

# Milky Haemolymph Disease of Spiny Lobsters (MHD-SL)

Disease agent: A gram negative rickettsia-like bacterium.



Presence in Australia: **Exotic**

Presence in Queensland: **Exotic**



Milky Haemolymph Disease of Spiny Lobsters is exotic to Australia and has not been recorded in any State.

## Signs of Disease:

Crustaceans infected with this bacteria may exhibit the following signs:

- milky, opaque haemolymph that does not clot
- swollen abdomen, lethargy, mortalities



**Milky Haemolymph Disease of Spiny Lobsters (MHD-SL):** Left. Painted crayfish from Vietnam with Milky Haemolymph Disease showing white, opaque haemolymph drawn into a syringe. Right. Milky appearance of the hepatopancreas of a painted crayfish with Milky Haemolymph Disease. Photos: Don Lightner

**Host Species affected may include:**

Tropical Lobsters (Crayfish)

**Imported seafood including:**

Tropical Lobsters

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

Crayfish and Rock Lobster Industry

East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery

**Introduction Pathways to avoid:**

Do not use imported seafood (particularly imported uncooked tropical lobster tails) for bait or berley.

**Basic decontamination information:**

There is no published information on inactivation of this disease agent. Likely treatments will include dessication (drying out). Related species of bacteria are inactivated by exposure to 60°C for over 5 minutes, or 3.5% formalin for 20 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 crustaceans should be provided alive (if possible) or chilled and on ice (but not frozen).

**Learn more**

For more information about 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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