

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the OIE Collaborating Centre for Emerging Aquatic Animal Diseases (CCEAAD)?

The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) has been designated the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Collaborating Centre for Emerging Aquatic Animal Diseases (CCEAAD). Working with partners in aquatic animal health from across the globe, we are focused on mitigating the yield-limiting effects of emergent diseases, improving the reporting of new threats and ultimately reducing their transboundary spread via trade and other pathways. In doing so the collaborating centre aims to function as a global resource for research, diagnostics, standardization of techniques and dissemination of knowledge in the field of aquatic animal health.

For more details please refer to the website:
www.tinyurl.com/y4xu5wjb

2. Where is the CCEAAD?

The OIE CCEAAD is based at the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) in the United Kingdom. The collaborating centre includes a network of Associate Laboratories located in key aquaculture producing regions around the world. Working alongside the collaborating centre, the associate laboratory network will use their expertise in region to identify emerging disease issues and work with the CCEAAD to facilitate rapid diagnosis and characterisation of aetiological and associated factors.

3. What services does the CCEAAD offer?

The CCEAAD offers scientific and technical advice on the diagnosis of aquatic animal diseases. Research activities include investigations into emerging diseases in fish, molluscs and crustaceans in freshwater and marine environments. In addition, studies on pathogen diversity and systematics, histology, electron microscopy, virology, bacteriology and high throughput sequencing for pathogen and lifecycle discovery are undertaken. Cefas houses state-of-the-art aquarium facilities capable of mimicking diverse environmental conditions to study all aspects of disease dynamics.

The key functions are:

- To carry out and/or coordinate scientific and technical studies in collaboration with other centres, laboratories or organisations
- To collect, process, analyse, publish and disseminate data and information relevant to the designated speciality
- To propose or develop methods and procedures that facilitate harmonisation of international standards and guidelines applicable to the designated speciality
- Host the International Database on Aquatic Animal Disease (IDAAD) listing published data on the occurrence of OIE listed and emerging aquatic animal diseases across the globe.

4. How do I contact the CCEAAD?

Please refer to website:
www.tinyurl.com/y4xu5wjb

5. When do I contact the CCEAAD?

The emergence of disease in farmed and wild aquatic animals poses one of the most significant threats to sustainable food production and to the stability of natural systems. Rapid detection, characterization and reporting of the causative agents of disease provide a crucial first step in their control.

We have experts who will be able to provide scientific and technical advice, in areas such as sampling methodology and shipping.

For advice and assistance please contact us at:
oi.e.cceaad@cefias.co.uk

- **Head of OIE CCEAAD:** Prof. Stephen Feist
- **Crustacean health:** Dr. Kelly Bateman
- **Fish health:** Dr. Richard Paley
- **Mollusc health:** Dr. Frederico Batista

6. How does this benefit me?

Efficient and accurate reporting of emerging disease threats is a crucial first step in control and prevents spread between aquaculture production regions.

7. How do I preserve and submit samples?

If you would like to send samples to us, then please contact the relevant theme leads (below) who will request further details. Once the work has been discussed and agreed, they will advise on the sampling protocols, permits and packaging requirements, prior to shipment.

All samples must be packaged to comply with the *transport of infectious substances*, UN3373, Biological Substance, Category B. Further advice on packaging and shipment is available upon request.

Please note: Unsolicited samples received by the CCEAAD will not be opened, analysed or otherwise assessed. In these instances, samples and their packaging materials will be destroyed as appropriate. Please ensure you contact us before shipping any materials.

8. Will I need permits to ship samples?

Samples may require an import permit from the UK Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA); these must be applied for prior to shipment of any materials to the UK. Staff at the CCEAAD will advise and assist with all applications.

Please note: No samples should be submitted to the CCEAAD without prior agreement to enable import permits etc to be supplied.

9. Do I need to notify the authorities in my country?

The OIE CCEAAD requires each sample submission to be reported to the relevant Competent Authority within the Country of origin prior to shipments of materials. Should we find a reportable disease within submitted samples we will request that this is reported to the OIE via the Competent Authority of the country of origin.

In addition, the UK is a ratified party to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from their utilization. In order to comply with this protocol the CCEAAD requires that all sample submissions are reported to the relevant ABS Focal Point prior to shipment of materials. CCEAAD will provide support and advice to ensure all parties are compliant.

Please note: By submitting samples to the OIE CCEAAD we will assume agreement and compliance in these matters.

10. Are there any costs associated with submitting samples?

No. Provided work has been discussed and agreed, all analysis costs will be covered by the CCEAAD.

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11. When will I receive results?

The likely date for receiving results will be discussed when samples are submitted. Results will be sent via email.