

Update of significant farmed shrimp diseases in the Americas

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Managing the health of the commodity farmed shrimp stocks has proven to be one of the greatest challenges for the sustainable expansion of the marine shrimp farming industry in Americas. Examples of most costly virus diseases include: White spot syndrome virus (WSSV), Taura syndrome virus (TSV), Infectious hypodermal and hematopoietic necrosis virus (IHHNV), and Infectious myonecrosis virus (IMNV). The finding of a strain of Yellow head virus in Mexico shows the ongoing risk of additional introductions into Americas with imported frozen commodity shrimp from Asia. The fact is that the risk of the translocation and/or emergence of diseases will be always present, however the dimension of its impact depends in how well the local industry is prepared to reduce the possibility of a novel pathogen been introduced. On this way, the scientific and the business communities have made several efforts on the improvement of diagnostic technologies, epidemiology, and diseases exclusion to better prevent and to manage disease. The present work reviews the current status of these major viruses diseases in terms of their distribution, advancement of diagnostic molecular methods, and their management in the shrimp industry in the Americas.