



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry



Asia-Pacific Laboratory Proficiency Testing (APL-PT) Program for Aquatic Animal Diseases



Yuko Hood (DAFF)

WOAH Aquatic Focal Point Meeting: 7–9 July 2026



PT program organisers



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
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Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness

Laboratory Testing



Animal Export Testing

Information regarding tests for animals undergoing international transport



Emergency Animal Disease Testing

Information regarding testing for emergency terrestrial animal diseases at ACDP



Innocuity Testing

Innocuity testing involves a range of specific and general tests to detect or exclude for adventitious agents, such as viruses, bacteria, fungi, mycoplasma and includes hemadsorbing and CPE causing agents in veterinary vaccines.



ACDP Fish Diseases Laboratory

The ACDP Fish Diseases Laboratory provides diagnostic and research services for exotic and emerging diseases of aquatic animals, including finfish, molluscs and crustaceans.

Proficiency Testing and Reference Materials

Proficiency Testing

ACDP provides quality assurance programs through the provision of external quality assurance (EQA) for veterinary diagnostic laboratories in the disciplines of molecular biology and serology. Our programs are offered in Australia and internationally.

Participants are provided with regular proficiency testing panels and peer reviewed assessment in the form of detailed reports. All information supplied by a laboratory as part of a proficiency program is treated as confidential.

In accordance with best practice ACDP maintains a quality system for the conduct of its proficiency testing programs and is an accredited proficiency testing provider to ISO/IEC 17043 Conformity assessment-general requirements for proficiency testing.

ACDP charges a participation fee for each program and participants are notified accordingly, prior to a program's commencement. For further information please contact ACDP by making an enquiry to acdp-proficiency-testing@csiro.au



Find Organisation Accreditation Education News and

ANQAP Australian National Quality Assurance Program

Accreditation No.	Site No.	Date of Accreditation
15311	15947	28 Jul 2023

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Benefits of the Asia-Pacific PT Program

For Participating Laboratories & Countries

- Meets ISO accreditation requirements for laboratory **quality assurance**
- Offers a valuable **training platform** for staff on diagnostic standards, procedures, and QA practices
- Enhances national capacity to detect **transboundary aquatic animal diseases**
- Supports **safe trade & disease control** and strengthens industry sustainability and productivity

For Australia

- Builds a **regional network** of aquatic animal health diagnostic laboratories
- Facilitates **technical dialogue** to enhance lab performance
- Enhances emerging **disease intelligence** from the Asia-Pacific region
- Builds confidence in seafood import safety by strengthening partner countries' diagnostic capacity, improving **pre-border risk management**

2012–14 Regional PT program

2012-14



**40 laboratories
from 12 countries**

2018–19 Asia-Pacific Laboratory PT program

2018-19



**43+ laboratories
from 15 countries**

2012–14 Regional PT program

2018–22 Asia-Pacific Laboratory PT program

2022–25 Asia-Pacific Laboratory PT program

2025–28 Asia-Pacific Laboratory PT program (New!)

Not for 2012-14

All 4 programs

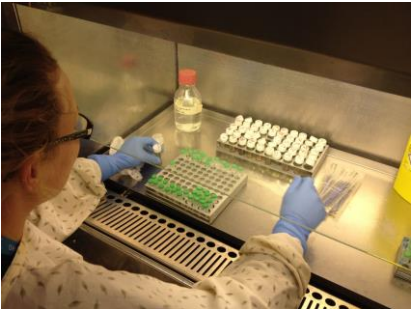
NAPT

**58+ laboratories
from 21 countries**



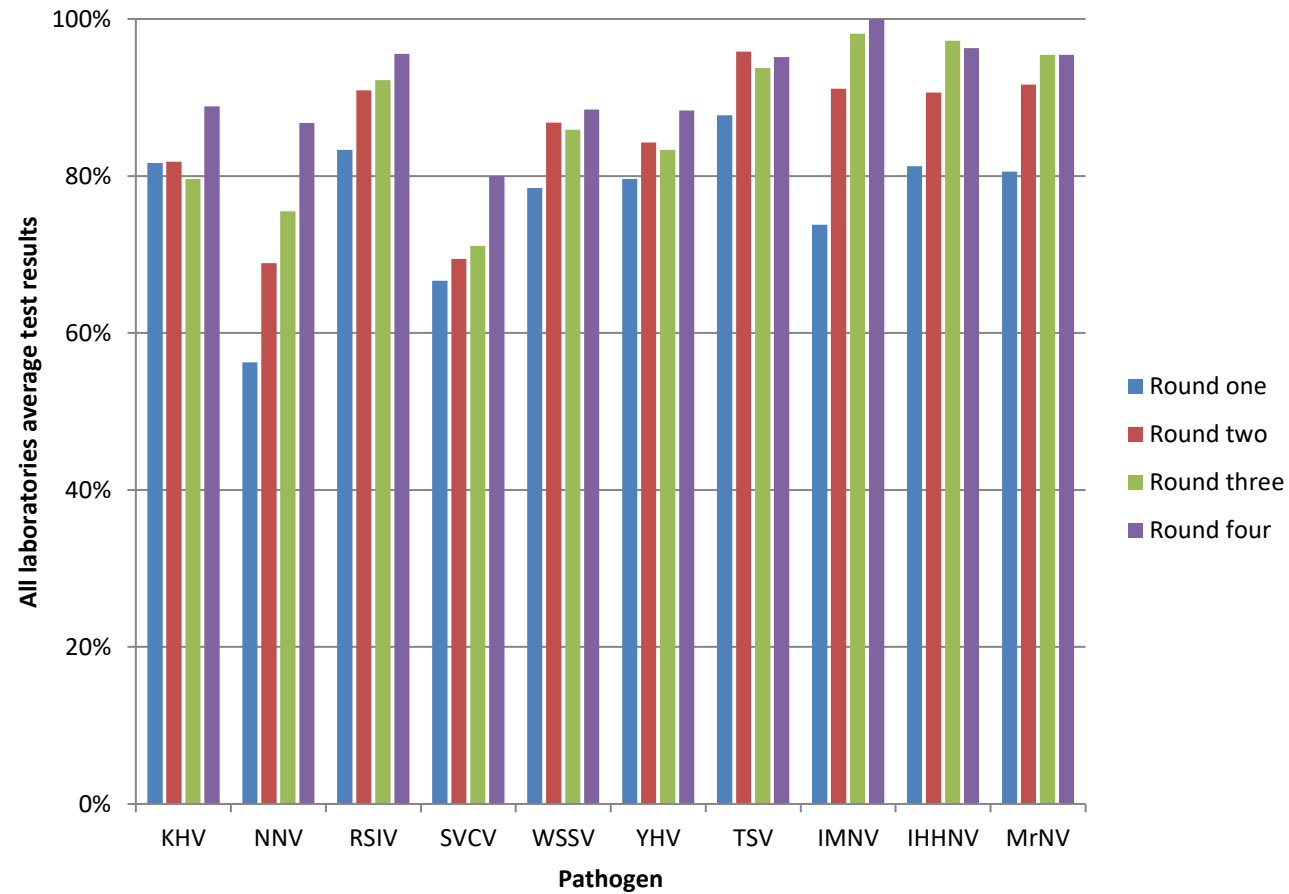
List of pathogens included in PT panels

Crustacean	Finfish
White spot syndrome virus (WSSV) Yellow head virus genotype 1 (YHV-1) Taura syndrome virus (TSV) Infectious myonecrosis virus (IMNV) Infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis virus (IHHNV) <i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i> (AHPND) Pir A/B toxin genes	<i>Megalocytivirus</i> Nervous necrosis virus (NNV) Koi herpesvirus (KHV) Spring viraemia of carp virus (SVCV)



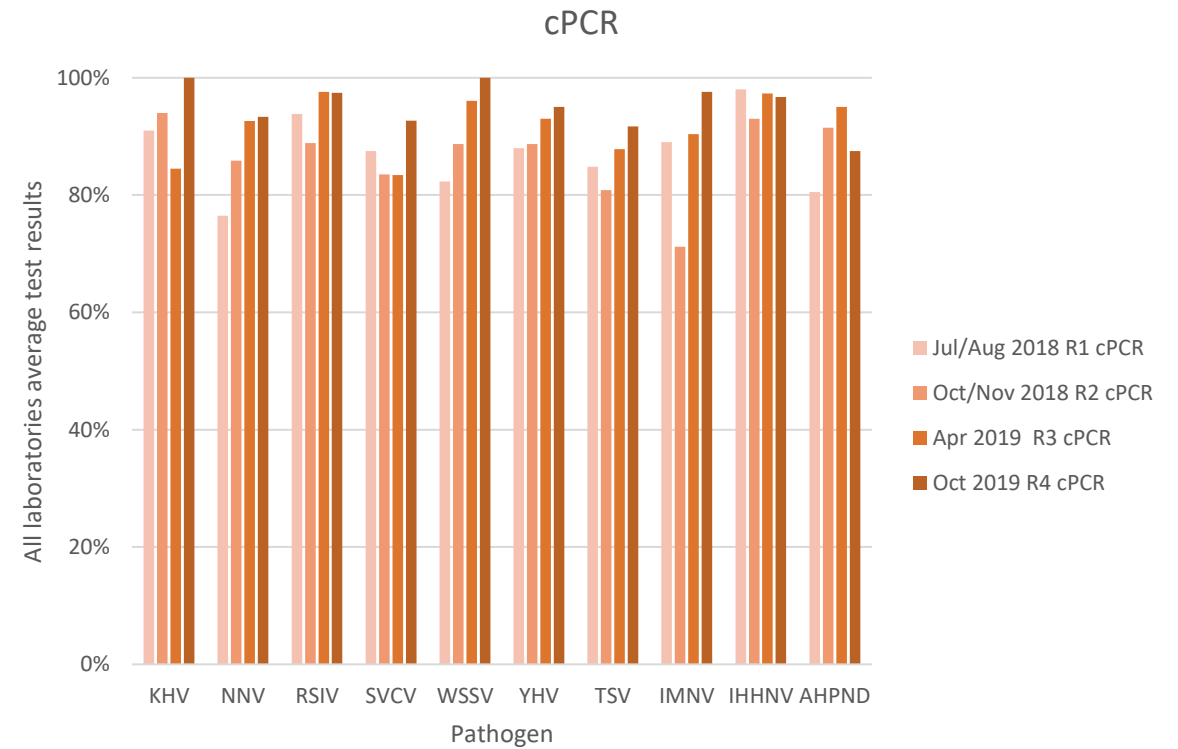
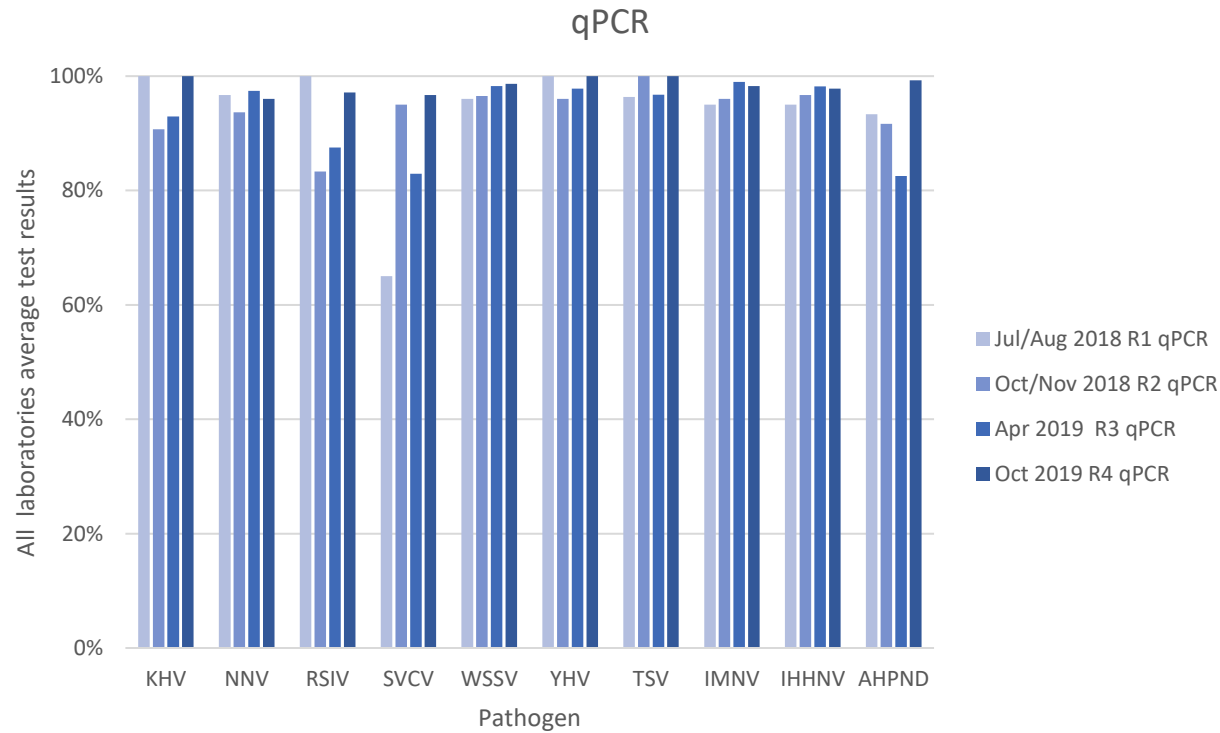
PT performance: 2013 and 2014

(Average % of correct results per pathogen)



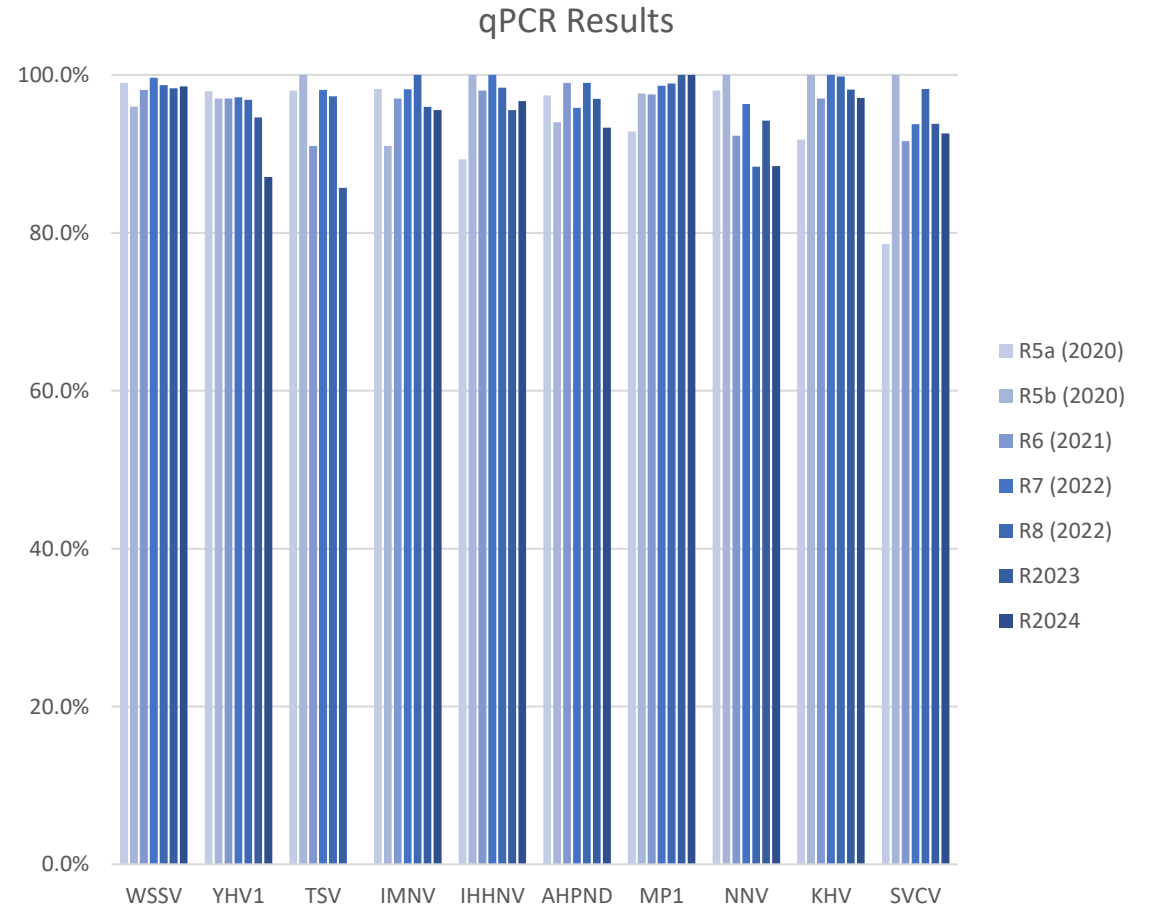
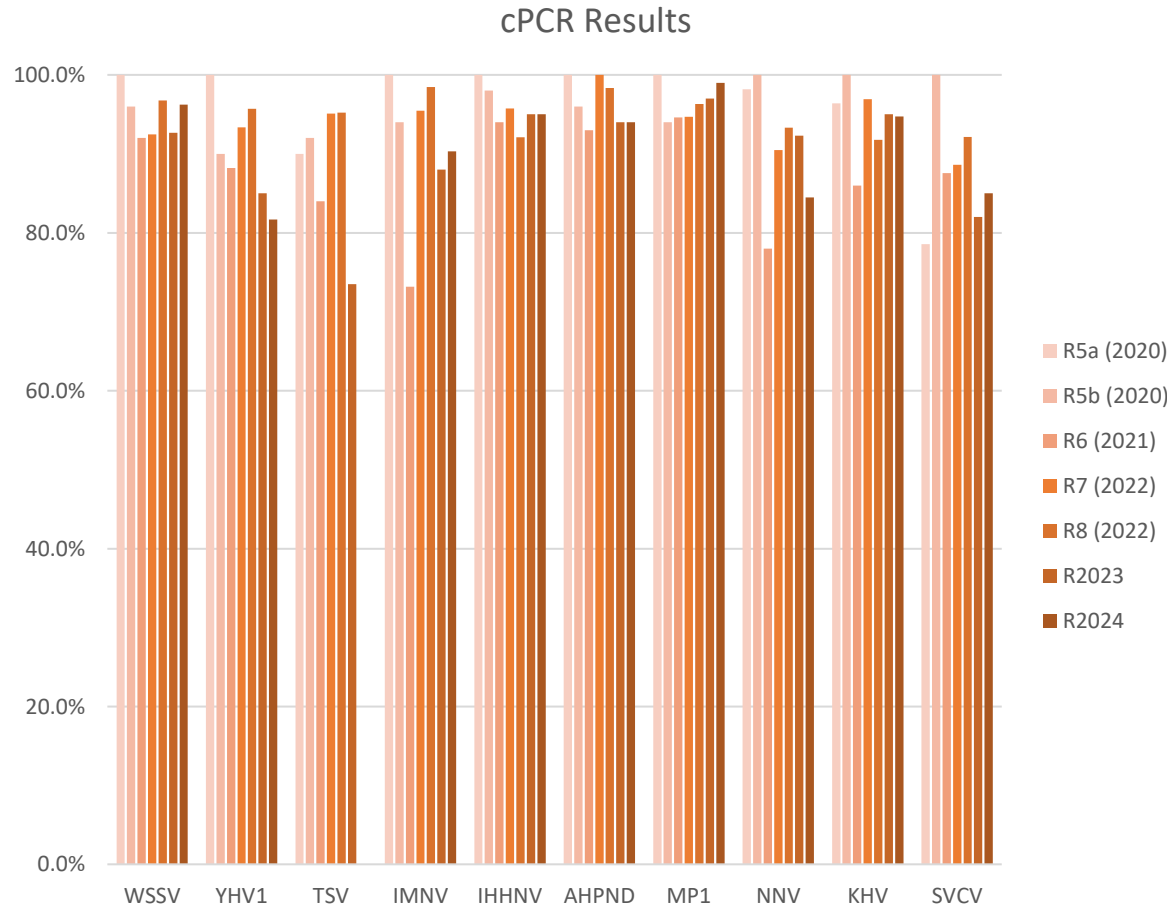
PT performance: 2018 and 2019

(Average % of correct results per pathogen)



PT performance: 2020 to 2024

(Average % of correct results per pathogen)



SUMMARY

- ✓ 58+ laboratories from 21 countries participate in the APL-PT Program
- ✓ Participating labs consistently achieve high diagnostic accuracy, with >80% accuracy
- ✓ The program has significantly improved regional diagnostic quality, consistency, and capability over time.
- ✓ A collaborative approach, inc technical support, corrective actions, and follow-up PT rounds promotes continuous improvement

Significance of APL-PT

- ✓ Important tool for aquatic animal health, disease prevention, safe trade, industry sustainability
- ✓ Unique initiative – no equivalent international program exists
- ✓ A regional workshop in August 2025 strengthened collaboration and informed future program development
- ✓ New PT program for next 3 years (2025/26-2027/28), continued to be funded by DAFF
- ✓ The 2026 PT round is underway
- ✓ ACDP and DAFF will continue to enhance the program, inc the development of new pathogen PT panels and other program improvements.

Thanks!
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