



# **Summary sheet for photobacteriosis (ex Pasteurellosis)**

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# Summary sheet for photobacteriosis (ex Pasteurellosis)

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### Aetiological agent/s

Photobacterium damselae subspecies piscicida

### **Epidemiology**

<u>Host/s (species; age):</u> All Mediterranean farmed fish: seabream (*Sparus auratus*) as well as all other sparids, seabass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*), meagre (*Argyrosomus regius*). The younger the fish the more sensitive they are.

Morbidity and mortality rates: Depend on age/size class. Juveniles up to 80%, fry up to 60%, on growers up to 40% when fish are not immunized and are left untreated.

Transmission: Horizontal as well as vertical (via infected eggs).

<u>Factors (environmental, others) for disease outbreak:</u> The disease is temperature-dependent. Outbreaks often occur at seawater temperatures between 18-26°C. Site and cage excessive stocking densities predispose horizontal transmission.

### **Clinical signs**

Sudden high mortality, lethargy and ataxia, skin darkening with eroded, whitish patches, most mortalities sinking to the bottom.

#### Samples to be collected for diagnostics

Moribund whole fish or target organs, such as the spleen, head kidney, liver, brain,

#### Presumptive diagnostics analysis

History of elevated water temperature and sudden high morality, splenomegaly with or without pseudotuberculi, gill necrosis, liver congestion, bacteraemia evident on Giemsastained blood smears or splenic imprints.

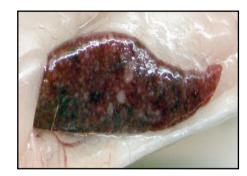
Bacterial cultures from target tissues on TSA, BHI, MH, blood agar produce colonies with characteristic morphology in about 36h at 26°C. No growth on TCBS agar. Inoculation of API 20E test strips produces typical profile 2005004.

## **Confirmatory diagnostic analysis**

Seroagglutination of bacterial colonies, MALDI-TOF, PCR



Gill necrosis



Splenomegaly with pseudotuberculi