

Decontamination requirements for Abalone Viral Ganglioneuritis

5 March 2024

The abalone viral ganglioneuritis (AVG) virus can be spread directly through contact with infected abalone but also contaminated abalone products (meat, mucous, gut and shell) and equipment that has been in contact with the benthic (seafloor) environment.

Decontamination requirements (see Table 1 for minimum requirements for equipment used in specified activities)

1. While at sea, remove any biological material from equipment and return it to sea at the location of the activity.
Before moving Lobster pots and anchors they must be washed with fresh or sea water at the location of the activity.
2. Once on land, thoroughly clean equipment with fresh water, removing any remaining sediment, sand and biological material. Cleaning must take place in an area where none of the washdown can re-enter the marine environment.
3. Wash equipment with detergent, ensuring all surfaces are covered with detergent.
4. Rinse with fresh water.
5. Air dry in a well-ventilated place, preferably in the sun.

Table 1 Minimum AVG decontamination requirements for equipment used in specified activities

Equipment used in specified activities	Minimum decontamination steps required
Lobster pots, and anchors on vessels that remain in the water	1
Diving equipment ⁱ	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Other fishing equipment ⁱⁱ that has come into contact with the marine benthic (seafloor) environment, including anchors on vessels that are removed from the water.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

ⁱ Diving equipment includes wetsuit, fins, masks, weight vest/belt, hookah gear and any diving accessories, including but not limited to knives, bags, nets.

- Specialised wetsuit wash preparations are available, but a mild liquid soap or shampoo may also be used.

ⁱⁱ Fishing equipment includes but is not limited to rods, reels, lines, hooks, sinkers, lures, jigs, bins, baskets, buckets, nets, pots, bags, spearguns, knives.