

Primefact

Reduce your risk of Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome (EUS)

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DPIRD Aquatic Biosecurity, Animal Biosecurity, Biosecurity and Food Safety

What is EUS?

Epizootic ulcerative syndrome (EUS), also known as red spot disease can affect many fish species. EUS is caused by an oomycete (“water mould”), *Aphanomyces invadans*, and causes red lesions (sores) and deep ulcers, making affected fish unmarketable and may result in their death.

EUS is a notifiable disease in NSW and suspected sick fish or outbreaks must be reported to NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD). NSW DPIRD will work with industry to provide advice to help minimise risks associated with suspected disease outbreaks.

Where does it occur?

EUS is reasonably common in NSW in wild fish in coastal catchments and has been detected in Rivers in the Darling, Riverina, Namoi, and Bega catchments, as well as aquaculture facilities east of the Great Dividing Range. However, EUS is poorly understood, and the full extent of its distribution is unknown.

In mid-2016 EUS was confirmed for the first time in a Riverina aquaculture facility west of the Great Dividing Range in NSW.

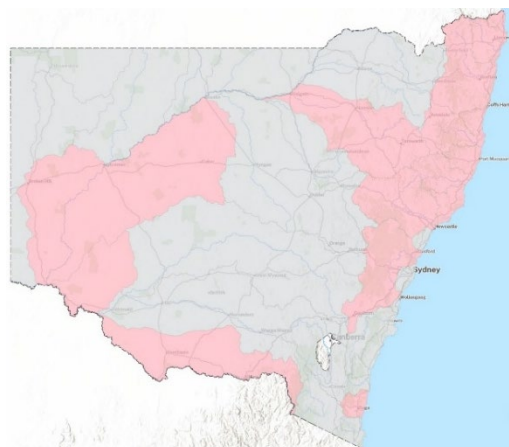


Figure 1. NSW catchments (red) where EUS has been previously detected.

If you suspect EUS or other aquatic disease you should:

- Report suspected cases of EUS or other aquatic diseases to NSW DPIRD as soon as possible.
- Prevent discharge of wastewater into the local environment.
- Not sell or move any fish to any other aquaculture facility or NSW waterway.
- Not send severely ulcerated fish to market (NSW Food Authority standard recommendation).

What does EUS look like?

EUS may cause one or more signs:

- Small pinpoint red spots
- Areas of swelling
- Protruding or missing scales
- Skin sores or ulcers
- Reddened areas of the skin under the scales
- Fish deaths in severe cases



Figure 2 Bony Bream from the Darling River showing EUS lesion (Photo: R. Reece)

Steps to help minimise the impacts of EUS on industry

To protect your aquaculture business and minimise spread of EUS and other aquatic diseases:

- Ensure thorough disinfection of transporters and transport equipment between sites.
- Wash hands and disinfect equipment when moving between different ponds.
- Use separate equipment between ponds where possible.
- Monitor water quality regularly.
- Keep good records of fish health, stocking, and fish movements.
- Report and seek assistance from NSW DPIRD if you suspect any aquatic disease.

Report suspected disease

If you observe sick or dying fish, contact NSW DPIRD Aquatic Biosecurity for advice by calling the **24-hour Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888**, or email aquatic.biosecurity@dpird.nsw.gov.au.

For more information

Visit the [NSW DPIRD Aquatic Biosecurity Red Spot Disease](#) webpage

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