water temperature: highest risk at 8–15 °C (Secades *et al.*, 2001; Smith, 2019).

Management practices

- High stocking densities.
- Delayed removal of mortalities.
- Overfeeding and accumulation of feces.
- Inadequate disinfection of equipment, nets, trays, and water systems.
- Lack of record-keeping and system monitoring.
- Absence of egg disinfection and poor broodstock management.

5. Mode of transmission

- Direct horizontal transmission: Infected fish with ulcers or caudal necrosis release high bacterial loads into the water (Cipriano & Holt, 2005).
- Indirect horizontal transmission: Occurs through exposure to contaminated water, surfaces, and fomites; the pathogen can persist in aquatic sediments (Madetoja *et al.*, 2003; Oplinger & Wagner, 2015).
- Vertical transmission: May occur from broodstock to offspring via contaminated eggs, including intraovum infection resistant to disinfection (Brown *et al.*, 1997; Cipriano, 2005; Kumagai *et al.*, 1998).
- Subclinical carriers: Both broodstock and surviving fish can harbor persistent infections and spread the pathogen without showing clinical signs (Ekman *et al.*, 1999).

6. Other relevant information

- Flavobacteriosis (Bacterial Cold Water Disease) – CFIA
- <https://inspection.canada.ca/en/animal-health/aquatic-animals/diseases/reportable-diseases/bacterial-cold-water-disease>
- Bacterial Cold Water Disease – Fish Health Fact Sheet
<https://www.fws.gov/media/bacterial-cold-water-disease>

Flavobacteriosis (*Flavobacterium columnare*)

1. Name of the disease and etiologic agent

Columnaris disease, also called "saddle" or "cottonmouth", is caused by *Flavobacterium columnare*, an aerobic, slippery Gram-negative bacillus, pigmented yellow by flexirubin and belonging to the family Flavobacteriaceae (Austin & Austin, 2012; Declercq *et al.*, 2013; Smith, 2019).

2. Affected hosts/species/life stages

Flavobacterium columnare affects freshwater fish in both cultured and wild populations, with a wide range of susceptible species, including salmonids, cyprinids, catfish, tilapia and ornamental fish (Declercq *et al.*, 2013).

In salmon farming, it has been described in rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* and brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), with relevant mortalities in intensive systems (Woo and Bruno, 2011).

The disease can occur at all stages of life, being more serious in fry, where it usually manifests itself acutely with episodes of high mortality. In juveniles and adults, skin and gill lesions of acute or chronic course predominate (Declercq *et al.*, 2013).

3. Geographical distribution

It has a practically worldwide distribution in freshwater ecosystems, with reports in America, Europe and Asia.

4. Risk factors

Environmental factors:

Temperature: highest risk at 20–30 °C. (Declercq *et al.*, 2013; Dietrich *et al.*, 2011; Verma *et al.*, 2021).

Management factors:

- High stocking densities.
- Poor water quality.
- Overfeeding.

- Management procedures can lead to micro-injuries.
- Late withdrawal of mortalities.
- Deficient disinfection of materials and fomites transported by personnel.
- Entry of subclinical carriers.

5. Mode of transmission

- Direct horizontal route: By contact between infected and susceptible fish, facilitated by lesions that release high bacterial loads into the water.
- Indirect horizontal route: Through contaminated water, sediments or surfaces, where the pathogen can persist and be transmitted even without visible diseased fish. (Declercq et al., 2013; USFWS–AFS Fish Health Section, 2014).
- Vertical route: Not confirmed, but the presence of the agent in eggs and hatching water suggests possible early exposure. (Declercq et al., 2013).
- Subclinical carriers: Surviving or wild fish can persistently harbor the bacterium and intermittently release it into the environment. (Austin & Austin, 2012; Declercq et al., 2013).

6. Other relevant information

- Columnaris disease – CFIA
- <https://inspection.canada.ca/en/animalhealth/aquaticanimals/diseases/reportable-diseases/columnaris>

Renibacteriosis

1. Disease name and etiological agent

Bacterial Kidney Disease (BKD) is a systemic infection caused by the facultatively intracellular Gram-positive bacterium *Renibacterium salmoninarum*, which belongs to the phylum Actinobacteria.

2. Affected hosts/species/life stages

Renibacterium salmoninarum primarily affects fish in the Salmonidae family, including rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), Pacific salmon (various *Oncorhynchus* species), brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*), and non-salmonids like the cleaner fish *Cyclopterus lumpus* (Florez-Jalixto *et al.*, 2021; Kong *et al.*, 2024; Gnanagobal *et al.*, 2021).

It affects all life stages, with higher mortality in juveniles, while in adults it often causes chronic infections (Fetherman *et al.*, 2020). In experimental injection models, mortality starts around day 19; in immersion models, clinical signs may appear up to 28 days post-exposure (Watson *et al.*, 2023).

3. Geographic distribution

Outbreaks have been documented in Canada; Chile; Japan; Korea; and the United States.



4. Risk factors

Environmental factors:

Cool water (often 8–15 °C). (Purcell *et al.*, 2016; Dietrich *et al.*, 2011; Svobodova *et al.*, 1993).

Management practices

- High stocking density.
- Lack of egg disinfection and poor broodstock management.
- Use of contaminated water sources.

5. Mode of transmission

- Direct horizontal: Through direct contact or waterborne exposure (Persson, 2022).
- Indirect horizontal: *R. salmoninarum* is shed via feces and mucus and can survive up to 21 days in feces and sediments (Nielsen *et al.*, 2020).
- Vertical: The bacterium can infect the reproductive organs of chronically infected broodstock, contaminating eggs during formation and spawning (Cook *et al.*, 1999).
- Subclinical carriers: Transmission from subclinical carriers to healthy fish has been reported (Suzuki *et al.*, 2018).

6. Other relevant information

Disease cards / technical resources (NACA Library). <https://enaca.org/?id=700>