

Workshop: **Developing a Biorisk Assessment System for Aquatic Pathogens**

Max. 20 participants

Organiser:

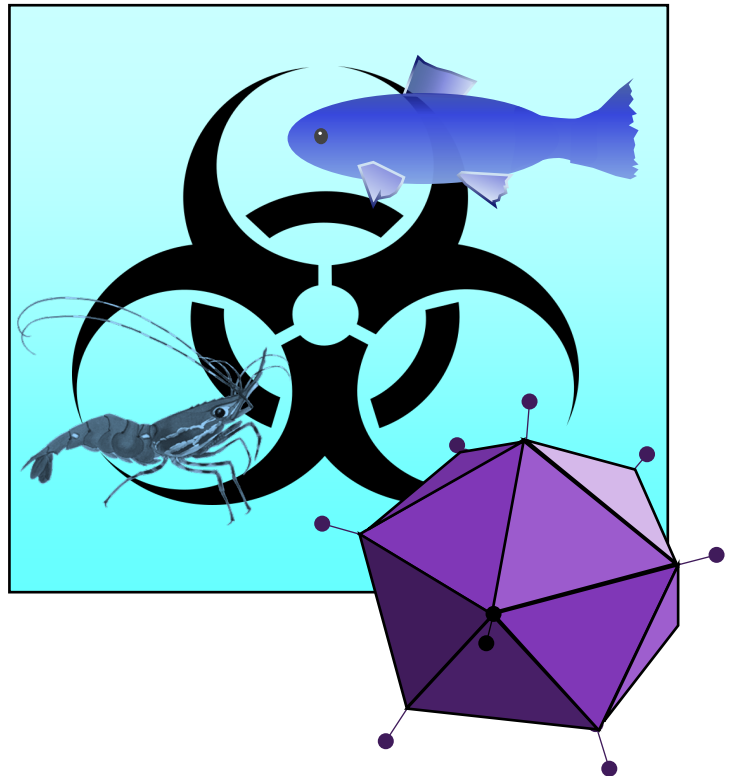
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There is not a unified system to classify aquatic pathogens in terms of biorisk. One of the consequences is that aquatic organisms are classified for shipping using the criteria developed for terrestrial animal pathogens. Under the Hazardous Materials Regulations^[1], *Vibrio splendidus* requires shipping as a UN2900, Category A Infectious Substance – using the same stringency as for Peste des petits ruminants virus or Foot and mouth disease virus. This results in restricted and expensive shipping which may not be necessary and could hamper research activities.

The aim of this workshop is not to classify aquatic pathogens. Rather it is to agree criteria under which aquatic microorganisms can be assessed and scored, such as survival time under different environmental conditions, infectious dose, susceptible species, background levels in the aquatic environment, etc. In this way, a benchmark is established against which to test and rank existing or newly discovered aquatic microorganisms. It is anticipated that in the future, this could provide the basis for developing a biorisk classification framework which is applicable to all aquatic microorganisms.

From this workshop, suggestions for prioritising areas for research and future collaboration will be generated. In fact the information gathered for identifying such listing criteria would assist researchers and research managers in focusing their activities on aspects where a significant knowledge gap has been highlighted.

In order to facilitate the discussions, preliminary questionnaires will be distributed several weeks in advance of the workshop to assist attendees in the preparation of pertinent background information.



^[1] U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT's) Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180)