

WOAH Collaborating Centres on Aquatic Animal Health Network

Regional Webinar Aquatic diseases

02-09-2026
Mario Caruffo

Collaborating Centres



World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organisation
mondiale
de la santé
animale

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal



1. What are Collaborating Centres?



Collaborating centres

WOAH has a network of collaborating centres dedicated to providing scientific knowledge and support to the Organization and its Member Countries, promoting international cooperation in the health and welfare of aquatic animals. These collaborating centres are designated in specific areas of expertise within the broader field of aquatic animal health. In their area of competence, they must be able to offer technical advice and international support."





- **Knowledge Sharing and Expertise**
Facilitate the exchange of scientific knowledge and best practices in aquatic animal health.
- **Support for WOAHA and Member Countries**
Provide essential technical support to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and its Member Countries in managing aquatic animal health issues.
- **Capacity Building**
Organize training programs, workshops, and courses to strengthen the capabilities of countries in managing aquatic animal diseases and promoting welfare.
- **Research and Innovation**
Conduct research to address emerging challenges in aquatic animal health, disease prevention, and sustainable aquaculture practices.
- **International Collaboration**
Foster global cooperation and partnerships in tackling transboundary aquatic animal diseases and improving health management.
- **Policy Development and Guidance**
Offer expert advice for the development of policies, regulations, and guidelines on aquatic animal health management.
- **Enhancement of Disease Surveillance**
Strengthen disease monitoring and early detection systems, improving global preparedness for aquatic animal health emergencies.
- **Promotion of Sustainable Aquaculture**
Advocate for responsible practices in aquaculture to ensure sustainability and the prudent use of antimicrobials.



2. What has this network built?





Objective

To strengthen coordination and collaboration among Collaborating Centres working on aquatic animal health, in order to maximize their collective contribution to WOAH's global work and the activities of the Aquatic Animals Commission. This will enable the centres to contribute from a global perspective while continuing to address the specific needs of their respective regions



Mission statement

To foster coordinated scientific collaboration, knowledge exchange, and strategic alignment among Collaborating Centres, to strengthen global aquatic animal health systems and support the effective implementation of WOAH standards and priorities.



General objectives

Identify and address priority and emerging issues in aquatic animal health, enabling coordinated support Competent Authorities responses and promoting the One Health approach, considering links with public health and environmental sustainability.

Align and support technical activities with WOAHA strategic priorities, contributing with scientific expertise to the development of international standards, implementation of new standards and to provide information as focal point for STAR-IDAZ.



General objectives

Establish and implement a structured and results-oriented work framework, including Terms of Reference, a 5-year workplan, and clearly defined outputs and deliverables.

Enhance knowledge exchange, capacity building and visibility through regular technical interactions, sharing of best practices, promotion of the Centres as regional and global centres of excellence and collaboration among Collaborating Centre and Reference Laboratory.

OIE Aquatic Animal Health Strategy 2021–2025

Improved aquatic animal health and welfare worldwide



© Getty Images

STANDARDS

Scientifically sound OIE international standards meet OIE Members' needs to manage risks, facilitate safe trade and improve aquatic animal health and welfare



CAPACITY BUILDING

OIE programmes support the strengthening of the Aquatic Animal Health Services of OIE Members



IMPROVING AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE WORLDWIDE

LEADERSHIP

OIE's capacity to provide global aquatic animal health leadership is strengthened



RESILIENCE

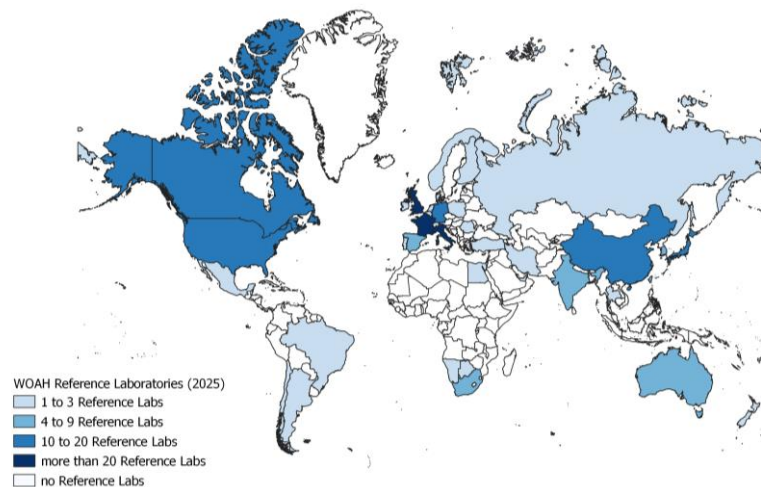
Responses to emerging aquatic animal health issues of regional or global concern are coordinated and timely



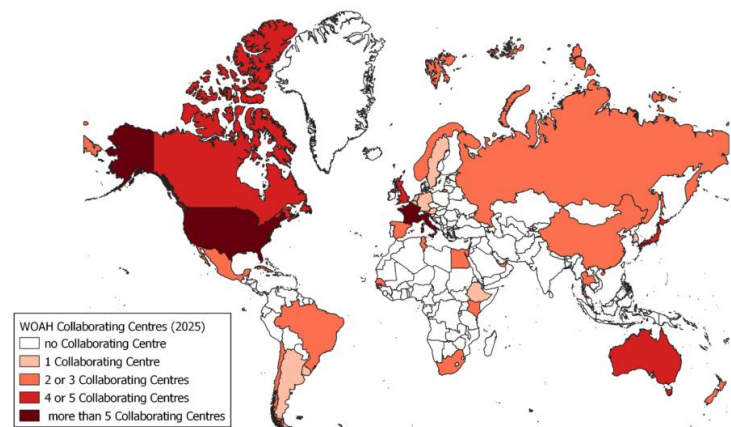
3. Network of Collaborating Centres on Aquatic Animal Health



World Distribution of WOAH Reference Laboratories



World distribution of WOAH Collaborating Centres



Summary table of information on WOAH Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres from May 2025

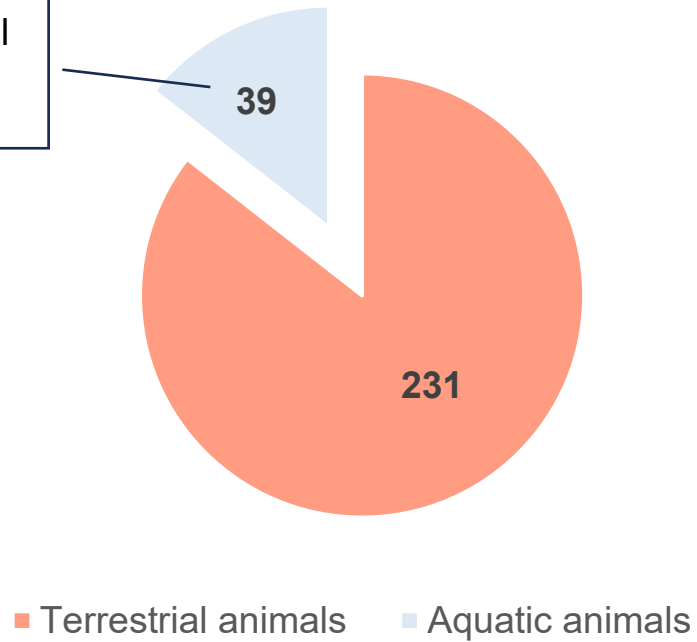
	Reference Laboratories	Collaborating Centres	Total
Number	270	80	350
Countries	39	33	48
Diseases/Topics	109	All six main focus areas: almost 36 specialties	–
Experts	206	–	–

FIGURES FROM LAST GENERAL SESSION - END MAY 2025

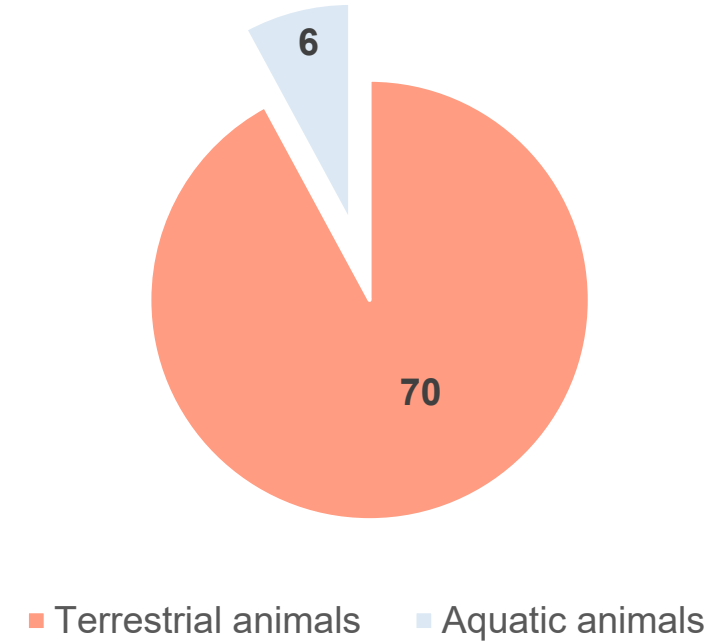
Region	Reference Laboratories	Collaborating Centres	Total
Africa	12	9	21
Americas	49	23	72
Asia–Pacific	64	16	80
Europe	138	27	165
Middle East	7	5	12

Reference Laboratories

27 aquatic animal
health disease
covered



Collaborating Centres





4. Network of Collaborating Centres



- There are **six** aquaculture centers worldwide, with only one located in this Region, serving as the sole center for the comprehensive management of antimicrobials.





Centre for Aquatic Health Science:

EPIDEMIOLOGY AND RISK ASSESSMENT OF AQUATIC ANIMAL DISEASES.

Address: Atlantic Veterinary College (AVC), University of Prince Edward Island, Department of Health Management, 550 University Avenue, Charlottetown, PE C1A 4P3

Country: CANADA

Contact details: +1-902-620-5080

Email 1: kthakur@upei.ca **Email 2:** jbeibei@upei.ca

Web: <http://www.eraaad.org>

Areas of expertise: Animal health management, epidemiology, modelling and surveillance, species-related topics, and risk analysis, risk factor analysis, and the design and evaluation of surveillance programs.



Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences

Address: The Nothe, Barrack Road, Dorset DT4 8UB, Weymouth, UNITED KINGDOM

Contact: +44-1305 20.66.00/ kelly.bateman@cefas.gov.uk / richard.paley@cefas.co.uk





Epidemiology and Risk Assessment of Aquatic Animal Diseases (Europe):

Address: Pb 64, N-1431 Ås, NORWAY

Contact details: 4723216000 /
saraya.tavornpanich@vetinst.no /
postmottak@vetinst.no





Central Laboratory for Aquaculture Research (CLAR):

Fish Health Management in the Middle East Region

Address: Abbassa, Abou Hammad, Sharkia, EGYPT

Contact details: +201001930900 / refaatelgamal139@yahoo.com



Reference Materials of Molecular Diagnostic Techniques in Aquatic and Terrestrial Animal Diseases: Laboratory expertise

NIFS (National Institute of Fisheries Science, under the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, MOF)

Address: 216, Gijanghaean-ro, Gijang-eup, Busan, 46083, KOREA (REP. OF)

Contact details: +82517202483 / hjkim1882@korea.kr





Antimicrobial Stewardship in Aquaculture (CASA): Veterinary products

Laboratory of Veterinary Pharmacology (FARMAVET) and Laboratory of Food Safety (LIA) and Center for Research and Innovation in Aquaculture (CRIA)

Address: University of Chile, Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Region Metropolitana, CHILE

Contact details: +56229785580 / agallardol@gmail.com / jcornejo@uchile.cl



- There are **six** aquaculture centers worldwide, with only one located in this Region, serving as the sole center for the comprehensive management of antimicrobials.





5. Examples with members countries



Translating workshop outcomes into actions



Call for projects

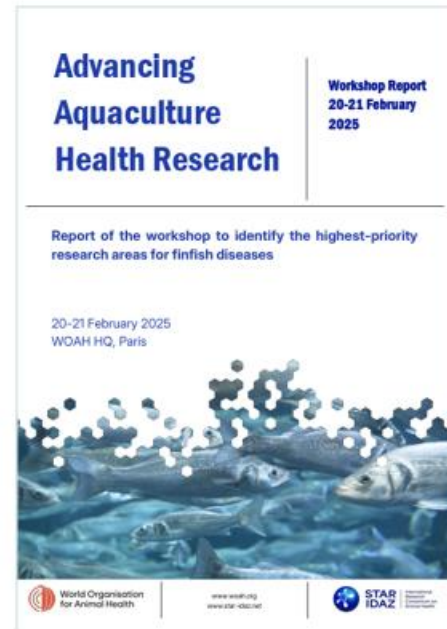


Discussion at upcoming STAR IDAZ Executive Committee meetings



On-line survey

January 2025



Gap analysis workshop

February 2025



Executive summary

April 2025

Uptake from STAR IDAZ Executive Committee

September 2025 & beyond

Areas of Collaboration with the Regions in Aquatic Animal Health





Webinar
Aquatic Animal Health: Strengthening National Capacities for Sustainable Aquaculture



Let's work
together for a
better aquatic
animal health



Thank you Merci Gracias

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