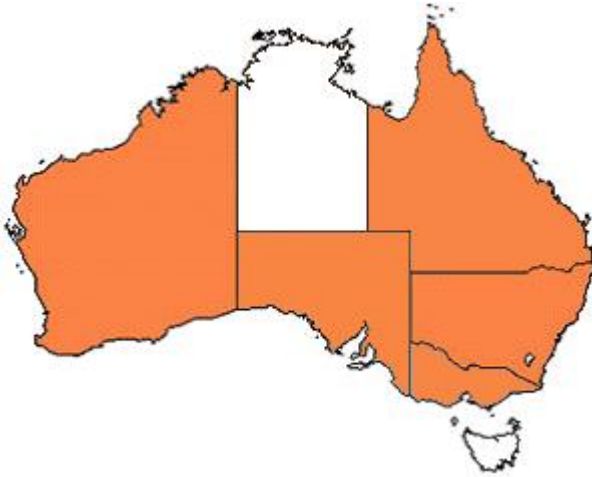


Infection with *Perkinsus olseni*

Disease agent: *Perkinsus olseni* is a protozoan parasite from Family Perkinsidae, Phylum Perkinsozoa within the Alveolata (dinoflagellates, apicomplexans, and ciliates).



Presence in Australia: Endemic



Presence in Queensland: Endemic

Perkinsus olseni has been reported from QLD, NSW, VIC, SA and WA in a wide variety of wild and cultured molluscs including abalone, clams and pearl oysters. However other *Perkinsus* species may also be present, and any new diagnosis of *Perkinsus* spp. requires specific confirmation using molecular techniques.

Signs of Disease:

Molluscs infected with these parasites may exhibit the following signs:

- in bivalves: gaping and weakened shell closure with pale nodules evident in internal organs
- in abalone: multiple pustules or creamy brown/yellow abscesses on the foot or mantle
- mortalities when water temperatures exceed 20°C



Infection with *Perkinsus olseni*:

A greenlip abalone from NSW infected with *Perkinsus olseni*. Note the numerous brown/yellow abscesses in the muscle of the foot.

Photo: NSW Dept. of Primary Industries.

Host Species affected may include:

Pacific oysters	Milky oysters
Sydney rock oysters	Scallops
Silver lipped pearl oysters	Clams
Black lipped pearl oysters	Cockles
Abalone	Giant clams
Razor shells	

Imported seafood including:

Manila clams	Pacific oysters
NZ cockles	Blue mussels
Scallops	Abalone
Pearl oysters	

At risk fisheries in QLD may include:

Rock Oyster Industry
East Coast Pearl Fishery
Trochus Fishery
East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery

Introduction Pathways to avoid:

Do not translocate molluscs of unknown disease status from areas where *Perkinsus olseni* infections are known to occur. Do not use imported seafood (including mollusc products) for bait or berley.

Basic decontamination information:

This disease agent can be inactivated by the following treatments: Dessication (drying out >7 days), temperatures above 60°C for over 1 hour, 300 mg/L chlorine for 30 minutes, freshwater for 6 hours and UV light > 240 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 molluscs should be provided alive (if possible) or chilled and on ice.

Learn more

For more information about *Perkinsus olseni* 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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