

Acute Hepatopancreatic Necrosis Disease (AHPND)

Disease agent: *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* (Vp_{AHPND}), a gram negative bacterium in the family Vibrionaceae that has a plasmid gene that produces toxins lethal to prawns.



Presence in Australia: **Exotic**

Presence in Queensland: **Exotic**

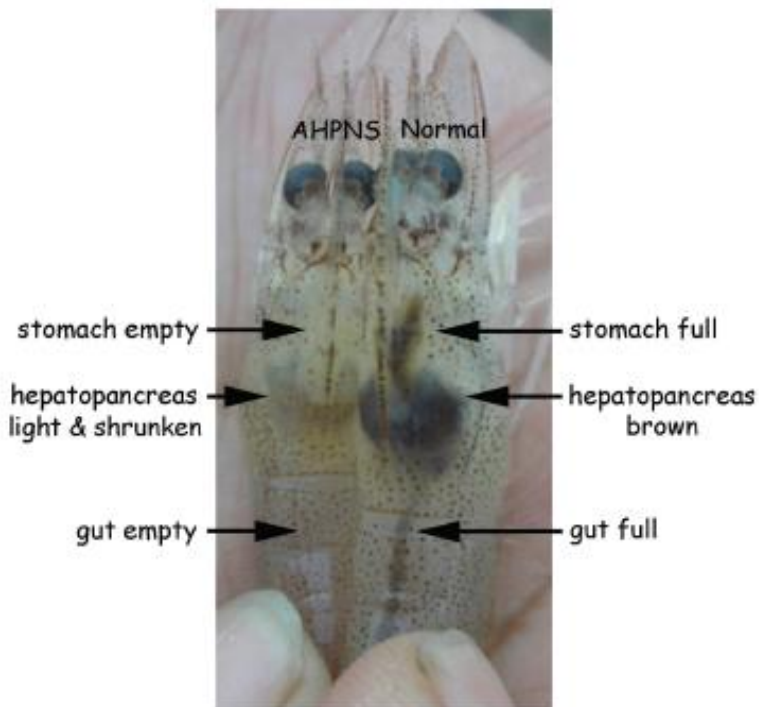


While *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* is known to occur in Australia, specific strains of *V. parahaemolyticus* containing the genes that produce toxins (Vp_{AHPND}) have not been recorded.

Signs of Disease:

Crustaceans infected with this bacteria may exhibit the following signs:

- a pale/white shrunken hepatopancreas
- soft shells
- black (melanised) spots or streaks in the hepatopancreas
- empty gut
- moribund prawns sink to the bottom



Acute Hepatopancreatic Necrosis Disease (AHPND):

The prawn on the left of the picture has AHPND and displays a lighter coloured, shrunken hepatopancreas and an empty gut. The prawn on the right of the picture is normal.

Photos: Don Lightner / Tim Flegel

Host Species affected may include:

Prawns (all)
Bait worms (polychaetes)

Imported seafood including:

Uncooked prawns (all)

At risk fisheries in QLD may include:

Bait Worm Fishery
East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery
River and Inshore Beam Trawl Fishery

Introduction Pathways to avoid:

Do not use imported seafood (particularly imported uncooked prawns) 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 10 minutes or 60°C for over 1 minute, 250 mg/L chlorine for 30 minutes, 25 mg/L iodine for 2 minutes, 1% Virkon S for 10 minutes, UV light > 5 mJ/cm² or 1.9 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 crustaceans should be provided alive (if possible) or chilled and on ice (but not frozen).

Learn more

For more information about AHPND 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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