

THE GLOBAL HEALTH ISSUES – CRUSTACEANS

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A discussion of the global status of shrimp diseases might best begin with a review of the diseases currently listed by the World Animal Health Organisation (the OIE), those diseases which were recently removed from the list, and those recently considered for listing. The OIE has, among its many responsibilities, the listing of diseases (terrestrial and aquatic) which may pose risks of being transferred to new regions or countries as a consequence of global trade. Because of their economic importance and their potential for transfer with live or dead crustacean commodities, the OIE has eight crustacean diseases listed in the 13th edition (2010) of the *Aquatic Code (OIE Aquatic Code)*. Of the eight listed crustacean diseases, six are diseases of penaeid shrimp (one bacterial disease and five diseases of viral etiology), the seventh is a viral disease of the freshwater prawn, *Macrobrachium rosenbergii*, and the eighth disease is caused by infection by a phycomycetous fungus in freshwater crayfish. Two diseases were listed by the OIE as 'under study' in the 12th edition (2009) of the *OIE Aquatic Code*. One of the two, necrotising hepatopancreatitis (NHP), was listed in 2010, while the other, a disease of farmed spiny lobsters (*Panulirus* spp.) due to infection by a rickettsial-like bacterium, was removed from 'under study' status and not listed. OIE listing gives diseases global recognition, especially in relation to trade in crustacean commodities (i.e. live crustaceans or commodity products made from hosts infected with listed disease agents). However, there are also emerging diseases that are not listed by OIE that are important regionally, and in some cases globally, to the shrimp farming industry. Included in this review are the current OIE listed diseases of crustacea, especially of the penaeid shrimp, and several examples of emerging diseases that are of potential importance globally.

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