

Grouper Iridoviral Disease

Disease agent: Grouper iridovirus (GIV), a virus in the genus *Ranavirus* in the family Iridoviridae.



Presence in Australia: **Exotic**

Presence in Queensland: **Exotic**



Grouper Iridoviral Disease 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 (“sleepy”) and not feeding well
- respiratory distress (rapid movement of opercula)
- darkened body colour
- deep ulcers or other external lesions
- pale gills and enlarged spleen
- high mortalities



GIV in a brown spot estuary grouper:

This brown spot estuary grouper from Thailand is showing a very deep ulcerative lesion at the top of the head at the terminal stage of a GIV infection.

Photo: S Kanchanakhan

Host Species affected may include:

Brown spot estuary cod
Black spot estuary cod
Bar cod
Other cods (genus *Epinephelus*)

At risk fisheries in QLD may include:

Marine Aquarium Fish Fishery
Coral Reef Finfish Fishery
Gulf of Carpentaria Line Fishery
Deepwater 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:

Ranaviruses similar to this disease agent can be inactivated by the following treatments: Dessication (drying out for >200 days), 1% Virkon S for 1 minute, 3% bleach (30 ml/L) for 1 minute, 200 mg/L sodium hypochlorite (chlorine) for 2 hours, 200 mg/L formalin for 2 hours, 70% ethanol for 2 hours.

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 GIV 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/Y8Vibj>

Photographs and content reproduced with permission courtesy of the Aquatic Diseases Field Guide 4th edition.