



# الدليل الوطني لاستيراد الأحياء المائية لغرض الاستزراع المائي National Aquaculture Import Manual





Kingdom of Saudi Arabia      المملكة العربية السعودية



**Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture**

**General Directorate of Fisheries**

**Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

## **National Aquaculture Import Manual**

The descriptive manual of importing live fish for aquaculture purpose in the

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



**Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

The General Directorate of Fisheries Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture hereby declares that:

- This manual stipulates the official regulation and procedures concerned with live fish import for aquaculture purpose in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- The General Directorate of Fisheries, Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture (GDF-MEWA) shall be the Competent Authority in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in dealing with all matters related to live fish imports to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The General Directorate of Fisheries hereby approves the stated contents of ‘National Aquaculture Import Manual’ to be followed in all matters related to the import of live fish.

Any interim decision(s) taken by concerned government agencies shall be incorporated in the manual during subsequent revisions.

**Director General – General Directorate of Fisheries**  
Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture





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## 1. Introduction

The current progress and promising future of aquaculture sector in the Kingdom is based upon the development of biosecurity plan that aim to prevent the entrance of disease causing agents. Therefore, this descriptive manual is prepared to cover lists of aquatic animal diseases that should be investigated in aquatic animals imported to Saudi Arabia for aquaculture purposes. Disease lists include OIE listed diseases, negatively affect the health status of cultured fish species, in addition to diseases recognized by General Directorate of Fisheries, Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture "GDF-MEWA". This manual is subjecting to periodic updating as required.

The manual also includes a list of different fish suppliers as well as reference laboratories for diseases diagnosis. For the particular case of suppliers of Live Aquatic Animals, the list considers the most reputable source at this time. Nevertheless, suppliers can be added or removed according to formal visits by General Directorate of Fisheries performed in order to verify their system conditions in different countries.

This manual is based on the provisions of Chapter III (General Requirements) paragraph (3) on the conditions of importation of aquatic consignment, from the regulation of quality control of imported aquaculture in Saudi Arabia, adopted by His Excellency the Minister of Agriculture on 8/11/1430 AH, and circulated to all Relevant authorities under Circular No. 35657 dated 8/2 /1431H. The detailed guide to controls on the importation of aquaculture for aquaculture to Saudi Arabia includes the following basic aspects:

## 2. Approval of Live Aquaculture Species for Importation

Live aquatic species currently approved for importation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for aquaculture purposes are stated below. However, if the importer likes to import a live aquaculture species not stated in the list, he has to submit a request and all relevant documents to General Directorate of Fisheries MEWA, with the following details:-

- The imported live aquaculture species is/are already present in the Red Sea or Arabian Gulf or fresh waters in the Kingdom.
- Can be raised with feasible profiles of its aquaculture.



- The importer should provide the Ministry with all documents related to the imported live aquaculture species.

### 3. Aquaculture species currently approved for importation:

#### A. Fish Species

- i. Asian Seabass (*Lates calcarifer*)
- ii. European Seabass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*)
- iii. Mediterranean / European Seabream (*Sparus aurata*)
- iv. Amberjack (*Seriola* Spp.)
  - a. Amberjack (*Seriola dumerili*)
  - b. Amberjack (*Seriola lalandi*)
- v. Silver seabream (*Sparidentex hasta*)
- vi. Tilapia (*Oreochromis* spp)
- vii. Grouper (*Epinephelus* *Coioides*)
- viii. Carp (*Cyprinus Carpio*)

#### B. Shrimp Species

1. Whiteleg shrimp (*Penaeus vannamei*)

### 4. Regulations to import Live Fish Species:

Importation of live fish species to the Kingdom is controlled officially by the regulations issued by the General Directorate of Fisheries, Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture. The General Directorate of Fisheries, MEWA will follow up, investigate and perform;

- 1) Field visits to the importing companies certified in this manual by a technical team from GDF-MEWA and Saudi Aquaculture Society "SAS", to verify the technical capabilities of these companies.
- 2) In case, the required importing company is not listed in this manual, special technical visit by GDF-MEWA & SAS teams, will be carried out to evaluate the technical capabilities of this company.



- 3) MEWA will define the laboratories in the exporting countries for live aquaculture species. However, the importer should agree with an international agency to process the samples taken, investigations, documents and other requirements related to the import. The list of MEWA defined international reference laboratories is given in the following table;

Company	Country	Webpage	Phone	Contact
SGS	<b>Head Office, Switzerland</b> Middle East Regional Office: Dubai, UAE	<a href="http://www.sgs.com">www.sgs.com</a>	Phone: +971 48832222 Mobile: +971 50 65 292 69 Fax: +971 48831161	Dr. Mansoor Shahul Director –SGS Arabian Peninsula Email: <a href="mailto:Shahul.Mansoor@sgs.com">Shahul.Mansoor@sgs.com</a>
	Regional Office: Dammam & Jeddah, Saudi Arabia	<a href="http://www.sgs-middle-east.com">www.sgs-middle-east.com</a>	Mobile : 054 0638 999	Mr. Sree Kumar Business Coordinator, KSA
Lloyds	Head Office – UK Regional office: Jeddah, KSA	<a href="http://www.lr.org">www.lr.org</a>	T: +966 (0)2 653 3628 / 3165 F: +966 (0)2 651 5334 Mobile : 050 0027 863	Mr. Raid Al Dabbas Manager KSA Email : <a href="mailto:jeddah@lr.org">jeddah@lr.org</a>
			Mobile : 050 3835 806	Mr, Mohammed Naem Senior Lead Assessor

- 4) The importing company in the Kingdom should prepare a separate quarantine house in accordance with the international standards to ensure the safety of the imported aquaculture species. The quarantine house should have :-

- ✓ A separate building with separate entry and exit.
- ✓ Change room for workers/visitors
- ✓ Should contain a sterilization unit to treat effluent water to be treated well before going to the sea to ensure that it is free from all known pathogens.
- ✓ Should be of suitable size to maintain fish/shrimp for at least 1 month.
- ✓ Should have an approval certificate from the General Directorate of Fisheries, MEWA.



- 5) Samples should be taken from imported fish in the quarantine division as well as from the port of entry and sent to national reference lab and international reference lab. The results of laboratory reference tests should be negative for the OIE lists of diseases as well as those issued by the General Directorate of Fisheries at the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture.
- 6) After ensuring the safety of the imported live fish, the General Directorate of Fisheries permits the transfer of fish to rearing sections in the farm.
- 7) In case the imported live fish showed any epidemic disease, all required steps are taken by the General Directorate of Fisheries, to hygienically eradicate this fish/shrimp and taking necessary actions to control the problem.

## 5. Lists of Aquatic Diseases

This section includes lists of aquatic diseases that should be investigated in live fish imported to Saudi Arabia for aquaculture purposes. Disease lists includes OIE listed diseases, in addition to diseases recognized by General Directorate of Fisheries, MEWA, affecting the health status of cultured aquaculture species. These lists are subjecting to periodic updating.

### 1. Diseases of Asian Seabass (*Lates calcarifer*)

S. No	Disease – Causative pathogen	Listed by
1	Red seabream iridoviral disease - Iridovirus	OIE
2	Epizootic ulcerative syndrome – <i>Aphanomyces invadens</i>	OIE
3	Viral encephalopathy and retinopathy (VER) or Viral nervous necrosis (VNN) - Nodavirus	MEWA
4	Bacterial gill disease (BGD) –Flexibacter	MEWA
5	Streptococcosis – <i>Streptococcus iniae</i>	MEWA
6	Vibriosis – Vibrio spp.	MEWA

### 2. Diseases of European Seabass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*)

S. No	Disease – Causative pathogen	Listed by
1	Red Seabream Iridoviral Disease - Iridovirus	OIE
2	Epizootic ulcerative syndrome – <i>Aphanomyces invadens</i>	OIE
3	Viral encephalopathy and retinopathy (VER) or Viral nervous necrosis (VNN) - Nodavirus	MEWA
4	Bacterial gill disease (BGD) –Flexibacter	MEWA
5	Streptococcosis – <i>Streptococcus iniae</i>	MEWA
6	Vibriosis – Vibrio spp.	MEWA

### 3. Diseases of Mediterranean / European Seabream (*Sparus aurata*)

S. No	Disease – Causative pathogen	Listed by
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1	Red Seabream Iridoviral Disease - Iridovirus	OIE
2	Viral encephalopathy and retinopathy (VER) or Viral nervous necrosis (VNN) - Nodavirus	MEWA
3	Streptococciosis – <i>Streptococcus iniae</i>	MEWA
4	Winter Disease Syndrome (WDS) – <i>Pseudomonas anguilliseptica</i>	MEWA
5	Vibriosis – <i>Vibrio</i> spp.	MEWA

#### 4. Diseases of Amberjack (*Seriola Dumerili*)

S. No	Disease – Causative pathogen	Listed by
1	Iridovirus Infection	OIE
2	Pancreatic hepatic necrosis – Yellowtail Ascite Virus (YAV)	OIE
3	Viral nervous necrosis (VNN)	MEWA
4	Vibriosis – <i>Vibrio anguillarum</i>	MEWA
5	Streptococciosis – <i>Streptococcus iniae, agalactiae, parauberis</i>	MEWA
6	Nocardia – <i>Nocardia kampachi</i>	MEWA
7	Benedeniaseriolae – parasite in skin	MEWA
8	Ichtyosporidium sp. – parasite in skin	MEWA
9	Axine heterocerca – parasite in gill	MEWA
10	<i>Cryptocaryon irritans</i> – parasite in gill	MEWA
11	Zeuxaptaseriolae – parasite in gill	MEWA

#### 5. Diseases of Silver seabream (Sparidentex hasta)

S. No	Disease – Causative pathogen	Listed by
1	Red Seabream Iridoviral Disease - Iridovirus	OIE
2	Viral encephalopathy and retinopathy (VER) or Viral nervous necrosis (VNN) - Nodavirus	MEWA
3	Streptococciosis – <i>Streptococcus iniae</i>	MEWA
4	Winter Disease Syndrome (WDS) – <i>Pseudomonas anguilliseptica</i>	MEWA
5	Vibriosis – <i>Vibrio</i> spp.	MEWA
6	<i>Streptococcus agalactiae</i>	MEWA

#### 6. Diseases of Tilapia (*Oreochromis* spp.)

S. No	Disease – Causative pathogen	Listed by
1	Iridovirus	OIE
2	Viral nervous necrosis (VNN)	MEWA
3	Tilapia Lake Virus (TLV)	MEWA
4	Streptococciosis – <i>Streptococcus iniae, agalactiae, parauberis</i>	MEWA
5	Vibriosis – <i>Vibrio</i> spp.	MEWA
6	Bacterial gill disease (BGD) –Flexibacter	MEWA
7	Winter Disease Syndrome (WDS) – <i>Pseudomonas anguilliseptica</i>	MEWA
8	Ichtyosporidium sp. – parasite in skin	MEWA
9	<i>Cryptocaryon irritans</i> – parasite in gill	MEWA



**7. Diseases of Grouper (*Epinephelus coioides*)**

S. No	Disease – Causative pathogen	Listed by
1	Red Seabream Iridoviral Disease - Iridovirus	OIE
2	Epizootic ulcerative syndrome – <i>Aphanomyces invadens</i>	OIE
3	Viral encephalopathy and retinopathy (VER) or Viral nervous necrosis (VNN) - Nodavirus	MEWA
4	Bacterial gill disease (BGD) –Flexibacter	MEWA
5	Streptococcosis – <i>Streptococcus iniae</i>	MEWA
6	Vibriosis – <i>Vibrio</i> spp.	MEWA

**8. Diseases of Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*)**

S. No	Disease – Causative pathogen	Listed by
1	Koi herpes virus	OIE
2	Carp pox virus	OIE
3	Spring viremia of carp	OIE
4	Iridovirus	OIE
5	Viral nervous necrosis (VNN)	MEWA
6	Viral hemorrhagic septicemia	MEWA
7	Bacterial hemorrhagic septicemia	MEWA
8	Vibriosis – <i>Vibrio</i> spp.	MEWA
9	Streptococcosis – <i>Streptococcus iniae</i>	MEWA
10	Bacterial gill disease (BGD) –Flexibacter	MEWA
11	Ichtyosporidium sp. – skin parasite	MEWA
12	<i>Cryptocaryon irritans</i> – gills parasite	MEWA

**9. Diseases of Whiteleg Shrimp (*Penaeus vannamei*)**

S. No	Disease – Causative pathogen	Listed by
1	Acute Hepatopancreatic Necrosis Disease, AHPND / EMS	OIE
2	White Spot Syndrome Virus, WSSV	OIE
3	Taura Syndrome Virus, TSV	OIE
4	Yellow head Disease, YHD	OIE
5	Infectious Myonecrosis Virus, IMNV	OIE
6	Infectious Hypodermal and Haematopoietic Necrosis Virus, IHHNV	OIE
7	Necrotising Hepatopancreatitis, NHP	OIE
8	Hepatopancreatic Parvo Virus, HPV	MEWA
9	Baculovirus Penaei, BP	MEWA
10	Vibriosis	MEWA
11	Microsporidia spp., Enterocytozoon Hepatopenaei, EHP	MEWA



## 6. Lists of Companies Approved to Export Live Fish and Shrimp to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

### 1- Companies Approved to Export Asian Seabass (*Lates calcarifer*)

Company	Country of origin	Address – Tel.	Website
Mainstream Aquaculture	Australia	61-3-9734-1912 Paul Harrison	<a href="http://www.mainaquaculture.com">www.mainaquaculture.com</a>
Marine Life Aquaculture	Singapore	65 - 9151 2221 Frank Tan franktan@marinelife-aquaculture.com	<a href="http://www.marinelife-aquaculture.com">www.marinelife-aquaculture.com</a>
Australian Centre for Applied Aquaculture Research	Australia	61-8-9239-8030 Greg Jenkins greg.jenkins@challenger.wa.edu.au	<a href="http://www.challenger.wa.edu.au">www.challenger.wa.edu.au</a>
Asia Tropic Zone Co. Ltd	Thailand	66 - 818692411 info@asiatropic.com	<a href="http://www.asiatropic.com">www.asiatropic.com</a>
Sask International Seafood	Australia	61(0) 415-960-349 Steven Kons Sk@sask.com.au	<a href="http://www.sask.com.au">www.sask.com.au</a>

### 2- Companies Approved to Export European Seabass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*)

Company	Country of origin	Address – Tel.	Website
Sagro Aquaculture Ltd.	Cyprus	Anyiou Andreou Street Postal Code 3508, Limassol 26 - 999220296	<a href="http://www.sagro.com.cy">www.sagro.com.cy</a>

### 3- Companies Approved to Export Mediterranean/European Seabream (*Sparus aurata*)

Company	Country of Origin	Address – Tel.	Website
Selonda Aquaculture SA	Greece	Leoforos Kifisis 56 151 25 Marousi, Athens, Greece Tel.: +30 210 37 24 900 Fax: +30 210 37 24 909	<a href="http://www.selonda.com">www.selonda.com</a>
Nireus	Greece	30 - 210 66 98 145	<a href="http://www.nireus.com">www.nireus.com</a>
Kilic Aquaculture	Turkey	90 - 252 559 0283	<a href="http://www.kilicdeniz.com.tr">www.kilicdeniz.com.tr</a>
Sagro Aquaculture Ltd.	Cyprus	26 – 999220296 Anyiou Andreou Street Postal Code 3508, Limassol	--
Ferme Marine de Douhet	France	33 (0)5 46 76 58 42	<a href="http://www.douhet.com">www.douhet.com</a>
Andromeda	Greece	30 - 210 664 0963-7	<a href="http://www.adromedagroup.eu">www.adromedagroup.eu</a>



#### 4- Companies Approved to Export Amberjack (*Seriola Dumerili and Seriola lalandi*)

Company	Country of Origin	Address – Tel.	Website
Futuna Blue	Spain	34 - 956 560 657	<a href="http://www.futunablue.com">www.futunablue.com</a>
Universidad de las Palmas Gran Canaria	Spain	34 - 928 132 900	<a href="http://www.giaqua.org">www.giaqua.org</a>
University of Miami	USA	786-553-5557 Daniel Benetti <a href="mailto:dbenetti@rsmas.miami.edu">dbenetti@rsmas.miami.edu</a>	<a href="http://www.rsmas.miami.edu">www.rsmas.miami.edu</a>
Acuicola del Norte S.A Hatchery “punta sin Nombre”	Chile	+56 9 6308 3413 Juan Enrique Gaete L. <a href="mailto:Jeg@acuinor.cl">Jeg@acuinor.cl</a>	<a href="http://www.acuinor.cl">www.acuinor.cl</a>

#### 5- Companies Approved to Export Silver seabream (*Sparidentex hasta*)

Company	Country of Origin	Address – Tel.	Website
Kuwait Foundation for Advancement of Science (KFAS)e	Kuwait	+965 2227 8100	<a href="http://www.kfas.org">www.kfas.org</a>
National Aquaculture Centre	Bahrain	+97336088288	--

#### 6- Companies Approved to Export Tilapia (*Oreochromis spp.*)

Company	Country of Origin	Address – Tel.	Website
Asia Tropic Zone Co. Ltd	Thailand	66 - 818692411	<a href="http://www.asiatropic.com">www.asiatropic.com</a>
Aquasafralnc	USA	941-744-9698 Mr. Mike Picchietti <a href="mailto:picchietti@aol.com">picchietti@aol.com</a>	<a href="http://www.tilapiaseed.com">www.tilapiaseed.com</a>
White Brook Tilapia Farm	USA	816-866-1172 <a href="mailto:info@tilapiasource.com">info@tilapiasource.com</a>	<a href="http://www.tilapiasource.com">www.tilapiasource.com</a>
Genomar As	Norway	47-22341000	<a href="http://www.genomar.com">www.genomar.com</a>
World Fish	Malaysia	(+60-4) 626 1606 <a href="mailto:worldfishcenter@cgiar.org">worldfishcenter@cgiar.org</a>	<a href="http://www.worldfishcenter.org">www.worldfishcenter.org</a>
Til-Aqua International	Netherlands	+31493470225 <a href="mailto:info@til-aqua.com">info@til-aqua.com</a>	<a href="http://www.til-aqua.com">www.til-aqua.com</a>



**7- Companies Approved to Export Grouper (*Epinephelus coioides*)**

Company	Country of origin	Address – Tel.	Website
National Aquaculture Centre	Bahrain	+97336088288	--

**8- Companies Approved to Export Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*)**

Company	Country of origin	Address – Tel.	Website
Hassan Alanatoor Fish Farm	Jordan	+962795564338	--

**9- Companies Approved to Export Whiteleg Shrimp (*Penaeus vannamei*)**

Company	Country of origin	Address-Tel.	Website
Charoen Pokphand Foods PCL	Thailand	Tel: +66 (0) 2766 8000 Fax: +66 (0) 2766 8000 C.P. Tower, 313 Silom Road, Bangrak, Bangkok 10500 Thailand <a href="mailto:csoffice@cpf.co.th">csoffice@cpf.co.th</a>	<a href="http://www.cpfworldwide.com">www.cpfworldwide.com</a>
Promarisco S.A	Ecuador	(5934) 801910-801850 Fax: (5934) 800052 – 801167 Km. 6.5 Via Duran Tambo Guayaquil	<a href="http://www.promarisco.com">www.promarisco.com</a>



## 7. List of Diagnostic Reference Laboratories

### 1- Reference Laboratories approved by “OIE” for diagnosing fish diseases

#### a. Red Seabream Iridoviral Disease – Iridovirus

Dr K. Nakajim  
 National Research Institute of Fisheries Science, Fisheries Research Agency,  
 Fukuura 2-12-4, Kanagawa-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa 236-8048,  
 JAPAN  
 Tel.: (81.45) 788.76.15, Fax: (81.45) 788.50.01  
 E-mail: [RSIV-lab@fra.affrc.go.jp](mailto:RSIV-lab@fra.affrc.go.jp)

#### b. Epizootic ulcerative syndrome – *Aphanomyces invadens*

Dr S. Kanchanakhan  
 Aquatic Animal Health Research Institute (AAHRI), Inland Fisheries research and  
 Development Bureau, Department of Fisheries, Paholyothin Road,  
 Jatujak, Bangkok 10900,  
 THAILAND  
 Tel.: (66.2) 579.41.22, Fax: (66.2) 561.39.93  
 E-mail: [sudat@fisheries.go.th](mailto:sudat@fisheries.go.th); [kanchanakhan@yahoo.com](mailto:kanchanakhan@yahoo.com)

#### c. Viral encephalopathy and retinopathy (VER)

Dr G. Bovo  
 Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie, Dipartimento di Igiene e Patologia, Via Romea 14/A, 35020 Legnaro PD,  
 ITALY

#### d. Diagnosis of viral diseases of shrimp

Dr. Kathy Tang Nelson & Dr. Luis Fernando Aranguren Caro  
 Aquaculture Pathology Laboratory, The University of Arizona, 1041 E. Lowell St. bldg. 88. Rm 228, Tucson, AZ 85721, USA  
 Phone (520) 621-4438 & (520) 621-4899  
 e-mail: [fengjyu@email.arizona.edu](mailto:fengjyu@email.arizona.edu)  
[lifarangu@email.arizona.edu](mailto:lifarangu@email.arizona.edu)

#### e. Other laboratories:

Laboratory	Contact person	Tel.	Email
Australian Animal Health Laboratory, CSIRO–Australia	Dr A. Hyatt	61-352275000	<a href="mailto:alex.hyatt@csiro.au">alex.hyatt@csiro.au</a>
National Veterinary Institute, Technical University of Denmark (DTU) – Denmark	Dr N.J. Olesen	45-72346831	<a href="mailto:njol@vet.dtu.dk">njol@vet.dtu.dk</a>



**2- National Laboratories for diagnosing fish diseases**

- f. IDAC reference laboratories
- g. Fish health & safety lab, Fisheries Research Center, Jeddah
- h. Fish health & safety lab, Fisheries Research Center, Dammam