Emergency response

Emergency disease response plans and their implementation are important. PIRSA's aquatic emergency response systems are in line with national guidelines. PIRSA, in collaboration with seafood industries, have developed disease specific response plans for abalone viral ganglioneuritis (AVG) and Pacific oyster mortality syndrome (POMS). Both diseases are notifiable at the State and Commonwealth levels. To date neither have been detected in South Australia.

National biosecurity

PIRSA represent South Australia on national committees to ensure State aquatic animal health issues are captured in national policies.

Chemical use

Veterinary chemicals are important disease management tools. When used correctly, they play a valuable role in ensuring animal welfare and maximising the quality and yield of primary produce. Unregistered veterinary chemicals that are prescribed by a veterinarian may be considered for use under the South Australian *Aquaculture Regulations 2005.*

Contact us

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FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE
PIRSA

PIRSA's Aquatic Animal Health Program

PREMIUM FOOD AND WINE FROM OUR CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Government of South Australia
Primary Industries and Regions SA

South Australia's freedom from many significant aquatic diseases provides advantages in seafood production and market access. PIRSA's aquatic animal health program aims to safeguard South Australia's aquaculture, fisheries and natural resources from the impact of aquatic diseases to maintain their clean, green image.

Aquatic animal health management includes disease prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. Disease management requires risk-based decision making underpinned by scientific knowledge.

Livestock movement restrictions

Disease prevention includes minimising the risk of introducing disease into healthy populations. To mitigate these factors, restrictions on high risk movement of livestock is provided in legislation (*Livestock Act 1997*).

Stock translocations may be for aquaculture (Broodstock or spat), fisheries (stock enhancement) or conservation purposes (restocking endangered species). PIRSA assesses translocation applications in line with State legislation, policies and national guidelines. Movement controls may include stock inspection, health certification and quarantine.

Fish kill and disease investigations

PIRSA responds to fish kills and reports of disease outbreak to determine the cause (e.g. human health risks, chemical spill, notifiable disease) and possible mitigation. For disease, mitigation may include control, containment or even eradication measures.

PIRSA conducts numerous investigations annually and has found that the large majority of fish kills are caused by natural events, including extreme weather (e.g. warm water events), dodge or minimal tides, anoxia (low dissolved oxygen) or even harmful algal blooms.

Disease surveillance

Surveillance systems are comprised of both passive and active surveillance, and provide the forewarning of disease outbreaks (early detection) and the evidence to determine presence or absence of disease.

Passive surveillance includes the review of laboratory results and veterinarian reports submitted through general farm disease management practices. Active surveillance is often responsive to disease threats and includes structured surveys to collect samples and test for specific diseases.