Red Sea Bream Iridoviral Disease (RSIVD)

Disease agent: Red Sea Bream Iridovirus (RSIV), a virus in the genus *Megalocytivirus*, in the family Iridoviridae.

Presence in Australia: Exotic

Presence in Queensland: Exotic

Red Sea Bream Iridovirus has not been recorded from Australian fishes, however similar viruses 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), enlarged spleen and abdominal distension
- outbreaks of disease when water temperatures exceed 24-25°C, with mortality rates between 50% and 100%

Red Sea Bream Iridoviral Disease: A Red Sea Bream (a close relative of the Australian snapper) from South Korea infected with Red Sea Bream Iridovirus. Note the swollen abdomen due to enlargement of internal organs and fluid accumulation.

Photo: Soo II Park Pukyong National University
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:

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/cm², 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).