Species and groups posing a risk of spread of aquatic animal diseases

Published by AGRINFO on 23 Nov 2022; Revised 02 Feb 2024

EU updates lists of aquatic disease vectors, and of species susceptible to Marteilia refringens

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/216 of 11 January 2024 amending the Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882 concerning listed diseases of aquatic animals and the list of species and groups of species posing a considerable risk for the spread of those listed diseases

Update

The European Commission has updated the list of vectors of aquatic diseases, and has revised the list of aquatic species susceptible to infection with *Marteilia refringens*.

Impacted products

food-producing aquatic animals

What is changing?

The EU has updated the list of vectors of aquatic diseases, listing only those vectors with a demonstrated ability to transmit these diseases to susceptible species (Table 1).

The EU has also included dwarf oysters, European flat oysters, European razor clams, golden mussels, and striped venus clams in the list of aquatic molluscs susceptible to infection with the protozoan parasite *Marteilia refringens* (Table 2).

Why?

Regulation 2016/429 requires that the list of vectors of aquatic diseases (set out in the Annex to Regulation 2018/1882) comprises those animal species or groups that pose a considerable risk for the spread of specific listed diseases.

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) defines vector species as those species that clearly present such a risk because they have been demonstrated to transmit the causative agent of the

Copyright © **COLEAD 2026,** *AGRINFO is funded by the European Union and implemented by COLEAD.*

disease to susceptible species. Species that EFSA could not demonstrate were vectors have been deleted from the list (EFSA 2023a, 2023b, 2023c). The changes are detailed in Table 1.

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) has revised its list of species susceptible to infection with *Marteilia refringens* (Aquatic Animal Health Code, Article 11.4.2). This new EU Regulation seeks convergence with the WOAH standards.

Timeline

The new Regulation applies from **1 February 2024**.

What are the major implications for exporting countries?

Risk of transmission of these diseases primarily applies during or after transport of live vectors or susceptible species that may have been exposed to these pathogens. *M. refringens* can only be transmitted by copepods as intermediate hosts (EFSA 2023b).

Recommended Actions

Fishery operators and exporters to the EU of any vector or species susceptible to aquatic diseases listed in the Annex to Regulation 2024/216 should consider treatment or processing in accordance with good manufacturing practices prior to export, and ensure handling of the products does not jeopardise their safety.

Background

Regulation (EU) 2016/429 lays down rules for the prevention and control of diseases that are transmissible to animals or humans, including rules for prioritising and categorising listed diseases.

Species and groups of species that are susceptible to aquatic diseases and can transmit such diseases are listed in the Annex to Implementing Regulation 2018/1882. The EU frequently reviews this list to ensure that it reflects the latest scientific knowledge, seeking convergence with WOAH standards.

Copyright © **COLEAD 2026,** *AGRINFO is funded by the European Union and implemented by COLEAD.*

Resources

EFSA (2023a) Species which may act as vectors or reservoirs of diseases covered by the Animal Health Law: Listed pathogens of fish. EFSA Journal, 21(8): 8174.

EFSA (2023b) Species which may act as vectors or reservoirs of diseases covered by the Animal Health Law: Listed pathogens of molluscs. EFSA Journal, 21(8): 8173.

EFSA (2023c) Species which may act as vectors or reservoirs of diseases covered by the Animal Health Law: Listed pathogens of crustaceans. EFSA Journal, 21(8): 8172.

WOAH (2022). Report of the WOAH ad hoc Group on susceptibility of mollusc species to infection with OIE listed diseases.World Organisation for Animal Health.

WOAH: Aquatic Code Online Access.

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882 on the application of certain disease prevention and control rules to categories of listed diseases and establishing a list of species and groups of species posing a considerable risk for the spread of those listed diseases

Regulation (EU) 2016/429 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health (Animal Health Law)

The Commission has set up an information system gathering commercial designations recognised in the EU and other information, such as scientific name, production method and catch area. Only the national lists are authoritative for commercial designations accepted in the member states.

Sources

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/216 concerning listed diseases of aquatic animals and the list of species and groups of species posing a considerable risk for the spread of those listed diseases

Visit the AGRINFO website to view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and search the database.

Copyright © **COLEAD 2026,** *AGRINFO is funded by the European Union and implemented by COLEAD.*

Tables & Figures

Table 1
Vector species posing a risk of spread of aquatic animal diseases

Listed disease	Category[1]	Changes to the list of vector species[2]	
		Old Regulation 2018/1882	New Regulation 2024/216
Epizootic haematopoietic necrosis	A+D+E	~~*Aristichthys nobilis, Carassius auratus, Carassius carassius, Cyprinus carpio, Hypophthalmichthys molitrix, Leuciscus spp., Rutilus rutilus, Scardinius erythrophthalmus, Tinca tinca*~~	[no vectors now listed]
Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia	C+D+E	~~*Acipenser baerii, A. gueldenstaedtii, A. ruthenus, A. stellatus, A. sturio, Ameiurus melas, Argyrosomus regius, Aristichthys nobilis, Carassius auratus, C. carassius, Clarias gariepinus, Cyprinus carpio, Dentex dentex, Dicentrarchus labrax, Diplodus puntazzo, D. sargus, D. vulgaris, Epinephelus aeneus, E. marginatus, Huso huso, Hypophthalmichthys molitrix, Ictalurus punctatus, I.* spp., *Leuciscus* spp., *Morone chrysops x, Morone saxatilis, Mugil cephalus, Oreochromis, Pagellus bogaraveo, P. erythrinus, Pagrus major, P. pagrus, Pangasius pangasius, Rutilus rutilus, Salvelinus alpinus, S. fontinalis, Sander lucioperca, Scardinius erythrophthalmus, Sciaenops ocellatus, Silurus glanis, Solea senegalensis, S. solea, Sparus aurata, Thunnus* spp., *T. thynnus, Tinca tinca, Umbrina cirrosa*~~	[no vectors now listed]
Infectious haematopoietic necrosis	C+D+E	~~*Acipenser baerii, A. gueldenstaedtii, A. ruthenus, A. stellatus, A. sturio, Ameiurus melas, Aristichthys nobilis, Astacus astacus, Carassius auratus, C. carassius, Clarias gariepinus, Cyprinus carpio, Gadus morhua, Hippoglossus hippoglossus, Hypophthalmichthys molitrix, Huso huso, Ictalurus punctatus, I.* spp., *Leuciscus spp., Melanogrammus aeglefinus, Platichthys flesus, Pacifastacus leniusculus, Procambarus clarkii, Pangasius pangasius, Rutilus rutilus, Sander lucioperca, Scardinius erythrophthalmus, Silurus glanis, Tinca tinca*~~	[no vectors now listed]
Koi herpes virus disease	E	*Carassius auratus, Ctenopharyngodon idella*	*Carassius auratus,* ***Carassius gibelio****, Ctenopharyngodon idella,* ***Gymnocephalus cernua, Hypophthalmichthys molitrix, Rutilus rutilus, Tinca tinca***
Infection with *Mikrocytos mackini*	A+D+E	[no vectors previously listed]	***Crassostrea virginica***
Infection with *Perkinsus marinus*	A+D+E	~~*Brachyura spp., Cherax destructor, Homarus gammarus, Macrobrachium rosenbergii, Palinurus spp., Penaeus indicus, Penaeus japonicus, Penaeus kerathurus, Penaeus stylirostris, Penaeus vannamei, Portunus puber, Scylla serrata*~~	[no vectors now listed]
Infection with *Bonamia exitiosa*	C+D+E	~~*Crassostrea angulata, C. gigas, C. virginica*~~	[no vectors now listed]
Infection with *Bonamia ostreae*	C+D+E	~~*Cerastoderma edule, Donax trunculus, Mya arenaria, Mercenaria mercenaria, Meretrix lusoria, Pecten maximus, Ruditapes decussatus, Ruditapes philippinarum, Venerupis aurea, V. pullastra, Venus verrucosa*~~	[no vectors now listed]

Continued…

Copyright © **COLEAD 2026,** *AGRINFO is funded by the European Union and implemented by COLEAD.*

Table 1
Continued

Listed disease	Category[1]	Changes to the list of vector species[2]	
		Old Regulation 2018/1882	New Regulation 2024/216
Infection with Taura syndrome virus	A+D+E	~~*Atrina spp., Buccinum undatum, Brachyura spp., Cherax destructor, Cerastoderma edule, Crassostrea angulata, C. gigas, C. virginica, Donax trunculus, Haliotis discus hannai, H.,tuberculata, Homarus gammarus, Littorina littorea, Macrobrachium rosenbergii, Mercenaria mercenaria, Meretrix lusoria, Mya arenaria, Mytilus edulis, M. galloprovincialis, Octopus vulgaris, Ostrea edulis, Palinurus spp, Portunus puber, Pecten maximus, Penaeus indicus, P. japonicus, Penaeus kerathurus, Ruditapes decussatus, R. philippinarum, Scylla serrata, Sepia officinalis, Strombus* spp.*, Venerupis aurea, V. pullastra, Venus verrucosa*~~	***Episesarma mederi*, *Macrobrachium lanchesteri***'
Infection with yellow head virus	A+D+E	~~*Atrina spp., Buccinum undatum, Cerastoderma edule, Crassostrea angulata, C. gigas, C. virginica, Donax trunculus, Haliotis discus hannai, H. tuberculata, Littorina littorea, Mercenaria mercenaria, Meretrix lusoria, Mya arenaria, Mytilus edulis, M. galloprovincialis, Octopus vulgaris, Ostrea edulis, Pecten maximus, Ruditapes decussatus, R. philippinarum, Sepia officinalis, Strombus spp., Venerupis aurea, V. pullastra, Venus verrucosa*~~	[no vectors now listed]
Infection with white spot syndrome virus	C+D+E	~~*Atrina spp., Buccinum undatum, Cerastoderma edule, Crassostrea angulata, C. gigas, C. virginica, Donax trunculus, Haliotis discus hannai, H. tuberculata, Littorina littorea, Mercenaria mercenaria, Meretrix lusoria, Mya arenaria, Mytilus edulis, M. galloprovincialis, Octopus vulgaris, Ostrea edulis, Pecten maximus, Ruditapes decussatus, R. philippinarum, Sepia officinalis, Strombus spp., Venerupis aurea, V. pullastra, Venus verrucosa*~~	[no vectors now listed]

[1]
A: Listed disease that does not normally occur in EU, immediate eradication measures must be taken as soon as it is detected.
B: Must be controlled in all EU Member States with the goal of eradicating it throughout the EU.
C: Of relevance to some EU Member States, measures are needed to prevent it from spreading to parts of the EU that are officially disease-free or that have eradication programmes for the listed disease.
D: Measures are needed to prevent it from spreading upon its entry into the EU or movements between Member States.
E: Need for surveillance within the EU.
[2] Species crossed out have been deleted from the list; species in bold have been added to the list.

AGRINFO
www.agrinfo.eu

Copyright © **COLEAD 2026,** *AGRINFO is funded by the European Union and implemented by COLEAD.*

Table 2
Species susceptible to *Marteilia refringens*

Listed disease	Category[1]	Changes to the list of species susceptible to disease[2]	
		Old Regulation 2018/1882	New Regulation 2024/216
Infection with *Marteilia refringens*	C+D+E	~~*Ostrea angasi, Ostrea chilensis,*~~ *Ostrea edulis,* ~~*Ostrea puelchana*~~	***Chamelea gallina***, *Ostrea edulis,* ***Ostrea stentina, Solen marginatus, Xenostrobus securis***

[1]
C: Of relevance to some EU Member States, measures are needed to prevent it from spreading to parts of the EU that are officially disease-free or that have eradication programmes for the listed disease.
D: Measures are needed to prevent it from spreading upon its entry into the EU or movements between Member States.
E: Need for surveillance within the EU.
[2] Species crossed out have been deleted from the list; species in bold have been added to the list.

AGRINFO
www.agrinfo.eu

Source: based on Annexes to Regulations 2024/216 and 2018/1882

Disclaimer: *Under no circumstances shall COLEAD be liable for any loss, damage, liability or expense incurred or suffered that is claimed to have resulted from the use of information available on this website or any link to external sites. The use of the website is at the user's sole risk and responsibility. This information platform was created and maintained with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents do not, however, reflect the views of the European Union.*