



Aquaculture Asia

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NACA

An intergovernmental organisation that promotes rural development through sustainable aquaculture. NACA seeks to improve rural income, increase food production and foreign exchange earnings and to diversify farm production. The ultimate beneficiaries of NACA activities are farmers and rural communities.

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Tilapia lake virus (TiLV)

I didn't want to write Yet Another Column About Why Moving Live Fish Around is Bad, but I must. There's a new disease in town, 'tilapia lake virus' or TiLV. It causes serious mortalities ranging from 20-90% and it appears to be spreading from one country to the next via the usual route of importation of infected seed. So far the disease has been reported from Ecuador, Israel, Colombia, Egypt and Thailand.

The disease was only detected in 2013, and unfortunately, it appears to have been jumping international borders even before it was known to science. Based on documented records of fish translocations (mainly fry and fingerlings), some 43 countries are believed to have imported fish that may have been infected. Please see the publication Dong, Rattanarojpong and Senapin (2017) below for the details and the list of at-risk countries.

An improved PCR method for detecting the virus has been published by Dong et al., details in the references below. Centex Shrimp is willing to provide a free positive control plasmid (pGEM-415_bp) to non-commercial agencies (or for a fee to commercial interests), contact saengchan@biotec.or.th.

It is vital that those countries at risk establish surveillance for TiLV in tilapia. Unusual tilapia mortalities should be investigated for the virus. And until such time as SPF seed is available for TiLV, it is probably a **very bad idea indeed** to import live tilapia from overseas or move it around internally between drainages.

The Editor wishes to acknowledge the generosity of the authors and/or institutions for their prompt action in making this information available to the public:

- Dong, H.T., Siriroob, S., Santimanawong, W., Gangnonngiw, W., Pirarat, N., Khunrae, P., Rattanarojpong, T., Vanichviriyakit, R. and Senapin, S. (2017). *A warning and an improved PCR detection method for tilapia lake virus (TiLV) disease in Thai tilapia farms*: <https://enaca.org/?id=858>.
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