

Response Plan for Infectious Disease Outbreaks

This list shows what shellfish growers should be prepared to do if there is an infectious shellfish disease outbreak. In addition, the PCSGA Shellfish High Health Program guideline contains a more detailed outline for actions needed if there is a disease outbreak.

- Report the disease outbreak to State and Federal authorities as required and as detailed in your Shellfish High Health Program.
- Make sure that there is a confirmation of the infectious disease diagnosis.
- There may be State or Federal actions required to help prevent spread of the disease. These would include the following, for which you should have a standby implementation plan:
 1. Establishment of a disease containment area including containment and/or disinfection procedures to prevent the movement of infected shell stock, equipment and contaminated materials out of the disease affected area.
 2. Disinfection of contaminated culture water from any affected hatchery or nursery facilities.
 3. Adequate disposal of dead animals, including shells, to prevent dissemination of infectious disease organisms with such stock.
 4. Destruction of infected stocks, if required to contain the disease, or if required by the regulatory authority.
 5. Determination of the source of the infectious disease agent, in collaboration with appropriate regulatory agencies, and implementation of a plan to eliminate any continuing source of the disease agent introduction as needed.
 6. Establishment of a monitoring and continuing response plan for the infectious disease and determination of needed continuing action.



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Specifics for Washington State: The triggers for a response by Washington may be less than those for USDA-APHIS and a response may be more immediate and restrictive. Rule regarding the import of shellfish seed into Washington may be found in the following link, especially see WAC 220-370-200 and WAC 220-370-050:
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=220-370>

- Detection and confirmation of OsHV-1 or OshV-1 microvariant presence triggers a regulatory response from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Actual disease expression, outbreaks or mortality is not necessary to initiate control measures. A regulatory response may include prohibitions on imports into and transfers within Washington.
- Detection and confirmation of OsHV-1 and microvariant presence anywhere within the West Coast Commerce Region (WCCR) and Hawaii is of concern to WDFW and may initiate a regulatory response.
- Imports of broodstock, seed, or larvae from locations where OsHV-1 or microvariant have been detected into the WCCR or Hawaii may initiate a regulatory response. The trigger for Washington does not require detection via screening for import but simply presence in the area of origin. For example, OsHV-1 along with *Perkinsus marinus* are likely present in NW Mexico. An import from Mexico of *C. gigas* seed, no matter the screening results, may jeopardize, or require increased screening of, continuing imports from the receiving location(s) into Washington if that area of origin has a history of disease.
- Implementing a plan to eliminate sources within Washington waters of OsHV-1 or OshV-1 microvariant is problematic in several instances. For example, Hood Canal, Willapa Bay and increasingly South Puget Sound have wild reproductive populations of *Crassostrea gigas* that are a publicly owned resource, privately owned, or subject to tribal treaty rights, and given the apparent wide-range of host species, elimination of all sources of OsHV-1 or microvariant may be impossible. Unlike herpes virus in vertebrates, OsHV-1 and microvariant lack species fidelity. Washington would assume that presence of bivalves other than oysters.
- Absent isolation physically or by treatment from infected waters prohibitions on imports into Washington, or transfers within, from infected waters would likely be implemented and remain in effect.
- PCR is not by itself adequate to certify freedom from OsHV-1 or OshV-1 microvariant in hosts and carriers located in infected waters. WDFW rule WAC 220-370-200(4)(b) prohibits approval of imports from any area of origin where a Class A shellfish disease is present. Failure to detect the disease via screening would not alter that prohibition. The same prohibition would exist for movements- i.e. transfers- within Washington.