

WOAH *AD HOC* GROUP ON SUSCEPTIBILITY OF FISH SPECIES TO INFECTION WITH WOAHLISTED DISEASES

Virtual, April 2023

Terms of reference

Background

Chapter 1.5. Criteria for listing species as susceptible to infection with a specific pathogenic agent, was introduced in the 2014 edition of the *Aquatic Code*. The purpose of this chapter is to provide criteria for determining which host species are listed as susceptible in Article X.X.2. of each disease-specific chapter in the *Aquatic Code*. The criteria are to be applied progressively to each disease-specific chapter in the *Aquatic Code*.

These assessments will be undertaken by *ad hoc* Groups and the assessments will be provided to Members for comment prior to any change in the list of susceptible species in Article X.X.2. of the disease-specific chapters in the *Aquatic Code*.

For species where there is some evidence of susceptibility but insufficient evidence to demonstrate susceptibility through the approach described in Article 1.5.3., information will be included in the relevant disease-specific chapter in the *Aquatic Manual*.

The *ad hoc* Group on Susceptibility of fish species to infection with WOAHLISTED diseases has undertaken assessments for all of the WOAHLISTED diseases of fish, except for infection with tilapia lake virus and infection with *Aphanomyces invadans* (epizootic ulcerative syndrome).

Purpose

The *ad hoc* Group on Susceptibility of fish species to infection with WOAHLISTED diseases will undertake assessments for infection with tilapia lake virus in fish.

Terms of Reference

- 1) Review relevant literature documenting susceptibility of species for infection with tilapia lake virus and apply criteria, as outlined in Chapter 1.5. Criteria for listing species as susceptible to infection with a specific pathogen, to potential host species in order to determine susceptibility to infection with tilapia lake virus.
- 2) Determine susceptible species for infection with tilapia lake virus based on Article 1.5.7.
- 3) Determine species with incomplete evidence for susceptibility for infection with tilapia lake virus based on Article 1.5.8.

Expected outputs of the *ad hoc* Group

- 1) Propose a list of susceptible species for inclusion in the Article 10.X.2. of Chapter 10.X, Infection with tilapia lake virus, in the *Aquatic Code*.
 - 2) Propose a list of species with incomplete evidence for susceptibility for inclusion in Section 2.2.2 and Section 2.2.2. of Chapter 2.3.X. Infection with tilapia lake virus of the *Aquatic Manual* (to be developed).
 - 3) A report for consideration by the Aquatic Animals Commission at its September 2023 meeting.
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