

Deputy-Ministry of Agriculture

General Directorate of Fish Resources

وزارة البيئة والمياه والزراعة
Ministry of Environment Water & Agriculture
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia المملكة العربية السعودية



Controls on Importing Fish for Aquaculture into Saudi Arabia

(Detailed guide emanating from the list of quality management of aquatic life imported into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)

**This translation is provided
for guidance. The governing
text is the Arabic text.**



Introduction:

The current and promising future development of the aquaculture sector in the Kingdom coincides with the development of a biosecurity system that is aimed at preventing the entry of pathogens. Therefore, this manual, which includes lists of pathogens, has been prepared to be detected in aquatic organisms imported into the Kingdom for aquaculture. These lists include the pathological causes listed in the lists of the international organization For animal health AKA OIE, It also includes a list of other pathogens Issued by the Department of Fish Farms in the Ministry of Agriculture ADMA, which the department finds to harm the health situation of farmed fish, and it's updated periodically. The manual also contains a list of reference laboratories where the pathogens mentioned above are examined. It also includes a list of proposed companies supplying aquaculture to the Kingdom and the inspection companies. The Saudi Aquaculture Society will present any new proposals to the Ministry of Agriculture on time, also this manual will be updated periodically in the light of developments. This manual is based on chapter 3, General Requirements, Paragraph 3, concerning conditions of the aquaculture's consignment importing, from the aquaculture quality controlling regulation, dated 8\11\1430 AH in Saudi Arabia, that has been approved by the Minister of Agriculture, and has circulated the resolution to all authorities, circular letter No. 35657 dated 8\2\1431AH.

This detailed manual on Fish Import Controls for the purpose of Aquaculture to Saudi Arabia Includes the following fundamental aspects:

First: Fish species allowed to import:

The species of fisheries that are allowed to be imported into the Kingdom for the purpose of aquaculture are currently limited to the species clarified below. If the breeder wants to bring another fish kind that is not listed, he must submit it to the Ministry of Agriculture, and proofing that this variety is one of the varieties found in the Red Sea, the Arabian Gulf, or inland waters and its upbringing is proven, and the risk of its importing is justified by the

economic viability of its cultivation. The Ministry will verify the source that was given by the breeder and request some documents to ward off the risks of importing it into the Kingdom.

The breeder must also provide sufficient information about the entity from which he wishes to import, and he must prove to the Ministry the quality and efficiency of this source.

The clarified species are:

- 1- Asian Seabass (*Lates calcarifer*).
- 2- Mediterranean / European Seabream (*Sparus aurata*).
- 3- Amberjack (*Siriola Dumerili*).

- 4- Silver seabream (*Sparidentex hasta*).
- 5- Tilapia (*Oreochromis spp*).

The lists of pathogens of imported fish diseases will be limited to those varieties that are currently allowed to be imported for aquaculture, whether they belong to the International Organization for Animal Health (OIE) or the Fish Farms Department at the Ministry of Agriculture, and it's periodically updated according to developments.

Second: Controls on aquatic organism imports

The import of aquatic organisms in Saudi Arabia is subject to the controls mentioned in these instructions, which are periodically updated every six months. In addition to other controls at the Fish Farms department at the Ministry of Agriculture, which will follow up and verify the following:

- 1- Conducting a confirmatory visit to the approved companies in this regulation by a technical team from this ministry (Vice-Ministry of Fish Wealth) and the Saudi Aquaculture Society to ensure its technical capabilities, and then select the best ones according to the Kingdom's requirements, in coordination with the consultant of the ministry / Dr. Lewis Fernando Aranjurin.
- 2- When a company operating in the field of aquaculture in the Kingdom wishes to import fish farms from a company or a hatchery that is not approved by this regulation, in which case the importer have to submit his application to the fish farm administration, and the they study it and make an initial assessment of the source. Therefore, a technical and administrative visit will be made to all the company's facilities in the country of origin to determine the suitability of importing from it or not by the technical team referred to in item (1).
- 3- There will be Laboratories determined by The Ministry of Agriculture in the countries exporting fish farms or neighboring them from the attached list. In the case of a request to import fish farms, the importer shall agree with an international inspection company from the companies shown in Table (1), in order to take samples from the required consignment and send them to the laboratories that have been approved by the Ministry, to examine those samples and ensure that they are free from any disease mentioned in this regulation, and attach the results of the analysis to the consignment documents.

Table (1) Inspection Companies

Company	Country	Webpage	Phone	Contact
SGS	Head Office, Switzerland Middle East Regional	http://www.sgs.com/ http://www.sgs.com/	Phone : +971 48832222 Mobile : +971 50 65 292 69	Dr. MansoorShahul Director –SGS Arabian Peninsula Email: Shahul.Mansoor@sgs.com

	Office: Dubai, UAE	gs-middle-east.com/	Fax: +971 48831161	
	Regional Office: Dammam & Jeddah, Saudi Arabia		Mobile : 054 0638 999	Mr. Sree Kumar Business Coordinator, KSA
Lloyds	Head Office – UK Regional office: Jeddah, KSA	http://www.l r.org	T : +966 (0)2 653 3628 / 3165 F : +966 (0)2 651 5334 Mobile : 050 0027 863	Mr. Raid Al Dabbas Manager KSA Email : jeddah@lr.org
			Mobile : 050 3835 806	Mr, Mohammed Naem Senior Lead Assessor

- 4- The importing company must prepare an integrated quarry according to international specifications, to quarantine the imported fish farms for a period of one month, to verify their integrity, and the quarry must include at least the following:
- An isolated and closed building with an entrance and exit that contains sterilization units for workers and visitors to the quarry.
 - It should contain a water circulation system to reduce the wastewater to the lowest possible limits.
 - It should be of an appropriate size to quarantine fish for a month.
 - It should contain a sterilization unit for discharged water that ensures strict sterilization of all outgoing water.
- So that no water is allowed to be drained from the quarry directly to the sea unless it is verified that it is free of all pathogens.
- The quarry must be issued a validity certificate approved by the Biosecurity Division of the Fish Farms Department with each consignment in accordance with the controls in force.
- 5- Samples shall be taken by the fish farms administration during the fish quarantine period in the quarry belonging to the importer, and the port through which the fish entered the Kingdom. As well as their size and number of times repeated case by case, according to the determined type of fish and the size of the consignment, and it shall be sent to the national reference laboratory as well as the international reference laboratory approved by OIE.
- 6- The results of reference laboratory tests must be negative for the lists of diseases issued by OIE, as well as those issued by the Fish Farms Department at the Ministry of Agriculture.

- 7- After the Fish Farm Management has verified the safety of the imported consignment and has received all the results of the analyzes from the accredited laboratories, it is allowed to transport the fish to the importer's breeding units under the supervision of the Fish Farms Administration.
- 8- If the consignment was proven infected with any epidemic disease, work shall be done immediately to destroy the shipment according to the mechanisms approved by the Fish Farms Department. The source must be verified, and necessary measures must be taken to ensure that the risk will not be repeated.

Third: lists of fish biology diseases:

These lists include pathogens that must be detected in the imported fish farms into the Kingdom for aquaculture. These lists contain the pathogens contained in the lists of the International Organization for Animal Health (OIE), as well as the list of other pathogens issued by the Fish Farms Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, which the administration believes causes high mortality rates, and is updated periodically.

Given that the types of fish farms imported to the Kingdom for the purpose of cultivation are currently limited to the following varieties:

- 1- Asian Seabass (*Lates calcarifer*)
- 2- Mediterranean / European Seabream (*Sparus aurata*)
- 3- Amberjack (*Siriola Dumerili*)
- 4- Silver seabream (*Sparidentex hasta*)
- 5- Tilapia (*Oreochromis spp*)

Therefore, the lists of imported aquatic pathogens, whether they belong to OIE or the Department of Fish Farms at the Ministry of Agriculture, will now be limited to those varieties that are currently imported for the purpose of culture, and which are subject to periodic updating according to developments.

- 1- Diseases of Asian Seabass (*Lates calcarifer*):

The following table (2) shows the list of some diseases issued by OIE, as well as those issued by the Fish Farms Department of the Ministry of Agriculture regarding the Asian Seabass (*Lates calcarifer*).

Table (2): Diseases of Asian Seabass (*Lates calcarifer*)

The list	Disease - The pathogen	No.
OIE	Red Seabream Iridoviral Disease - Iridovirus	1
OIE	Epizootic ulcerative syndrome – <i>Aphanomyces invadens</i>	2
OIE	Viral encephalopathy and retinopathy (VER) or Viral nervous necrosis (VNN) -	3

	Nodavirus	
ADMA	Bacterial gill disease (BGD) –Flexibacter	4
ADMA	Streptococcosis – Streptococcus iniai	5
ADMA	Vibriosis – Vibrio spp.	6

2- Diseases of Mediterranean / European Seabream (*Sparus aurata*):

Table (3) shows the list of some diseases issued by the International Organization for Animal Health (OIE), as well as those issued by the Fish Farms Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, regarding the diseases of Mediterranean / European Sea Bream (*Sparus Aurata*).

Table (3): Diseases of Mediterranean / European Seabream (*Sparus aurata*)

The list	Disease - The pathogen	No.
OIE	Red Seabream Iridoviral Disease - Iridovirus	1
OIE	Viral encephalopathy and retinopathy (VER) or Viral nervous necrosis (VNN) - Nodavirus	2
ADMA	Streptococcosis – Streptococcus iniai	3
ADMA	Winter Disease Syndrome (WDS) – Pseudomonas anguilliseptica	4
ADMA	Vibriosis – Vibrio spp.	5

3- Diseases of Amberjack (*Seriola Dumerili*)

The following table (4) shows a list of some diseases issued by OIE, as well as those issued by the Fish Farms Department of the Ministry of Agriculture regarding the Amberjack (*Seriola Dumerili*).

Table (4) Diseases of the Amberjack (*Seriola Dumerili*)

The list	Disease - The pathogen	No.
OIE	Iridovirus Infection	1
OIE	Pancreatic – hepatic necrosis – Yellowtail Ascite Virus (YAV)	2
OIE	Viral nervous necrosis (VNN)	3
ADMA	Vibriosis – Vibrio anguillarum	4
ADMA	Streptococcosis – Streptococcus iniai, agalactiae, parauberis	5
ADMA	Nocardia – Nocardia kampachi	6
ADMA	Benedeniaseirolae – parasite in skin	7
ADMA	Ichtyosporidium sp. – parasite in skin	8

ADMA	Axine heterocerca – parasite in gill	9
ADMA	Cryptocaryon irritans – parasite in gill	10
ADMA	Zeuxaptaseriolae – parasite in gill	11

4. Diseases of the local Sobaity fish (Silver Seabream: Sparidentex hasta):

The following table (5) shows a list of some diseases issued by the OIE, as well as those issued by the Fish Farms Department of the Ministry of Agriculture regarding the local Sobaity fish (Silver seabream: Sparidentex hasta).

**Table (5) Diseases of the local Sobaity fish
(Silver Seabream: Sparidentex hasta)**

The list	Disease - The pathogen	No.
OIE	Red Seabream Iridoviral Disease - Iridovirus	1
OIE	Viral encephalopathy and retinopathy (VER) or Viral nervous necrosis (VNN) - Nodavirus	2
ADMA	Streptococcosis – Streptococcus iniai	3
ADMA	Winter Disease Syndrome (WDS) – Pseudomonaanguilliseptica	4
ADMA	Vibriosis – Vibrio spp.	5
ADMA	Vibrio anguillarum	6
ADMA	Vibrio ordalli	7
ADMA	Vibrio harveyi	8
ADMA	Streptococcus agalactiae	9

5. Diseases of Tilapia (Oreochromis spp):

The following table (6) shows a list of some diseases issued by OIE, as well as those issued by the Fish Farms Department of the Ministry of Agriculture regarding the diseases of Tilapia (Oreochromis spp).

Table (6) Diseases of Tilapia (*Oreochromis* spp):

The list	Disease - The pathogen	No.
OIE	Iridovirus	1
OIE	Viral nervous necrosis (VNN)	2
ADMA	Vibriosis – <i>Vibrio</i> spp.	3
ADMA	Streptococcosis – <i>Streptococcus iniae</i> , <i>agalactiae</i> , <i>parauberis</i>	4
ADMA	Bacterial gill disease (BGD) – <i>Flexibacter</i>	5
ADMA	Winter Disease Syndrome (WDS) – <i>Pseudomonas anguilliseptica</i>	6
ADMA	<i>Ichtyosporidium</i> sp. – parasite in skin	7
ADMA	<i>Cryptocaryon irritans</i> – parasite in gill	8

Fourth: Lists of companies supplying Fish Farms

Companies supplying Fish Farms for the purpose of aquaculture:

- 1- The Asian Seabass supplier companies – Barramundi (*Lates calcarifer*)

Table (7) shows the list of companies supplying – Barramundi - Asian Seabass (*Lates calcarifer*).

Table (7): Companies supplying Asian seabass (*Lates calcarifer*)

Company	Country	E-mail	Phone/ Address
Mainstream	Australia	www.mainaquaculture.com	61-3-9734-1912
Aquaculture			Paul Harrison
Marine Life	Singapore	http://marinelife-aquaculture.com	65 - 9151 2221
Aquaculture			Frank Tan
			franktan@marinelife-aquaculture.com
Australian Centre for Applied	Australia	www.challenger.wa.edu.au	61-8-9239-8030
			Greg Jenkins

Aquaculture Research			greg.jenkins@challenger.wa.edu.au
Asia Tropic Zone Co. Ltd	Thailand	www.asiatropic.com	66 - 818692411
			info @asiatropic.com
Sask International Seafood	Australia	www.sask.com.au	61(0) 415-960-349
			Steven Kons
			Sk@sask.com.au

2- Mediterranean / European Seabream aurata (Sparus) Supplier companies:

Table (8) shows the list of companies supplying Mediterranean / European Seabream aurata (Sparus).

Table (8) Companies supplying the Mediterranean / European Seabream fish (Sparus aurata)

Company	Country	Webpage	Phone/ Address
Selonda	Greece	www.selonda.com	30 – 210 37 24 900
Nireus	Greece	www.nireus.com	30 - 210 66 98 145
Kilic Aquaculture	Turkey	www.kilicdeniz.com.tr	90 - 252 559 0283
Sagro Aquaculture ltd.	Cyprus	Anyiou Andreou Street	26 - 999220296
		Postal Code 3508, Limassol	
Ferme Marine de Douhet	France	www.douhet.com	33 (0)5 46 76 58 42
Andromeda	Greece	www.adromedagroup.eu	30 - 210 664 0963-7

3- Amberjack (Siriola Dumerili) Supplier companies:

Table (9) shows the list of companies supplying Amberjack (Siriola Dumerili).

Table (9) Companies supplying the Amberjack (Siriola Dumerili)

Company	Country	Webpage	Phone/ Address
Futuna Blue	Spain	www.futunablue.com	34 - 956 560 657
Universidad de las Palmas Gran Canaria	Spain	www.giaqua.org	34 - 928 132 900
University of Miami	USA	www.rsmas.miami.edu	786-553-5557 Daniel Benetti dbenetti@rsmas.miami.edu

4- Silver Seabream: (Sparidentex hasta) Supplier companies:

Table (10) shows the list of companies supplying the Silver Seabream (Sparidentex hasta).

Table (10) Companies supplying the Silver Seabream (Sparidentex hasta)

Company	Country	Webpage	Address
Kuwait Foundation for Advancement of Science (KFAS)e	Kuwait	www.kfas.org	965 2227 8100

5- Tilapia (*Oreochromis spp*) Supplier companies:

Table (11) shows the list of companies supplying the Tilapia (*Oreochromis spp*).

Table(11) Companies supplying the Tilapia (*Oreochromis spp*)

Company	Country	Webpage	Address
Asia Tropic Zone Co. Ltd	Thailand	www.asiatropic.com	66 - 818692411
AquasafraInc	USA		941-744-9698 Mr. Mike Picchietti picchietti@aol.com
White Brook Tilapia Farm	USA	ww.tilapiasource.comw	816-866-1172 info@tilapiasource.com
Genomar As	Norway	www.genomar.com	47-22341000

Fifth: Lists of reference diagnostic laboratories:

1. OIE accredited reference laboratories for fish disease testing.

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

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; kanchanakhan@yahoo.com

C. Viral encephalopathy and retinopathy (VER)

Dr G. Bovo
 Istituto Zooprofilattico SperimentaledelleVenezie, Dipartimento di Ittiopatologia, Via
 Romea 14/A, 35020 Legnaro PD,
 ITALY

D. Other laboratories.

Agency	E-mail	Phone	Person in charge
Australian Animal Health Laboratory, CSIRO– Australia	alex.hyatt@csiro.au	61 – 352275000	Dr A. Hyatt
National Veterinary Institute, Technical University of Denmark (DTU) –Denmark	njol@vet.dtu.dk	45 – 72346831	Dr N.J. Olesen

2. National laboratories for fish disease testing:

- A) IDAC reference laboratories.
- B) Fish Health and Safety Laboratory at the Fisheries Research Center in Jeddah.
- C) Fish Health and Safety Laboratory at the Fisheries Research Center in Dammam.