

# Infection with Infectious Spleen and Kidney Necrosis Virus (ISKNV)-like viruses

Disease agent: Viruses of the genus *Megalocyctivirus*, in the family Iridoviridae.



Presence in Australia: **Exotic**

Presence in Queensland: **Exotic**



ISKNV-like viruses have not been recorded from Australian fishes, however they have been detected in imported aquarium fishes in retail pet stores in some states.

## Signs of Disease:

Fish infected with these viruses may exhibit the following signs:

- lethargy and fish not feeding well
- respiratory distress (rapid movement of opercula)
- changes in body colour (e.g. darkening or lightening of body colour)
- exophthalmos (popeye) and abdominal distension (due to fluid or enlargement of organs)
- mortality rates between 50% and 100%



### ISKNV in Murray cod fingerling:

Murray cod fingerling experimentally infected with an ISKNV-like iridovirus showing discoloration around the front of the body (normal colouration evident near the tail) and signs of respiratory distress at time of death (flared opercula)

Photo: Jeff Go

**Host Species affected may include:**

Barramundi	Snapper
Sea mullet	Threadfins
Estuary Cod	Kingfish/Cobia
Murray Cod	Red Emperor
Coral trout	Coral Reef Fishes

**Ornamental fishes including:**

Angelfish	Cichlids
Gouramis	Flathead mullet
Groupers	Guppies
Platys	Mollies
Oscars	Mandarin Fish
Paradise fish	Zebrafish

**At risk fisheries in QLD may include:**

Marine Aquarium Fish Fishery  
Coral Reef Finfish Fishery  
Deepwater Finfish Fishery  
Gulf of Carpentaria Line Fishery  
Rocky Reef Finfish Fishery  
East Coast Inshore Finfish Fishery  
Gulf of Carpentaria Inshore Finfish Fishery  
Finfish (Stout Whiting) Trawl Fishery  
Gulf of Carpentaria Developmental Finfish  
Trawl Fishery

**Introduction Pathways to avoid:**

Do not use ornamental fish for bait or berley or release ornamental fish into waterways.

**Basic decontamination information:**

These disease agents are susceptible to the following treatments: Desiccation (drying out), temperatures above 50°C for over 30 minutes, 200 mg/L chlorine for 30 minutes, UV light >5 mJ/cm<sup>2</sup>, potassium permanganate 100 mg/L for 15 minutes, high pH (>11 for 30 minutes).

**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 ISKNV 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>

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