

CHAPTER 11.7.

INFECTION WITH *XENOHALIOTIS CALIFORNIENSIS*

Article 11.7.1.

For the purposes of the *Aquatic Code*, infection with *Xenohaliotis californiensis* means infection with *X. californiensis*.

Information on methods for *diagnosis* are provided in the *Aquatic Manual*.

Article 11.7.2.

Scope

The recommendations in this chapter apply to: black abalone (*Haliotis cracherodii*), white abalone (*Haliotis sorenseni*), red abalone (*Haliotis rufescens*), pink abalone (*Haliotis corrugata*), green abalone (*Haliotis tuberculata* and *Haliotis fulgens*), flat abalone (*Haliotis wallalensis*) and Japanese abalone (*Haliotis discus-hannai*). These recommendations also apply to any other *susceptible species* referred to in the *Aquatic Manual* when traded internationally.

Article 11.7.3.

Importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for any purpose regardless of the infection with *X. californiensis* status of the exporting country, zone or compartment

- 1) *Competent Authorities* should not require any conditions related to infection with *X. californiensis*, regardless of the infection with *X. californiensis* status of the *exporting country, zone or compartment*, when authorising the importation or transit of heat sterilised hermetically sealed abalone products (i.e. a heat treatment at 121°C for at least 3.6 minutes or any time/temperature equivalent) from the species referred to in Article 11.7.2. which are intended for any purpose and which comply with Article 5.4.1.
- 2) When authorising the importation or transit of *aquatic animals* and *aquatic animal products* of a species referred to in Article 11.7.2., other than those referred to in point 1 of Article 11.7.3., *Competent Authorities* should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 11.7.7. to 11.7.11. relevant to the infection with *X. californiensis* status of the *exporting country, zone or compartment*.
- 3) When considering the importation or transit of *aquatic animals* and *aquatic animal products* of a species not covered in Article 11.7.2. but which could reasonably be expected to pose a *risk* of spread of infection with *X. californiensis*, the *Competent Authority* should conduct a *risk analysis* in accordance with the recommendations in Chapter 2.1. The *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.

Article 11.7.4.

Country free from infection with *X. californiensis*

If a country shares a *zone* with one or more other countries, it can only make a *self-declaration of freedom* from infection with *X. californiensis* if all the areas covered by the shared water bodies are declared countries or *zones* free from infection with *X. californiensis* (see Article 11.7.5.).

As described in Article 1.4.6., a country may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from infection with *X. californiensis* if:

- 1) none of the *susceptible species* referred to in Article 11.7.2. are present and *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met for at least the last three years;

OR

- 2) any of the *susceptible species* referred to in Article 11.7.2. are present and the following conditions have been met:
 - a) there has been no observed occurrence of the *disease* for at least the last ten years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression (as described in the corresponding chapter of the *Aquatic Manual*); and
 - b) *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met for at least the last three years;

OR

- 3) the disease status prior to *targeted surveillance* is unknown but the following conditions have been met:
 - a) *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met for at least the last three years; and
 - b) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapter 1.4., has been in place for at least the last two years without detection of infection with *X. californiensis*;

OR

- 4) it previously made a *self-declaration of freedom* from infection with *X. californiensis* and subsequently lost its *disease free status* due to the detection of infection with *X. californiensis* but the following conditions have been met:
 - a) on detection of the *disease*, the affected area was declared an *infected zone* and a *protection zone* was established; and
 - b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the *infected zone* by means that minimise the *risk* of further spread of the *disease*, and the appropriate *disinfection* procedures (as described in Chapter 4.3.) have been completed; and
 - c) previously existing *basic biosecurity conditions* have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place since eradication of the *disease*; and
 - d) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapter 1.4., has been in place for at least the last two years without detection of infection with *X. californiensis*.

In the meantime, part or all of the non-affected area may be declared a *free zone* provided that such a part meets the conditions in point 3 of Article 11.7.5.

Article 11.7.5.

Zone or compartment free from infection with *X. californiensis*

If a *zone* or *compartment* extends over more than one country, it can only be declared a *zone* or *compartment* free from infection with *X. californiensis* if all the relevant *Competent Authorities* confirm that all relevant conditions have been met.

As described in Article 1.4.6., a *zone* or *compartment* within the *territory* of one or more countries not declared free from infection with *X. californiensis* may be declared free by the *Competent Authority(ies)* of the country(ies) concerned if:

- 1) none of the *susceptible species* referred to in Article 11.7.2. are present in the *zone* or *compartment* and *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met for at least the last three years;

OR

- 2) any of the *susceptible species* referred to in Article 11.7.2. are present in the *zone* or *compartment* but the following conditions have been met:
 - a) there has not been any observed occurrence of the *disease* for at least the last ten years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression (as described in the corresponding chapter of the *Aquatic Manual*); and
 - b) *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met for at least the last three years;

OR

- 3) the disease status prior to *targeted surveillance* is unknown but the following conditions have been met:
 - a) *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met for at least the last three years; and
 - b) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapter 1.4., has been in place, in the *zone* or *compartment*, for at least the last two years without detection of infection with *X. californiensis*;

OR

- 4) it previously made a *self-declaration of freedom* for a *zone* from infection with *X. californiensis* and subsequently lost its *disease free* status due to the detection of infection with *X. californiensis* in the *zone* but the following conditions have been met:
- a) on detection of the *disease*, the affected area was declared an *infected zone* and a *protection zone* was established; and
 - b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the *infected zone* by means that minimise the *risk* of further spread of the *disease*, and the appropriate *disinfection* procedures (as described in Chapter 4.3.) have been completed; and
 - c) previously existing *basic biosecurity conditions* have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place since eradication of the *disease*; and
 - d) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapter 1.4., has been in place for at least the last two years without detection of infection with *X. californiensis*.

Article 11.7.6.

Maintenance of free status

A country, *zone* or *compartment* that is declared free from infection with *X. californiensis* following the provisions of points 1 or 2 of Articles 11.7.4. or 11.7.5. (as relevant) may maintain its status as free from infection with *X. californiensis* provided that *basic biosecurity conditions* are continuously maintained.

A country, *zone* or *compartment* that is declared free from infection with *X. californiensis* following the provisions of point 3 of Articles 11.7.4. or 11.7.5. (as relevant) may discontinue *targeted surveillance* and maintain its status as free from infection with *X. californiensis* provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of infection with *X. californiensis*, as described in the corresponding chapter of the *Aquatic Manual*, exist and *basic biosecurity conditions* are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free *zones* or *compartments* in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of infection with *X. californiensis*, *targeted surveillance* needs to be continued at a level determined by the *Aquatic Animal Health Service* on the basis of the likelihood of *infection*.

Article 11.7.7.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment declared free from infection with *X. californiensis*

When importing *aquatic animals* and *aquatic animal products* of species referred to in Article 11.7.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* declared free from infection with *X. californiensis*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require that the consignment be accompanied by an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued by the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* or a *certifying official* approved by the *importing country* certifying that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 11.7.4. or 11.7.5. (as applicable) and 11.7.6., the place of production of the *aquatic animals* and *aquatic animal products* is a country, *zone* or *compartment* declared free from infection with *X. californiensis*.

The *certificate* should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.11.

This article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1 of Article 11.7.3.

Article 11.7.8.

Importation of aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from infection with *X. californiensis*

When importing for *aquaculture*, *aquatic animals* of a species referred to in Article 11.7.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* not declared free from infection with *X. californiensis*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country*

should assess the *risk* in accordance with Chapter 2.1. and consider the *risk* mitigation measures in points 1 and 2 below.

- 1) If the intention is to grow out and harvest the imported *aquatic animals*, consider applying the following:
 - a) the direct delivery to and lifelong holding of the imported *aquatic animals* in a *quarantine* facility; and
 - b) the treatment of all transport water, equipment, effluent and waste materials to inactivate *X. californiensis* in accordance with Chapters 4.3., 4.7. and 5.5.

OR

- 2) If the intention is to establish a new stock for *aquaculture*, consider applying the following:
 - a) In the *exporting country*:
 - i) identify potential source populations and evaluate their *aquatic animal* health records;
 - ii) test source populations in accordance with Chapter 1.4. and select a founder population (F-0) of with a high health status for infection with *X. californiensis*.
 - b) In the *importing country*:
 - i) import the F-0 population into a *quarantine* facility;
 - ii) test the F-0 population for *X. californiensis* in accordance with Chapter 1.4. to determine their suitability as broodstock;
 - iii) produce a first generation (F-1) population in *quarantine*;
 - iv) culture F-1 population in *quarantine* under conditions that are conducive to the clinical expression of infection with *X. californiensis* (as described in Chapter 2.4.8. of the *Aquatic Manual*) and test for *X. californiensis* in accordance with Chapter 1.4.;
 - v) if *X. californiensis* is not detected in the F-1 population, it may be defined as free from infection with *X. californiensis* and may be released from *quarantine*;
 - vi) if *X. californiensis* is detected in the F-1 population, those animals should not be released from *quarantine* and should be killed and disposed of in a biosecure manner.

Article 11.7.9.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from infection with *X. californiensis*

When importing, for processing for human consumption, *aquatic animals* or *aquatic animal products* of species referred to in Article 11.7.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* not declared free from infection with *X. californiensis*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should assess the *risk* and, if justified, require that:

- 1) the consignment is delivered directly to and held in *quarantine* or containment facilities until processing into one of the products referred to in point 1 of Article 11.7.3., or products described in point 1 of Article 11.7.11., or other products authorised by the *Competent Authority*; and
- 2) water used in transport and all effluent and waste materials from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of *X. californiensis* or is disposed in a manner that prevents contact of waste with *susceptible species*.

For these *commodities* Member Countries may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the *risks* associated with the *commodity* being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

Article 11.7.10.

Importation of aquatic animals intended for use in animal feed, or for agricultural, industrial or pharmaceutical use, from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from infection with *X. californiensis*

When importing, for use in animal *feed* or for agricultural, industrial or pharmaceutical use, *aquatic animals* of species referred to in Article 11.7.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* not declared free from infection with *X. californiensis*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require that:

- 1) the consignment is delivered directly to, and held in, *quarantine* facilities for slaughter and processing into products authorised by the *Competent Authority*; and
- 2) water used in transport and all effluent and waste materials from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of *X. californiensis*.

This article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1 of Article 11.7.3.

Article 11.7.11.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for retail trade for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from infection with *X. californiensis*

- 1) *Competent Authorities* should not require any conditions related to infection with *X. californiensis*, regardless of the infection with *X. californiensis* status of the *exporting country, zone or compartment*, when authorising the importation or transit of off the shell, eviscerated abalones (chilled or frozen) which have been prepared and packaged for retail trade and which comply with Article 5.4.2.

Certain assumptions have been made in assessing the safety of the *aquatic animal products* mentioned above. Member Countries should refer to these assumptions at Article 5.4.2. and consider whether the assumptions apply to their conditions.

For these *commodities* Member Countries may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the *risks* associated with the *commodity* being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

- 2) When importing *aquatic animals* or *aquatic animal products*, other than those referred to in point 1 above, of species referred to in Article 11.7.2. from a country, *zone or compartment* not declared free from infection with *X. californiensis*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should assess the *risk* and apply appropriate *risk* mitigation measures.

NB: FIRST ADOPTED IN 2002; MOST RECENT UPDATE ADOPTED IN 2017.

