Channel Catfish Virus Disease (CCVD)

Disease agent: Channel catfish virus (CCV), a virus in the genus *Ictalurivirus* within the family Alloherpesviridae.

**Presence in Australia:** Exotic

**Presence in Queensland:** Exotic

Channel Catfish Virus is exotic to Australia and has not been recorded in any State.

**Signs of Disease:**

Fish infected with this virus may exhibit the following signs:

- affected fish are lethargic and not feeding well
- dark enlarged spleen, pale enlarged kidney
- swollen abdomen due to fluid accumulation (ascites)
- pinpoint haemorrhages (bleeding) under the fins, abdomen and in the fillet
- popeye (exophthalmos)

**Channel Catfish Virus Disease:**

Top. CCVD-affected channel catfish fingerling; note swollen stomach and ‘popeye’.

Bottom. Haemorrhages present on the base of the body, gills and fins of channel catfish infected with CCV.

Photo: LA Hanson (top), USDA (bottom)
Host Species affected may include:

Catfish (all)

Imported seafood fishes including:

Channel catfish  Carp

At risk fisheries in QLD may include:

East Coast Inshore Finfish Fishery
Gulf of Carpentaria Inshore Finfish Fishery

Introduction Pathways to avoid:

Do not use imported seafood or ornamental fish for bait or berley, and do not release ornamental fish into waterways.

Basic decontamination information:

This disease agent can be inactivated by the following treatments: Dessication (drying out), temperatures above 60°C for over 1 hour, 540 mg/L chlorine for 30 minutes, 250 mg/L iodine for 30 minutes, is immediately inactivated by contact with pond mud and is highly susceptible to UV light >0.2 mJ/cm².

What to do if this disease is suspected:

If you suspect this disease is present please contact the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (13 25 23) or the National 24 hr Emergency Animal Disease Hotline (1800 675 888) immediately.

How to collect and store samples for diagnosis:

If you are taking samples to help authorities to test for this disease, whole fish should be provided alive (if possible) or chilled and on ice (but not frozen).