Priorities of the Aquatic Animals Commission

Prof. Espen Rimstad
Member of the Aquatic Animals Commission

Members of the new Aquatic Animals Commission

President
Dr Ingo Ernst
(Australia)

Vice-President
Dr Alicia Gallardo Lagno
(Chile)

Vice-President
Dr Fiona Geoghegan
(Brussels)

Member
Dr Kevin Christison
(South Africa)

Member
Dr Hong Liu
(People's Rep of China)

Member
Prof Espen Rimstad
(Norway)

Workplan of the Aquatic Animals Commission

1. The Commission considered the existing **items on its workplan** at this meeting and the anticipated milestones for their completion at its September 2021 meeting.
   - Available in Annex 2 of the Commission's report: https://www.oie.int/app/uploads/2021/11/a--aac-sept-2021-report.pdf

2. The Commission met 23 November to **review and prioritise any new work**. New work that is prioritised will be added to the workplan and provided for Member comments in the Commission's February 2022 report.

Ongoing work

Diseases listed by the OIE

The Commission routinely assess diseases for listing or de-listing

Recently listed: Infection with decapod iridescent virus 1 (DIV1) - May 2021

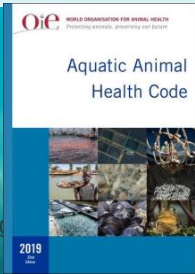
Likely to be proposed for listing in May 2022: Infection with tilapia lake virus (TiLV)

Emerging diseases

- **Early action is key to minimise spread and reduce consequences**
- Diseases are assessed at every meeting to determine if they meet the definition of an emerging disease

Diseases currently regarded as <u>emerging diseases</u> by the OIE and that should be notified immediately through the OIE-WAHIS:

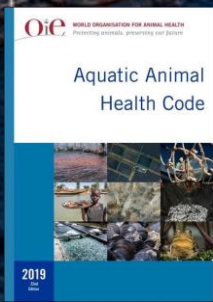
- Infection with tilapia lake virus
- Infection with carp edema virus (CEV)
- Infection with *Entercytozoon hepatopenaei*



Approaches to demonstrating disease freedom

- Chapter 1.4. Aquatic Animal Health Surveillance
- Model Articles X.X.4. to X.X.8. for disease-specific chapters to address declaration of freedom from [Pathogen X]

Annexes 7 and 8



Revision of Section 4, Disease Prevention and Control

Aquatic Code

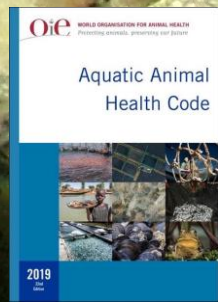
Much needed revision of standards on disease prevention and control to provide better support to Members:

- **Chapter 4.4. Disinfection of aquaculture establishments and equipment**, was the first chapter to be revised in 2017.
- **The new Chapter 4.1. Biosecurity for aquaculture establishments,** was adopted in May 2021
- **New draft Chapters 4.X. Emergency disease preparedness and 4.Y. Disease outbreak management.**
  - Article structure presented for Member comments in February 2021
  - December 2021: first meeting of the *ad hoc* Group that will start work on the new draft chapter.

Safe Commodities (Articles X.X.3 for disease specific chapters)

- Revised 9.X.3. for crustacean disease-specific chapters
- Revised 9.X.3. for fish disease-specific chapters

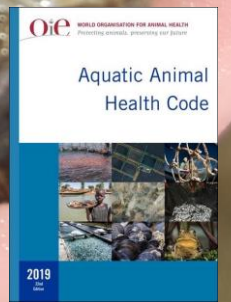
Annexes 9 and 10

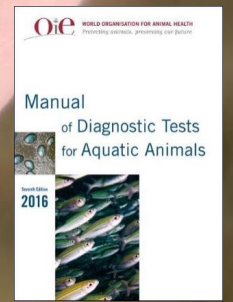


Updating the list of susceptible species for all diseases in the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual*

- *Ad hoc* Groups on Susceptibility have been convened for crustacean, fish and molluscs diseases.

- **Status:**
  - ✓ Susceptible species for all but two **crustacean diseases** finalised (Awaiting assessments: Infection with *Aphanomyces astaci* (Crayfish plague and Infection with white spot syndrome virus)
  - ✓ Susceptible species for all but two **fish diseases** finalised (Awaiting assessments: Infection with Red seabream iridovirus/infectious spleen and kidney necrosis virus (ISKNV) and Infection with *Aphanomyces invadans* (Epizootic ulcerative syndrome)
  - ✓ **Mollusc diseases:** Ongoing. Remaining diseases for review: - Infection with *Xenohaliotis californiensis*,- Infection with *Marteilia refringens*, - Infection with *Perkinsus marinus* - Infection with *Perkinsus olseni*
  - ✓ **Amphibian diseases:** Once the list for crustacean, fish and mollusc diseases have been updated.





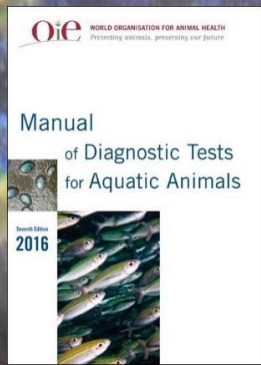
Reformatting the disease-specific chapters of the *Aquatic Manual* into a new template

- **Why a new template?:**
  - ✓ To ensure a high level of consistency between chapters
  - ✓ The structure of the chapter has been simplified and overlap between sections has been removed.
  - ✓ To ensure that only tests that appear in the table of OIE recommended diagnostic methods are described and these tests are used to determine a suspect or confirmed case.

- Work done by the Commission, Reference Laboratory experts and an external editor, Dr Mark Crane

Organisation Mondiale de la Santé Animale

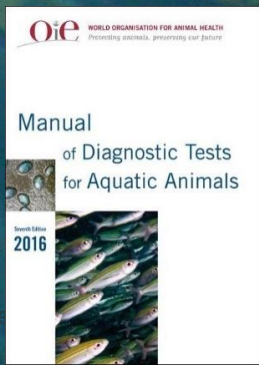
World Organisation for Animal Health



The use of environmental DNA methods for aquatic animal disease surveillance

- Monitoring of aquatic systems using eDNA is a rapidly advancing research field that will provide opportunities for rapid, cost-effective, non-destructive methods to screen for pathogens, especially in wild aquatic populations

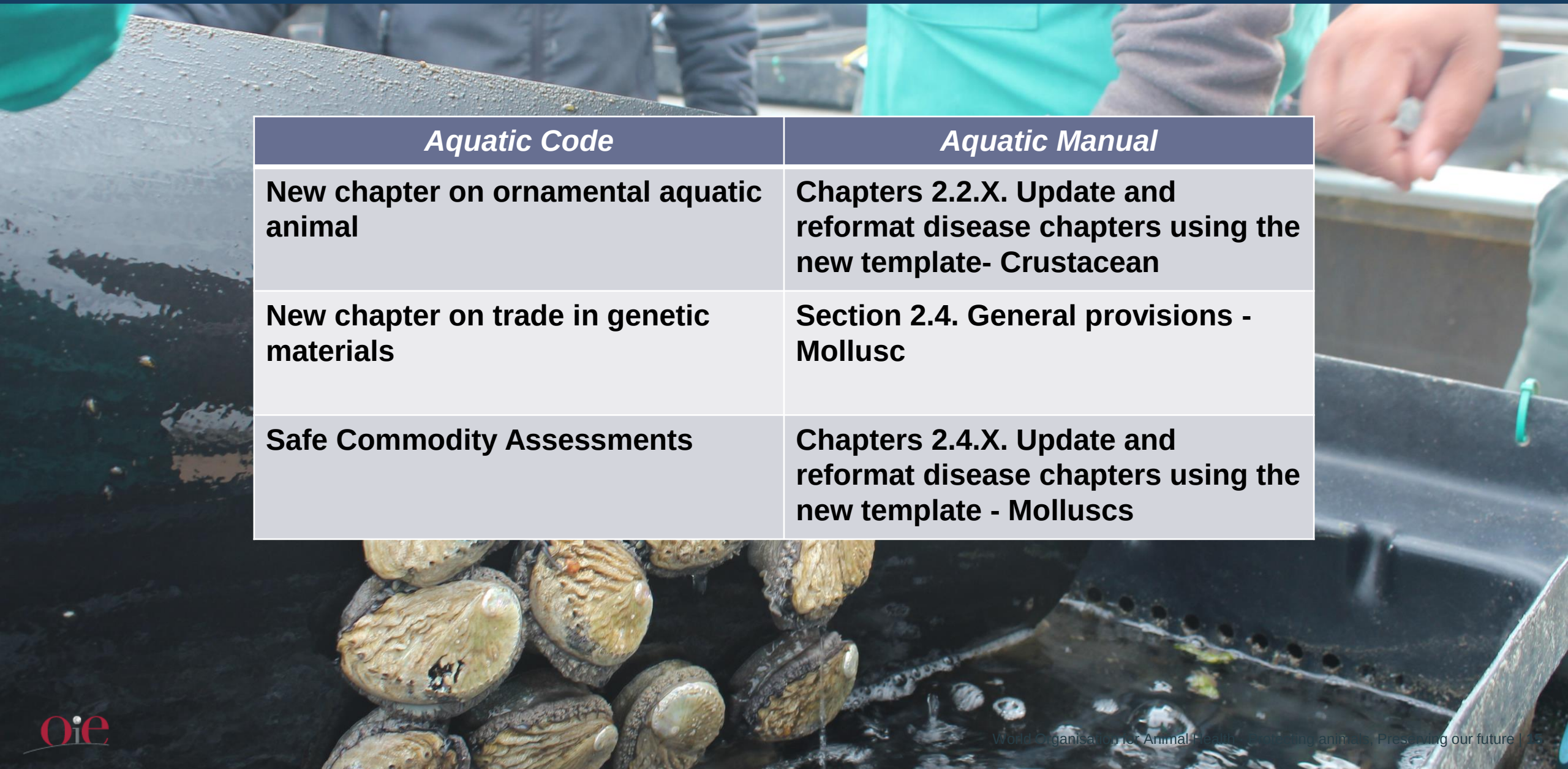
- **eDNA methods exist for**:
  - ✓ infection with *Xenohaliotis californiensis;*
  - ✓ infection with *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis;*
  - ✓ infection with *Aphanomyces astaci;*
  - ✓ infection with Gyrodactylus salaris.



- Evaluation of applications for OIE Reference Centres for aquatic animal health issues or change of experts
- Evaluation of annual reports form the OIE Reference Centres
- Twinning projects
- Evaluation of application for registration of diagnostic kits

New prioritised work

Aquatic Code and Aquatic Manual



Aquatic Code	*Aquatic Manual*
New chapter on ornamental aquatic animal	**Chapters 2.2.X. Update and reformat disease chapters using the new template- Crustacean**
New chapter on trade in genetic materials	**Section 2.4. General provisions - Mollusc**
Safe Commodity Assessments	**Chapters 2.4.X. Update and reformat disease chapters using the new template - Molluscs**

Support implementation

https://www.oie.int/app/uploads/2021/05/en-oie-aahs.pdf

Thank you for your attention