



## **Aquaculture disease certification requirements**

One of the greatest risks to any aquaculture venture is the possibility of the introduction of disease. Not only may the disease affect the farmed stock, but there is a strong likelihood that the disease may escape and affect wild fish.

In many instances, once a disease has become established it may become impossible to eradicate, and may also make the entire fish farming activity worthless. To prevent the introduction and spread of disease, a number of regulations have been implemented, and all existing and prospective fish farmers should make themselves aware of these regulations.

The Fisheries Act 1982, Livestock Act 1997 and Exotic Fish, Fish Farming and Fish Diseases Regulations, 1984 stipulate certain requirements, as well as identify a list of notifiable diseases.

### **Regulation 26**

No person shall introduce fish into an area where farm fish are kept or are to be kept unless such fish have been certified as being free from all notifiable diseases by a fisheries authority in the State from which the fish are obtained.

### **Regulation 33**

(1) Subject to regulation 34 no person shall bring into the State any live fish unless those fish have been certified to be free of notifiable disease by the fisheries authority in the State of origin of those fish.

(2) Subject to regulation 34, a person shall not be in possession of any live fish which have been brought into the State unless such fish have been certified in accordance with subregulation (1) of this regulation.

In other words, these regulations prohibit the importation of fish into South Australia without disease certification, and also prohibit the release of those fish into any waters, including those on private property.

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