



World Organisation
for Animal Health

Founded as OIE

Update from the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

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Health Standards Commission**



Overview

1. The WOHAE aquatic standards
2. Development of the standards
3. Key activities
4. Conclusions



Overview

1. **The WOAHA aquatic standards**
2. Development of the standards
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2023

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Aquatic Animal Health Code



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WOAH Aquatic Code

- Provides standards for safe trade
- A harmonized approach to sanitary measures
- General provisions (e.g. notifications, risk analysis, quality of AAHS, disease prevention, trade, welfare)
- Disease-specific provisions (hosts, safe commodities, dec of freedom, recs for trade of commodities)

2023

Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals

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WOAH Aquatic Manual

- Provides standards for diagnosis
- General provisions (e.g. quality management for labs, principles and methods of validation)
- Disease-specific provisions (e.g. disease information, host factors, epidemiology, specimen collection, diagnostic methods, recs for purpose of use, case definitions)

Why are the standards important?

- Higher aquaculture and fisheries production than ever
 - In 1950, **19 mt**; in 2022, **185 mt**
 - Aquaculture production is a growing proportion of aqua products
 - In 1950, **4%** of total; in 2022, **50%** of total
 - Very high proportion of production is traded internationally
 - **60 mt** traded internationally; ~ **32%** of total production
 - Diseases are one of the greatest threats
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Development of aquatic standards

- Purpose of the standards
- WOAHA Aquatic Strategy projects
- Commission workplan

Purpose of the aquatic standards

- improvement of aquatic animal health and welfare worldwide
 - used by Members for disease prevention, early detection, reporting and control
 - ensure the safety of international trade in aquatic animals and aquatic animal products, while avoiding unjustified sanitary barriers.
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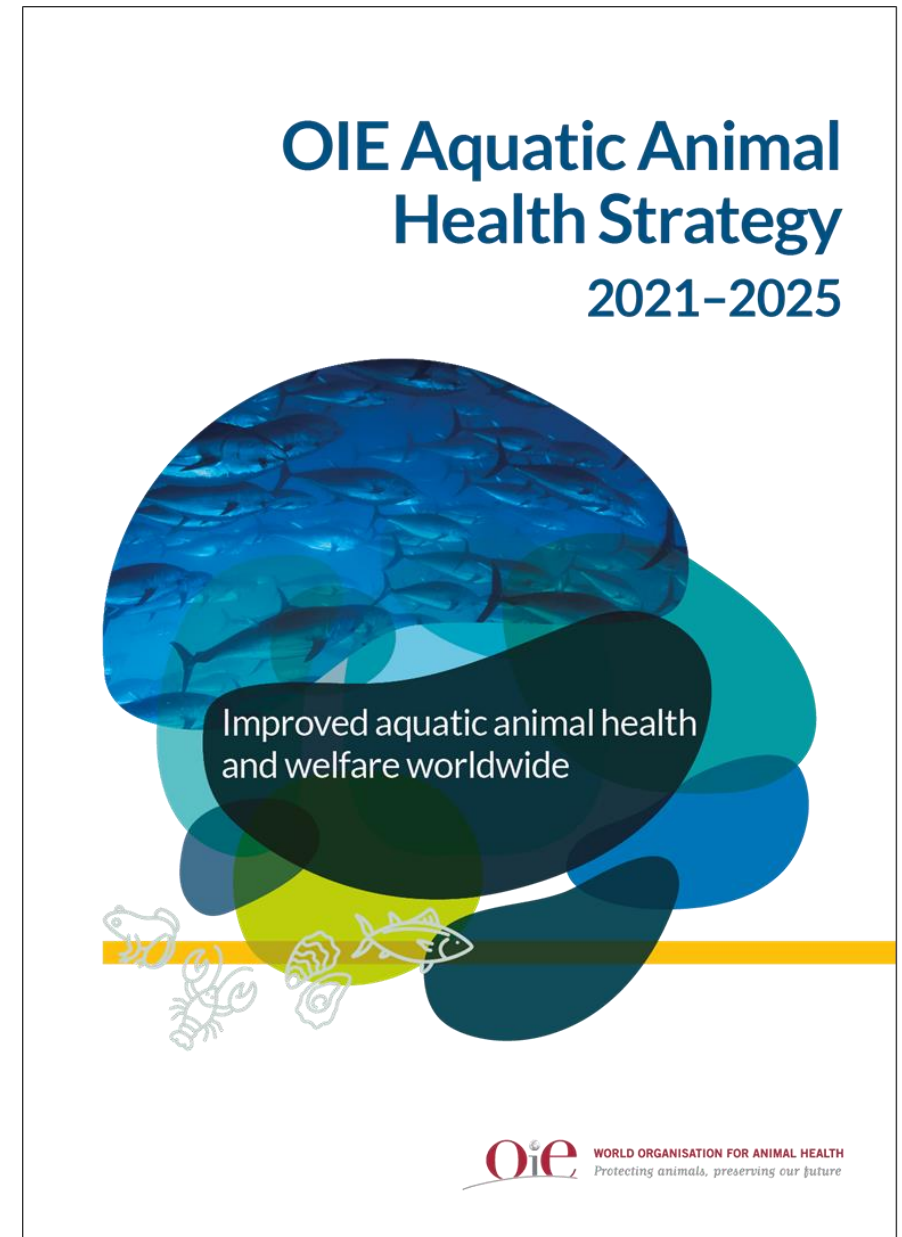
WOAH Aquatic Strategy

Objective 1 Standards

- 1.1. Develop new WOAH standards
- 1.2. Revise existing *Aquatic Code* standards
- 1.3. Review scientific basis of existing aquatic animal welfare standards
- 1.4. Revise existing *Aquatic Manual* standards
- 1.5. Identify barriers to the implementation of standards
- 1.6. Increase the accessibility of standards


Objective 2 Capacity building

- 2.1. Support the implementation of standards



Commission workplan

Prioritisation criteria

- ✓ Within the remit of the Commission
 - ✓ Aligned with WOAH strategies or conference recommendations
 - ✓ Supported or requested by Members, WOAH DG
 - ✓ Task is defined and achievable within available resources and timeframes
 - ✓ High importance to quality of the standards
 - ✓ 'Return on investment', impact for Members (broadly) is worth the investment of resources
 - ✓ Meets ongoing commitments
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Key activities – Aquatic Code

- Listing of the virus ISKNV (Infectious Spleen and Kidney Necrosis Virus)
- Compartmentalisation
- Trade in milt and fertilised eggs of fish
- Trade of ornamental aquatic animals
- Disease preparedness and outbreak response

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Aquatic Animal Health Code



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Listing of the species ISKNV

Issues:

- Three genogroups exist (red sea bream iridovirus (RSIV) and Turbot reddish body iridovirus (TRBIV), ISKNV) but only one listed
 - All three genogroups meet listing criteria
 - All three have overlapping susceptible species and epidemiology
 - Assessment against listing criteria provided
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Compartmentalisation (discussion paper)

Purpose:

- Describe the requirements for establishing a free compartment.

Issues:

- Discussion paper developed on revision of existing Chapter 4.3
- Flexibility of different risk management approaches e.g.:
 - dependent compartments
 - independent compartments.



Trade in milt and fertilized eggs of fish (new chapter)

Purpose:

- Recommendations for trade of milt and fertilized eggs of fish for aquaculture (from places not declared free)

Scope:

- Measures to reduce the risk of transfer via eggs and milt, including:
 - establishing the health status at place of origin of the broodstock
 - conditions for collection and incubations centres
 - health certification for milt and fertilized eggs of fish.




Ornamental aquatic animals (new chapter)

Purpose:

- Address risks of disease transmission via the movement of *ornamental aquatic animals*

Scope:

- Aquatic animals intended for display, exhibition, competition or use as pets
 - Guidance on eligibility of species; application of risk analysis; options for risk mitigation pre-border, border, and post border; welfare
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Preparedness and outbreak response (two new chapters)

Purpose:

- 4.X. Describe essential elements of an emergency disease preparedness framework
- 4.Y. Actions to activate emergency response to suspicion or confirmation

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Key activities - Aquatic Manual

Continue revision of manual chapters into new template

- **Crustacean chapters** – 6 of 10 completed (Intro, CP (crayfish plague), WTD (white tail dis), YHV1 (yellow head virus gt1))
- **Fish chapters** – 10 of 11 completed (RSIV (red sea bream iridoviral disease) pending)
- **Mollusc chapters** – 0 of 8 completed (Sep report - Intro, AbHV, *M. refringens*)
- **Amphibian chapters** – 0 of 4 completed

Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals



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Conclusions

- WOAHA aquatic standards represent an agreed approach to improve aquatic animal health globally
- Provide a harmonised approach to manage the risks of disease spread associated with trade
- Must continue to evolve as the aquaculture industry evolves and new scientific information becomes available
- Their development takes time — so we need to anticipate future needs.



THANK YOU

