

2021/12/25

Apology and notice regarding unauthorized website alteration of Aquaculture Research Institute,
Kindai University

Our website has been attacked by an unauthorized third party and some pages have been altered to automatically redirect to a malicious site. It was also discovered that this attack may have caused leakage of personal information (224 cases).

We express our deepest apologies for any inconvenience and concern to those who may have affected by this incidence. We are contacting individuals whose contact information is available.

1. Overview of the unauthorized access

(1) Altered website

Aquaculture Research Institute, Kindai University website <https://www.flku.jp/>

(2) Affected period

① Hacking

From around 6:00 on Sunday, November 7, 2021 to around 18:00 on Thursday, December 9, 2021

② Data alteration

From around 9:00 on Thursday, December 9, 2021 to around 18:00 on Thursday, December 9, 2021

(3) Details on discovery

Around 17:00 on Thursday, December 9, 2021, a report from external party led us to confirm that some pages on our website had been altered. Immediate action was undertaken, and the site was recovered around 18:00 on the day. Detail investigation on the possible effects of the attack revealed that the personal information stored on the web server could be accessed by unauthorized person.

(4) Status of unauthorized alteration

Our website was hacked at around 6:00 on Sunday, November 7, 2021. The webpage was altered since around 9:00 on Thursday, December 9th, and the tampered page was displayed during around 13:00 to 18:00 on the same day.

As a result, personal information on the server was accessible between around 6:00 on Sunday, November 7th and 18:00 on Thursday, December 9th. This may have caused following effects.

① Possible leakage of personal information of the person who used inquiry form (170 cases) and

application form (54 cases) on our website during the period from April 24, 2019 (Saturday) to December 9, 2021 (Thursday) 18:10.

<Personal information that may have leaked could include the following;>

- Personal name, organization name, email address, phone number, contents information submitted in the inquiry form
- Personal name, affiliation, job title, e-mail address, zip code, address, telephone number in the application form for 2019 public open lecture.

② Possible download of unwanted file via browsing the altered website during 13:00 to 18:00 on Thursday, December 9, 2021.

2. Immediate actions taken and measures to prevent recurrence

- (1) We are contacting individuals with possible leakage of personal information for explanations and apologies.
- (2) The altered webpage has been fixed.
- (3) Strengthened and enhanced the security to prevent unauthorized access from the outside (changing passwords and security setting to save the server logs)

3. Requests to website users

If you may have accessed our website during the relevant period, please update your security software to the latest version and then check for potential virus/malware. If you receive any suspicious emails or contact, please report us immediately.

[Contact]

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact us at the following.

Aquaculture Research Institute, Kindai University

Email: ari@itp.kindai.ac.jp