

# AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH – Crustaceans Situation Report



Publication number:

2025 Number 3

WOAH publishes regularly an aquatic animal health situation report highlighting information on disease events reported by countries and territories through the [World Animal Health Information System \(WAHIS\)](#).

## Key messages

Aquatic animal health and welfare are of great importance to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), particularly in the context of our [Aquatic Animal Health Strategy](#) launched in May 2021. Each edition of the aquatic animal health situation report covers one or several of the four species categories of aquatic animals within the scope of WOA's work: amphibians, molluscs, fish and crustaceans. The current report provides information on WOA-listed diseases of crustaceans using data from six monthly reports from 2021 to 2025 the early warning system of the World Animal Health Information System ([WAHIS](#)).

**Infection with infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis virus** and **Infection with white spot syndrome virus** are the most extensively reported, with **21 and 28** countries and territories, respectively, reporting its presence or suspicion in the last five years.

The distribution maps of the 10 WOA listed crustacean diseases show a highly variable global distribution of disease presence. [In a previous report](#) from 2023, 5 out of the 10 diseases were reported in only two to three countries and territories, indicating a limited geographical distribution. However, in this report, only two out of the ten diseases remain limited to two to three countries and territories. This change indicates a **geographic expansion of three diseases**, with Infection with infectious myonecrosis virus, Infection with Taura syndrome virus and Infection with yellow head virus genotype 1 showing an increase in the number of reporting countries and territories compared with the previous reporting period.

Regarding the exceptional events reported through the early warning system of WAHIS between January 2024 and December 2025, a total of 11 new outbreaks were reported by Australia, Indonesia, Korea (Rep. of) and Malaysia for 5 diseases (acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease, infection with infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis virus, infection with infectious myonecrosis virus, infection with Taura syndrome virus, infection with white spot syndrome virus and infection with yellow head virus genotype 1).

The implementation of effective surveillance is essential for the detection of animal disease events, allowing for information sharing and timely response to outbreaks. However, not all countries and territories have the capacity to implement surveillance for all diseases listed by WOAAH and therefore resources need to be prioritised. It is worth highlighting that 15% of countries and territories that share information via WAHIS declare having no surveillance activities for listed diseases of crustaceans (neither in domestic nor in wild species).

The new [WOAH mobile app on aquatic animal diseases](#) provides quick access to essential field information, helping users identify, document and report cases more efficiently. By supporting early detection and response, the app strengthens biosecurity measures and contributes to safeguarding aquatic animal health worldwide. To support its Members in their surveillance efforts, standards and guidelines are regularly updated by WOAAH, and training courses are organised for the WOAAH network of national focal points for aquatic animals, and online learning modules are developed on the [WOAH eLearning Platform](#) for the reinforcement of Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services.

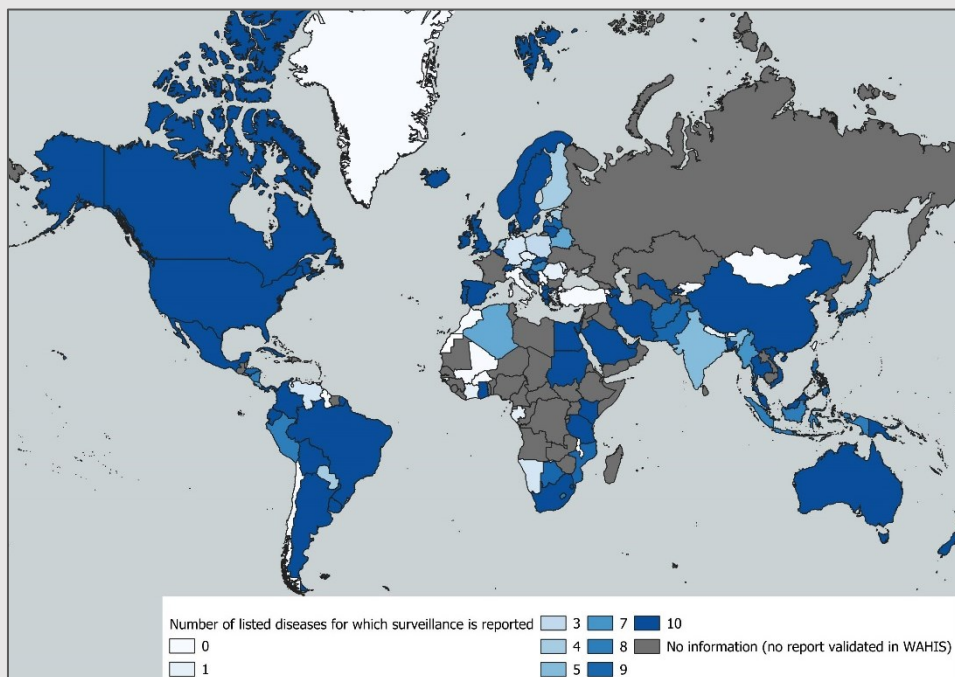
**Members are encouraged to continue their surveillance efforts and timely reporting to WOAAH.**

Visit our [website](#) for more information. For any press inquiry on aquatic animal diseases, email us at [media@woah.org](mailto:media@woah.org).

## Contextual data

By becoming a Member of WOAAH, countries and territories accept the legal obligation to share animal health data on listed and emerging diseases in accordance with our standards. Diseases included in [this list](#) meet the following criteria: 1) freedom at the level of country or zone by at least one country, and potential for international spread, 2) significant morbidity or mortality in animals (farmed or wild) or humans (for zoonotic diseases), and 3) reliable means for diagnosis and case definition is available. The list is revised annually and in 2025 comprised 31 aquatic animal diseases.

**Figure 1** provides an overview of the number of listed diseases of crustaceans (N=10) for which surveillance activities have been reported by countries and territories via WAHIS in 2025 (the most recent year with over 100 countries and territories submitting information).



**Figure 1.** Number of listed diseases of crustaceans (N=10) for which surveillance activities have been reported by countries and territories via WAHIS for 2025.

This figure shows that of the 126 countries and territories that shared information via WAHIS in 2025, 15% reported no surveillance for any of the 10 diseases of crustaceans, 35% reported surveillance for some of the listed diseases of crustaceans, and 50% reported surveillance for all listed diseases of crustaceans.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) published figures for crustacean production in 2023 for 171 countries and territories. Based on available data, China (People’s Rep. of) is the largest producer (over 9 million tonnes), followed by Ecuador, India, Indonesia and Vietnam (over 1 million tonnes), then several countries and territories in Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Middle East. The countries and territories in the Middle East and Africa have lower production (see **Figure 2**).

Disparities in production must be considered when interpreting animal disease events reported to WOA. High-production countries with limited or no surveillance represent major information gaps: they contribute substantially to global crustacean production but provide little to no disease data, which may lead to an underestimation of global disease occurrence. Conversely, countries and territories with strong surveillance systems but lower production volumes may appear to have disproportionately higher numbers of reported cases.

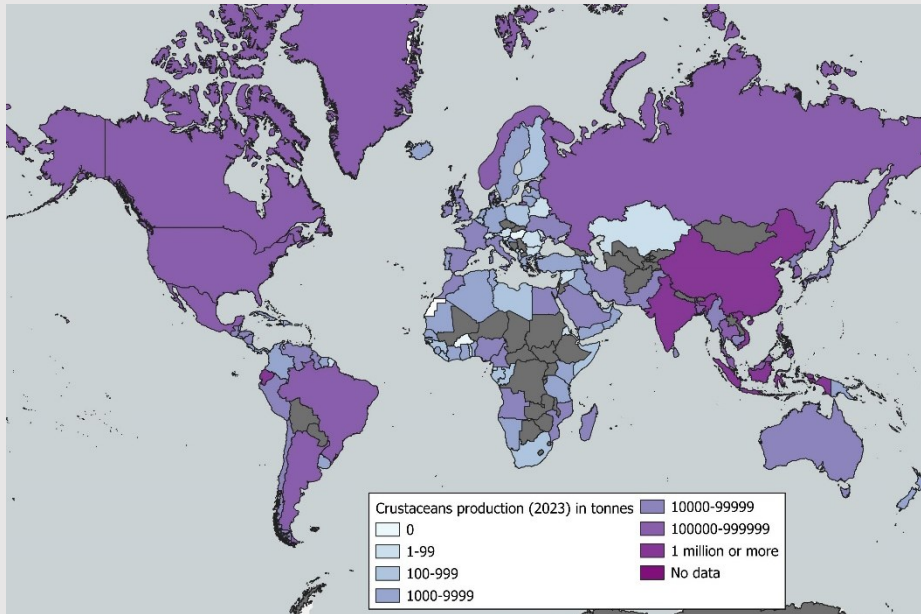


Figure 2. Production. Based on FAO figures for 2023 for crustaceans (Source: [https://www.fao.org/fishery/statistics-query/en/global\\_production/global\\_production\\_quantity](https://www.fao.org/fishery/statistics-query/en/global_production/global_production_quantity)).

## Disease situation in the past 5 years (2021-2025)

This section presents disease situations in crustaceans that have been reported by countries and territories to WOA through WAHIS. This reporting is a requirement for WOA Members and covers listed diseases, for which information on presence or absence must be reported through six-monthly reports. Members are also requested to inform WOA if the epidemiological situation of the disease is unknown.

Although these data may have some bias, either because they are incomplete or because their granularity varies (depending on the reporting country or territory), they represent the reference data source on animal health reported by Veterinary Authorities, using a standard template and a standard data format.

These maps show the situation reported for the 10 listed diseases of crustaceans in the past five years.

**“Presence or suspicion” is shown in red.**

**“Absence with surveillance activities” is shown in green.**

“Absence with no surveillance activities” is shown in light grey.

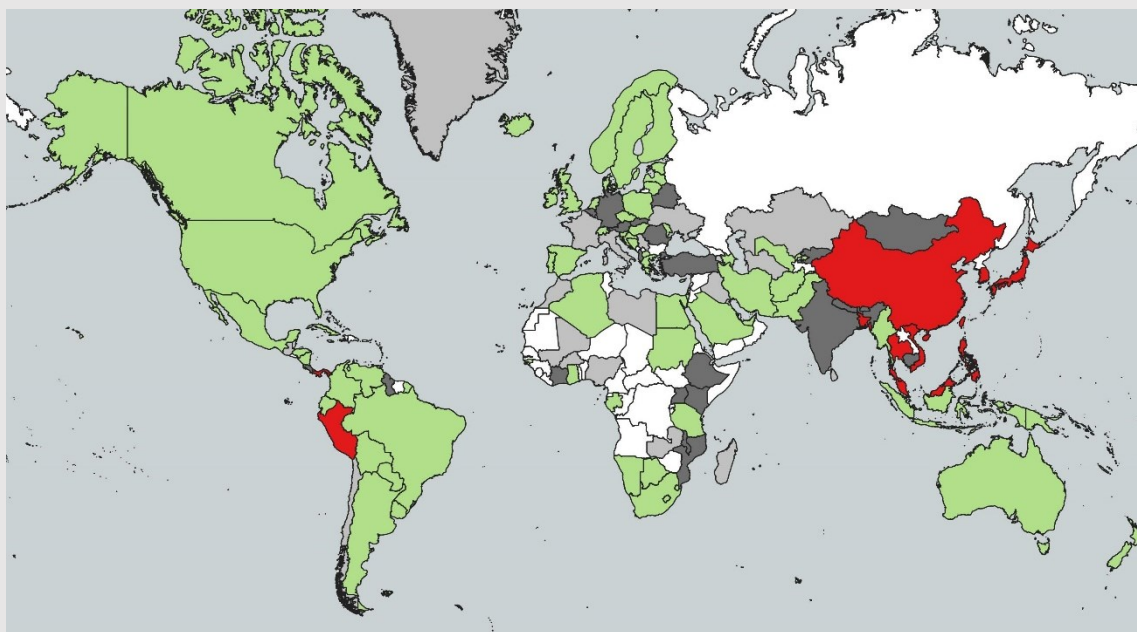
“No information” is shown in dark grey.

“No report submitted” to WOA is shown in white.

General information on each disease is available in the [WOAH Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals](#).

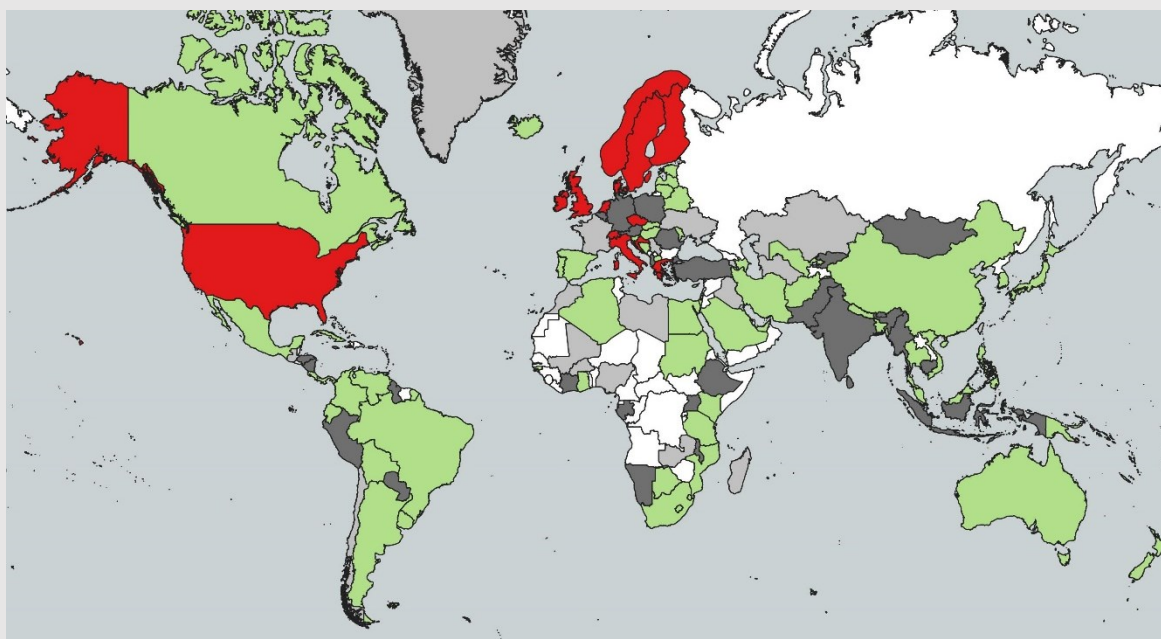
## Acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease

During the past five years, it has been reported as present or suspected (see areas in red) in 11 countries or territories in Asia and Pacific, and the Americas (Bangladesh, China (People's Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Malaysia, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam).



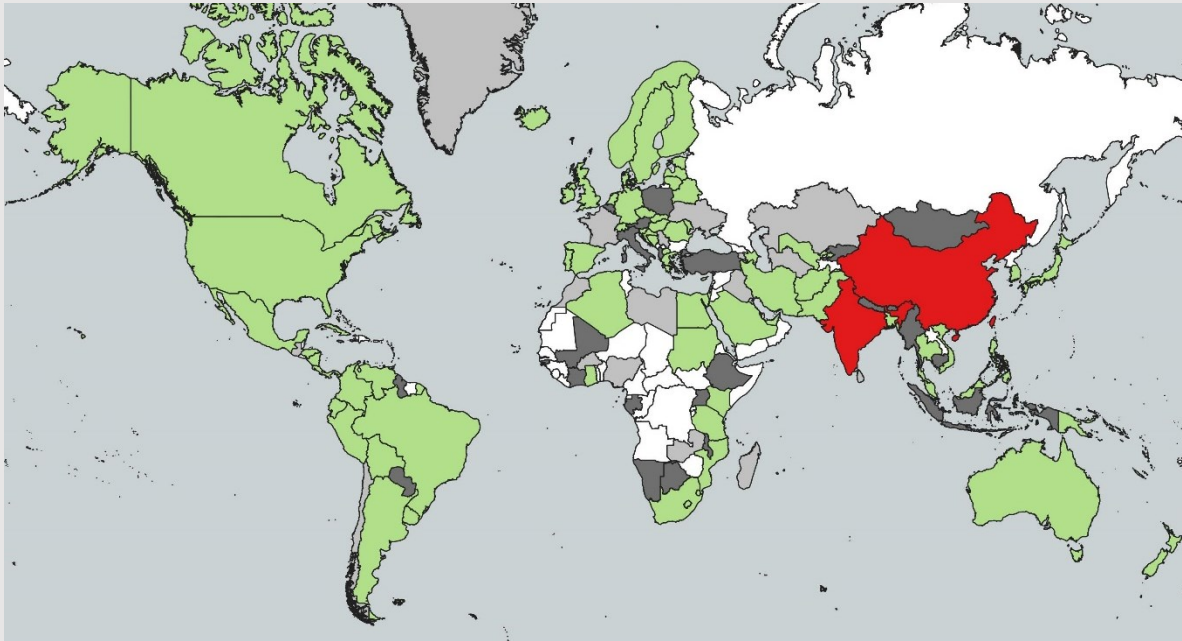
## Infection with *Aphanomyces astaci* (crayfish plague)

During the past five years, it has been reported as present or suspected (see areas in red) in 13 countries or territories (Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States of America).



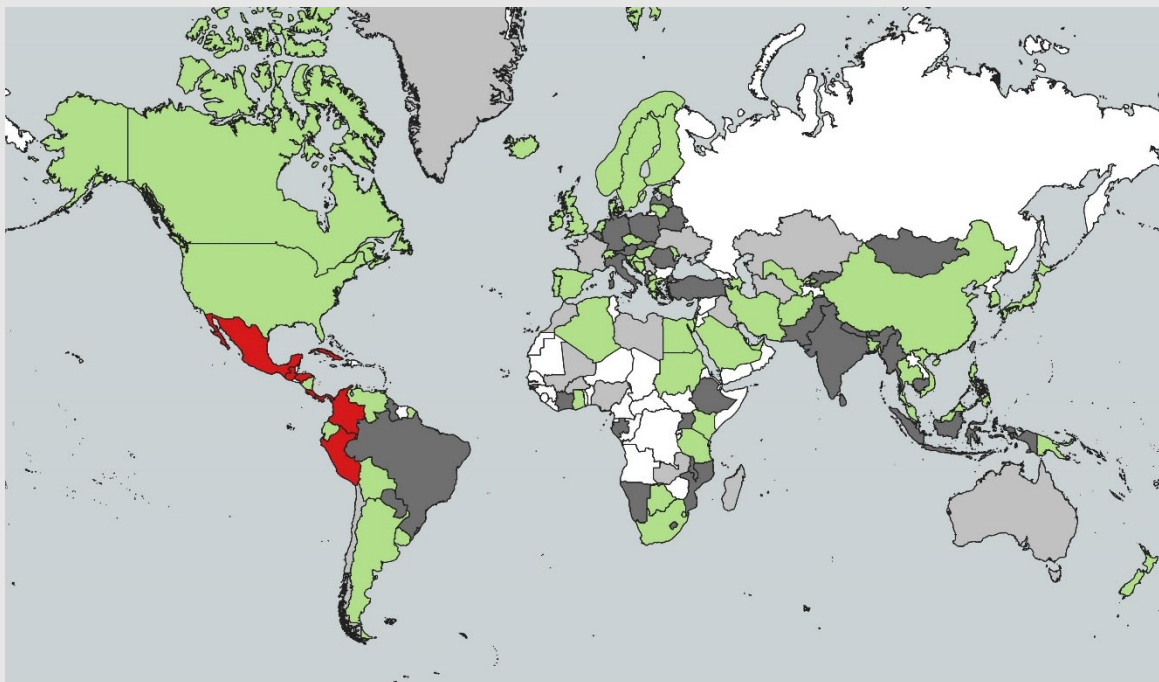
## Infection with decapod iridescent virus 1

During the past five years, it has been reported as present or suspected (see areas in red) in 3 countries or territories in Asia and the Pacific (China (People's Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, India).



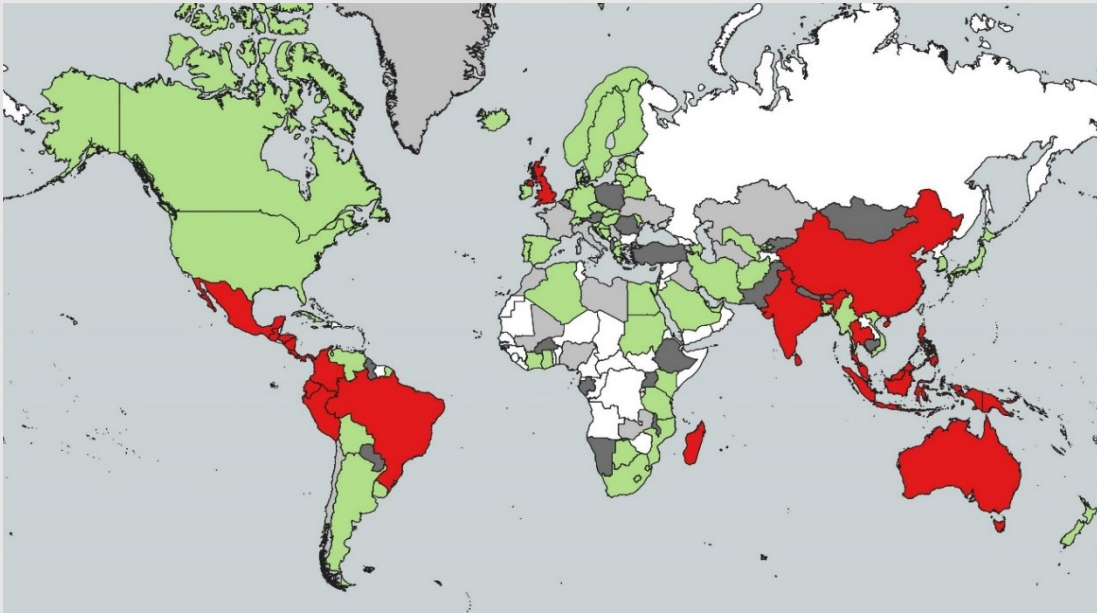
## Infection with *Hepatobacter penaei* (necrotising hepatopancreatitis)

During the past five years, it has been reported as present or suspected (see areas in red) in 8 countries or territories in the Americas (Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru).



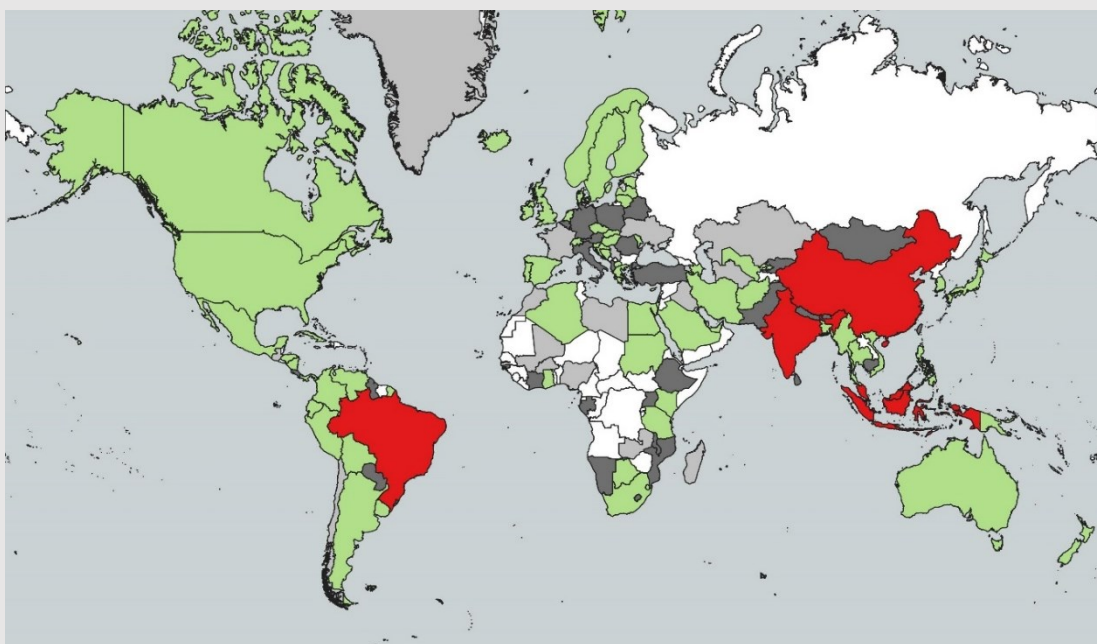
## Infection with infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis virus

During the past five years, it has been reported as present or suspected (see areas in red) in 21 countries or territories (Australia, Brazil, China (People's Rep. of), Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Kingdom).



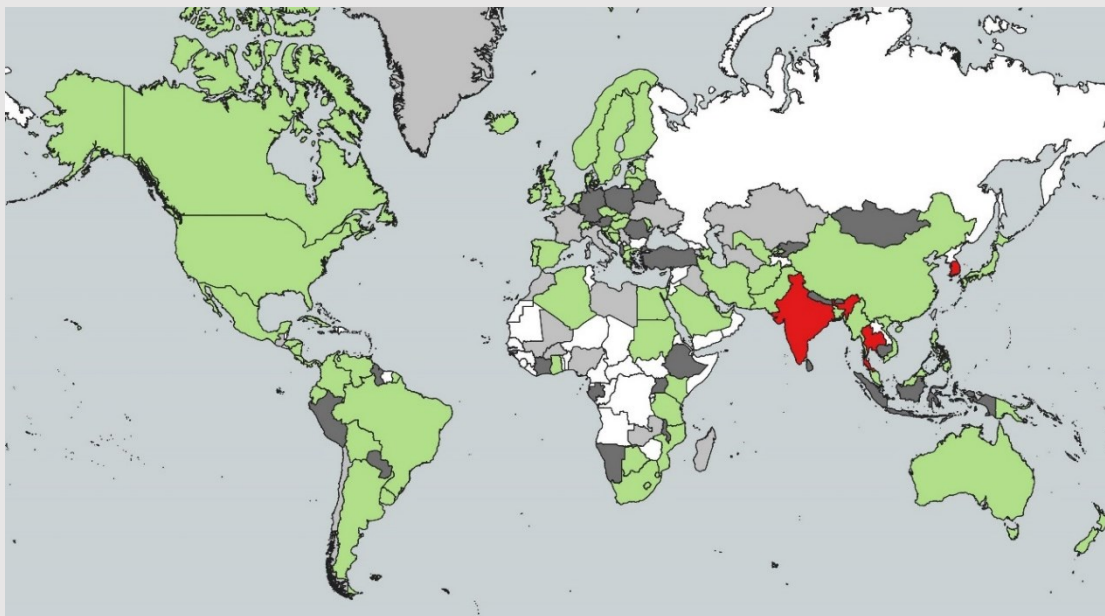
## Infection with infectious myonecrosis virus

During the past five years, it has been reported as present or suspected (see areas in red) in 5 countries or territories in Asia and the Pacific, and the Americas (Brazil, China (People's Rep. of), India, Indonesia, Malaysia).



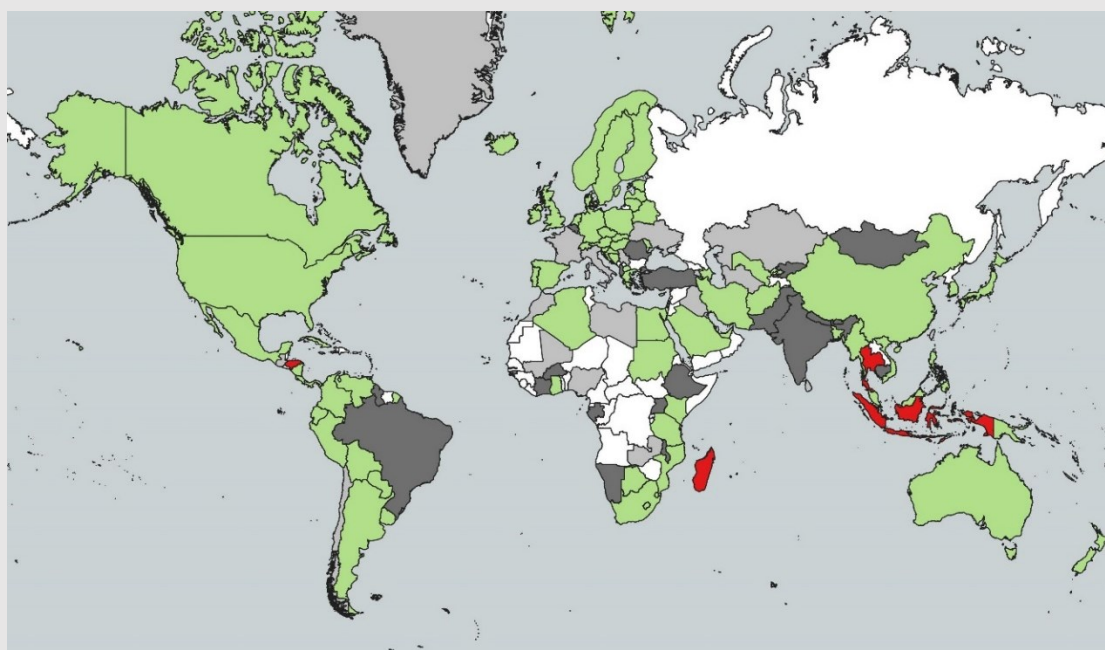
## Infection with *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* nodavirus (white tail disease)

During the past five years, it has been reported as present or suspected (see areas in red) in 3 countries or territories in Asia and the Pacific (India, Korea (Rep. of), Thailand).



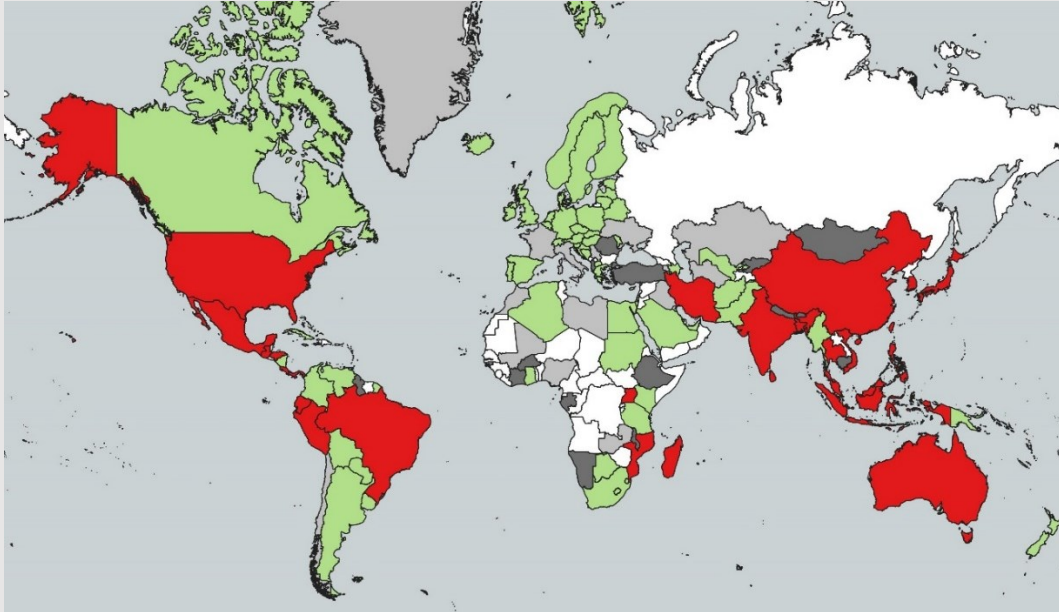
## Infection with Taura syndrome virus

During the past five years, it has been reported as present or suspected (see areas in red) in 4 countries or territories (Honduras, Indonesia, Madagascar, Thailand).



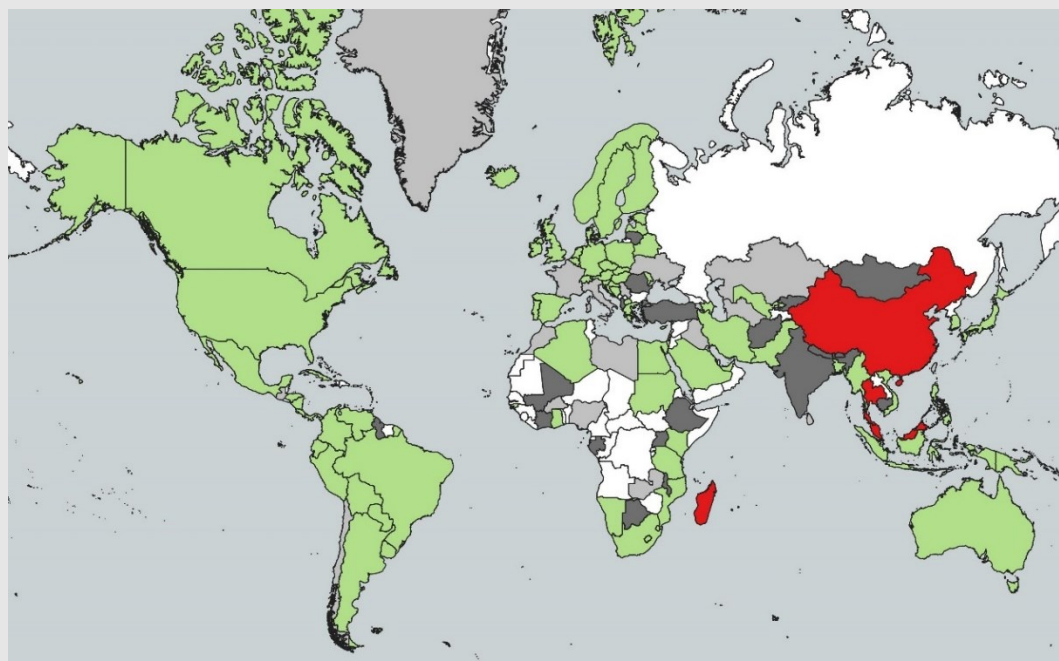
## Infection with white spot syndrome virus

During the past five years, it has been reported as present or suspected (see areas in red) in 28 countries or territories (Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, China (People's Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Mozambique, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uganda, United States of America, Vietnam).



## Infection with yellow head virus genotype 1

During the past five years, it has been reported as present or suspected (see areas in red) in 4 countries or territories (China (People's Rep. of), Madagascar, Malaysia, Thailand).



# Exceptional events reported (01/01/2024 – 31/12/2025)

This section highlights exceptional disease events in crustaceans that have been reported by countries and territories through [WAHIS](#) from January 2024 to December 2025 (which is not covered in the previous crustacean report). As noted above, this reporting is a requirement for WOA's Members and covers [listed diseases as well as emerging diseases](#), for which exceptional events must be reported through an immediate notification, followed by weekly follow-up reports until the situation is recognised as stable or resolved. Exceptional events include first occurrence, recurrences, detection of new strains, occurrence of the disease in new hosts, and unexpected changes in disease dynamics in the country. Stable situations are not covered in this section and are reported to WOA through another channel of WAHIS.

## New events by world region (reported through immediate notifications)

### Asia and the Pacific

Acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease in farmed Whiteleg shrimp (*Penaeus vannamei*):

- The recurrence of the disease started in Korea (Rep. of) (Jeollanam-do) on 27 May 2024 and 1 September 2025.

Infection with infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis virus in farmed Whiteleg shrimp (*Penaeus vannamei*):

- The recurrence of the disease started in Indonesia (Lampung) on 22 August 2024.

Infection with infectious myonecrosis virus in farmed Whiteleg shrimp (*Penaeus vannamei*):

- The first occurrence in a zone started in Malaysia (Johor) on 31 July 2024.
- The recurrence of the disease started in Malaysia (Selangor) on 22 May 2025.
- The recurrence of the disease started in Indonesia (Jawa Tengah) on 8 September 2025.

Infection with Taura syndrome virus in farmed Whiteleg shrimp (*Penaeus vannamei*):

- The recurrence of the disease started in Indonesia (Lampung) on 8 August 2024.

Infection with white spot syndrome virus in wild Eastern school shrimp (*Metapenaeus macleay*):

- The first occurrence in a zone started in Australia (Australian Exclusive Economic Zone) on 3 May 2024.
- The recurrence of the disease started in Australia (Australian Exclusive Economic Zone) on 24 March 2025.
- 

Infection with white spot syndrome virus in farmed Whiteleg shrimp (*Penaeus vannamei*):

- The recurrence of the disease started in Indonesia (Jawa Tengah) on 2 September 2025.

Infection with yellow head virus genotype 1 in farmed Giant tiger prawn (*Penaeus monodon*):

- The first occurrence in a country started in Malaysia (Selangor) on 22 May 2025.

### Africa, Americas, Europe and Middle East

No new events reported.

## On-going events for which there were new reported outbreaks, by world region (reported through follow-up reports)

### Africa, Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Middle East

No new outbreaks reported in the on-going events, or no on-going events.

## New outbreaks

During the period covered by this report, a total of 11 new outbreaks were reported by Australia, Indonesia, Korea (Rep. of) and Malaysia. Spatial details are presented in Figure 3.



Figure 3. Distribution of new outbreaks, by disease, 2024-2025

## Events reported during the period but that started before the period of interest (reported through immediate notifications)

### Europe

Infection with *Aphanomyces astaci* (crayfish plague) in wild European crayfish (*Astacus astacus*):

- The first occurrence in the country started in Croatia (Licko-Senjaska) on 3 June 2022

### Asia and the Pacific

Infection with white spot syndrome virus in wild Whiteleg shrimp (*Penaeus vannamei*):

- The recurrence of the disease started in Malaysia (Johor, Pahang, Trengganu, Sarawak) on 1 March 2023

### Africa, Americas and Middle East

No events reported.

# Self-declared Disease Status (01/01/2024 – 31/12/2025)

In accordance with the provisions of the [Aquatic Animal Health Code \(Aquatic Code\)](#), Members may wish to self-declare the freedom of their country, zone or compartment from a disease. A Member wishing to publish a self-declaration for disease-freedom, should provide the relevant documented evidence of compliance with the provisions of the relevant chapters of the *Aquatic Code*. The countries and territories that published a self-declaration of crustacean disease freedom during the period of interest are as follows:

Member	Self-declared freedom from	Publication date	Country/zone/compartment
Colombia	Infection with yellow head virus genotype 1	13 May 2024	Zone
Colombia	Infection with white spot syndrome virus	13 May 2024	Zone
Peru	Infection with yellow head virus genotype 1	10 July 2024	Country
Peru	Infection with Taura syndrome virus	10 July 2024	Country
Peru	Infection with infectious myonecrosis virus	10 July 2024	Country
Peru	Infection with decapod iridescent virus 1	10 July 2024	Country
Korea (Rep. of)	Infection with yellow head virus genotype 1	17 June 2024	Country
New Caledonia	Infection with Taura syndrome virus	26 September 2024	Country
New Caledonia	Infection with infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis	26 September 2024	Country

## Antimicrobial use in aquatic animals

In the past decades, a range of pathogens have been reported to develop resistance to antimicrobials. To make sure these key medicines remain efficient, WOAAH is gathering data on antimicrobial use in animals worldwide. This information is an essential asset to reduce overuse and misuse of antimicrobials and to curb the spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

Since 2015, WOAAH has taken the lead to build a global database on antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals collecting data from its Members. These data are reported through the [ANIMUSE Global Database](#).

Based on the data collected, WOAAH produces annual reports on antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals. As presented in the [9<sup>th</sup> Annual Report on Antimicrobial Agents Intended for Use in Animals](#), the analysis of antimicrobial agents normalised by estimated animal biomass was performed on data for 2022 provided by 107 Members. Data for aquatic species were provided by 17 participants, representing 64% of global aquaculture production. These 17 participants WOAAH

estimated antimicrobial use in aquatic food-producing animals at 21 mg per kg of animal biomass, which is considerably lower than in terrestrial species. Among the antimicrobial classes, amphenicols (6.74mg/kg), tetracyclines (6.43mg/kg), and fluoroquinolones (3.89mg/kg) were identified as the three most used in aquatic animals.

WOAH is working to raise awareness on the importance of collecting and sharing antimicrobial use data, and to understand the barriers to collecting and reporting this information. In September 2026, WOAHA will launch Reporting Option 4 within [ANIMUSE](#) to start collecting data by animal species; this will help WOAHA to further support its Members in building capacity and increasing reporting for better stewardship of antimicrobials globally. Antimicrobial use in aquaculture could have influence on AMR emergence, therefore it is critical to monitor it.