

Furunculosis (infection with *Aeromonas salmonicida*)

Disease agent: *Aeromonas salmonicida* subsp. *salmonicida*, a gram negative bacterium in the family Enterobacteriaceae.



Presence in Australia: **Exotic**

Presence in Queensland: **Exotic**



The strain of *Aeromonas* causing furunculosis in salmonids overseas (i.e. the typical strain) is not present in Australia. However, atypical strains are present (see information sheet entitled 'Infection with *Aeromonas salmonicida*—atypical strains').

Signs of Disease:

Fish infected with this bacteria may exhibit the following signs:



- lethargic, abnormal swimming
- red boil- like lesions (furuncles) involving skin and muscle progressing to crater-like lesions
- haemorrhages on the fins, mouths and fin bases (mainly paired fins)
- darkened body, pale gills
- enlarged spleen, internal haemorrhages
- exophthalmos (popeye)



Furunculosis:

Top. Furunculosis in an Atlantic salmon from Europe. Note the large furuncle (boil) on the side of the fish.

Bottom. The same fish with the furuncle cut away to show the underlying necrotic (dead) tissue

Photos: T Håstein

Host Species affected may include:

Eels (all) Flatfish (all)

Imported seafood fishes including:

Atlantic cod European eel
Atlantic herring European carp
Flounders Halibut
Rockfish Sea bream
Turbot Trout (all)
Salmon (all)

At risk fisheries in QLD may include:

Queensland Eel Fishery
Rocky Reef Finfish Fishery

Introduction Pathways to avoid:

Do not use imported seafood for bait or berley.

Basic decontamination information:

This disease agent can be inactivated by the following treatments: Dessication (drying out), temperatures above 50°C for over 2 minutes, 2 mg/L chlorine for 1 minute, 300 mg/L benzalkonium chloride for 2 minutes, 2.6 mg/L iodine for 5 minutes, 0.5% Virkon S for 10 minutes, UV light >6 mJ/cm² or 0.5 mg/L/min ozone.

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).

Learn more

For more information about furunculosis and other diseases of aquatic animals of significance to Australia, download the **Aquatic Disease Field Guide App** available for iOS, android and windows devices at these locations:

IOS<https://goo.gl/9UJNp9>**ANDROID**<https://goo.gl/T4Tn1X>**WINDOWS**<https://goo.gl/Y8Vibi>

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