

Aquatic Health Information Brief: Sierra Leone

Summary information

Customs and borders

1. International airports (1):

a. Freetown International Airport

2. Official land border crossing points (7):

Balumya (SL-Guinea)
Gendema (SL-Liberia)
Bomaru, Bailu, Baidu, Yenga, Gbalamuya

3. Bordering countries (2):

Guinea and Liberia

4. Official coastal customs ports (1):

Queen Elizabeth II Quay, Freetown

5. WOA^H* Focal point:

Mr Foday Mohamed Sheriff Senior Animal Production Officer Livestock and Veterinary Services Division, Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food Security Youyi Building, Brookfields, Freetown

*(World Organisation for Animal Health, founded as OIE)

Key contacts supporting national aquatic health management

Fisheries and Aquaculture Department	<p>1. Mrs Kabijatu Jalloh, Director of Aquaculture and Fisheries:</p> <p>Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR)</p> <p>kabijatujalloh4@gmail.com</p> <p>2. Mr Skeka Kargbo, Head of Aquaculture:</p> <p>Fisheries Unit (MFMR)</p> <p>shekakargbo202@yahoo.com</p> <p>MFMR</p> <p>www.facebook.com/people/Ministry-of-Fisheries-and-Marine-Resources-Government-of-Sierra-Leone/100069353823262</p>	Universities	<p>1. Dr M Kpunbeh, Head of Department Aquaculture and Fisheries Management University of Njala:</p> <p>Tel +232 76108116</p> <p>Didlyn@126.com</p> <p>www.njala.edu.sl/academics/dr-mathew-didlyn-kpunbeh</p> <p>2. Professor P Showers University of Sierra Leone:</p> <p>Tel +232 79741202</p> <p>comahs@usl.edu.sl</p> <p>https://usl.edu.sl</p>
Veterinary Services	<p>1. Dr Abdul Gudush Jalloh Retired, now private veterinarian formerly of Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Pest and Disease Control:</p> <p>Tel +232 76601845</p> <p>steriliseit@yahoo.com</p> <p>www.linkedin.com/in/gudush-jalloh-5a201b30</p>	Private sector and other support	<p>1. Aminata Bangura, Green Adventure Catfish and Tilapia producer, Leicester, Freetown:</p> <p>info@greenagventuresl.com</p> <p>Tel +232 74000044</p> <p>www.facebook.com/greenagventuresl</p>

Main fish pathogens and health conditions detected in Sierra Leone

Due to the relatively low aquaculture production in the country, there are few recorded detections in the peer reviewed or grey literature of fish pathogens in the wild or culture. There is likely to be the normal range of parasites *Trichodina* sp, flukes, whitespot etc. but unlikely to cause any major mortalities. No recorded cases in literature of major bacterial or viral pathogens of fish or fish kills. There have been some MSc and PhD theses related to aquatic animal health.

Private sector background

Aquaculture production was estimated at 85 metric tonnes (MT) in 2020. A 2015/16 survey of the industry recorded 2,089 inland fishponds, of which 2,059 were identified in Tonkolili District. Only 271 of these ponds were considered operational (13%), averaging 30kg harvests per year, of approximate value USD20 each. Aquaculture production is still low compared to some west African neighbours. WorldFish carried out small scale pond aquaculture development projects in two inland districts with some pilot systems incorporating rice cultivation, they were also involved in renovating a former non-operational government hatchery. As yet no commercial specialised fish feed mill due to low demand, although in recent years commercial feed is now imported from one Ghanaian company. In essence only one operating commercial sector farm and hatchery - contact given above - supplying primarily catfish to periurban consumers in Freetown. Whilst as yet no mid- to larger-scale mariculture ventures, extensive mangrove oyster collection, with some processing and sales carried out primarily by women's groups in and around Bonthe on the Sherbro estuary.

Infrastructure and Legislation: FAQs

1. Does the government have a specialised unit for aquatic health?

There has been no need or demand for such a unit within government. However, as the private sector begins to commercialise and risks rise from potential import of "better strains" this will become more relevant. In the last two years MFMR have become the official competent authority for live fish import or export. Other government ministries who can be involved include Ministry of Health and Environment + Port Health Authority where any livestock vets are employed. Likely entry points will be initially managed by Port Health Authority who deal with any live animal imports or exports.

2. Are aquatic health diagnostics laboratories accessible and affordable to the majority of aquaculture farmers?

No. Currently the only aquatic animal health diagnostic work is carried out within the BSc Fisheries courses at the two universities of Njala and Sierra Leone respectively (contacts above). This is primarily focused on teaching and research at general parasitology level with limited equipment and resources available for bacteriology.

3. Does the government have any bans or limitation on introducing live fish into the country – or moving live fish within country?

No. However, any proposed new introductions from other countries must first seek approval from the Director of Aquaculture and Fisheries and associated Port Health Authority in a set application procedure. Whilst there have been no bans on the internal movement of live fish – general movement was limited during Ebola outbreaks and previous national unrest.

4. Does the government have any specialist legislation on aquatic health?

No not specifically as yet. However other Acts have component parts: 1. Fisheries and Aquaculture Act 2018 - has mention of government permits required for live fish imports 2. Fish Product Regulations Act 2011 – similar reference to live fish imports.

Further reading

1. The Fish Site, 2022. Pioneering investors needed to kickstart aquaculture in Sierra Leone. Potential investors report and video.

www.thefishsite.com/articles/pioneering-investors-needed-to-kickstart-aquaculture-in-sierra-leone

2. Invest Salone, 2022. Aquaculture in Sierra Leone. WorldFish Centre and FAO. June 2022.

www.investsalone.com/resource-bank/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/ISL_AQUACULTURE_Insight.pdf

3. Paul M Jaia, 2017. Status of Aquaculture in Sierra Leone. Country Report for COMHAFAT conference. PowerPoint presentation, 19 slides.

www.comhafat.org/en/files/actualites/doc_actualite_1046.pdf

4. Dakalimwe Naftal Gabriel, Jun Qiang, Jie He, Xin Yu, Mathew Didlyn Kpundeh, 2015. Dietary aloe vera supplementation on growth performance, some haemato-biochemical parameters and disease resistance against *Streptococcus iniae* in tilapia (GIFT). Fish & Shellfish Immunology 44(2).

www.researchgate.net/publication/273470056_Dietary_Aloe_vera_supplementation_on_growth_performance_some_haemato-biochemical_parameters_and_disease_resistance_against_Streptococcus_iniae_in_tilapia_GIFT

This brief was produced as part of a series across a selection of sub-Saharan African countries. It was produced by a small team from ThinkAqua and Casammak Aquaculture and reviewed by local experts. Support for the data collection survey was provided by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

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