

Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS)

Disease agent: A microvariant of Ostreid Herpesvirus 1 (OsHV-1), a virus in the genus *Ostreavirus* within the family Malacoherpesviridae.



Presence in Australia: Present

Presence in Queensland: Exotic



The OsHV-1 μ Var virus responsible for POMS has been officially reported from several areas of NSW and Tasmania.

Signs of Disease:

Molluscs infected with this virus may exhibit the following signs:

- gaping of adult oysters and cessation of feeding in larval or juvenile oysters
- pale digestive gland
- high mortalities when water temperatures are 18-20°C or above
- Adult oysters (including Sydney rock oysters) showing no external signs of disease can also carry this virus



Infection with POMS:

Left. A juvenile Pacific oyster from NSW killed by POMS. Note the shell gaping.

Photo: Whittington et al. (2016). *Microbiology Australia* 37: 126-128.

Host Species affected may include:

Pacific oysters Scallops
Mussels Clams

Imported seafood including:

Pacific oysters Scallops
Mussels Clams

At risk fisheries in QLD may include:

Rock Oyster Industry

Introduction Pathways to avoid:

Do not translocate oysters of unknown disease status from areas where POMS is 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 in the sun for 7 days at 20°C), high temperatures (60°C for 10 minutes), 20g/L sodium hydroxide for 10 minutes, 0.1% available iodine for 5 minutes, 1% Virkon S for 15 minutes, 10% formalin for 30 minutes and 800 mg/L benzalkonium chloride for 10 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 molluscs should be provided alive (if possible) or chilled and on ice.

Learn more

For more information about Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome 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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