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REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE OIE AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION

Paris 23–27 June 2003

The OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (“Aquatic Animal Commission”) met at the OIE headquarters from 23 to 27 June 2003. The meeting was chaired by Dr Eva-Maria Bernoth, President of the Commission, and Dr Ricardo Enriquez, Secretary General, acted as Rapporteur. The Agenda and the List of Participants are given at [Appendices I and II](#), respectively.

The Members of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Aquatic Animals Commission: AAC) were welcomed by Dr Bernard Vallat, OIE Director General, who explained that the reasons for the changes to the names of the Commissions were to better describe the scope of their activities. He also mentioned the new terms of reference of the Commission, which include the obligation to hold a joint meeting at least once a year with the Code Commission. An important topic that must be addressed is the creation of a new animal disease information system and its presentation for adoption by the International Committee in May 2004. If adopted, the new disease reporting arrangements will come into effect in January 2005, with new forms to be used by Member Countries. Dr Vallat emphasised the fact that aquatic animal diseases will be included as a technical item at the November 2003 Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania. The problem of collaboration between OIE Delegates and aquatic animal health authorities will be addressed during this presentation.

1. Member Country comments on the report of the previous meeting (January 2003)

Most of the Member Country comments were considered before the General Session in May and the proposed changes were adopted by the International Committee. The Aquatic Animals Commission reviewed the rest of the comments and made one appropriate change (see [Appendix III](#), on which Member Countries are invited to send comments by **30 September 2003**). The remaining comments were addressed under other agenda items.

2. Aquatic Animal Health Code

2.1. Review of status of sixth edition of the *Aquatic Code*

The Aquatic Animals Commission noted that the title of the *International Aquatic Animal Health Code* has been changed by the International Committee so that it is now the *Aquatic Animal Health Code* (*Aquatic Code*).

2.1.1. Changes adopted at the 71st General Session

The changes adopted by Resolution No. XIX at the General Session (see [Appendix IV](#) for information) have now been incorporated into the sixth edition of the *Aquatic Code*. Section 5.2. on health control and hygiene was moved to the *Aquatic Manual* because it was very technical and thus not suitable for the *Aquatic Code*. A new chapter on the general principles of disinfection will be drafted for inclusion in the seventh edition of the *Aquatic Code*.

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2.1.2. Removal of references to ‘notifiable diseases’ and ‘other significant diseases’

The terms ‘notifiable diseases’ and ‘other significant diseases’ have been replaced by ‘diseases listed by the OIE’ throughout the *Aquatic Code* in accordance with Resolution No. XIX of the General Session in May 2003. The Commission noted that this will require revision of the chapters that covered ‘other significant diseases’ to bring them in line with the new format in time for publication of the seventh edition of the *Aquatic Code* (see point 2.2).

2.1.3. Disposal of aquatic animal waste products

Prof. Tore Håstein, former President of the Commission, has agreed to draft a chapter on fish waste, to be considered at the next meeting of the Commission.

2.2. New template for *Aquatic Code* chapters for listed diseases, consistent for fish, molluscs and crustaceans

The Commission reviewed the contents of the individual disease chapters. This led to identification of a general issue concerning obligations and ethics in international trade of live aquatic animals and products originating from populations known to be infected with a listed disease. Chapter 1.3.1 was amended accordingly (see [Appendix V](#), on which Member Countries are invited to send comments by **30 September 2003**).

The format and content of the individual disease chapters will require substantial amendment to take into account the new requirements for surveillance for international recognition of freedom from infection. The Commission completed a draft revision of chapters for epizootic haematopoietic necrosis, infection with *Marteilia refringens* and white spot disease (see [Appendix VI](#), on which Member Countries are invited to send comments by **30 September 2003**). Following the consideration of Member Country comments, the Commission will prepare draft chapters for the remaining listed diseases prior to submission for adoption by the International Committee in May 2004.

The Commission reviewed the model certificates. All model certificates were amended (see [Appendix VII](#), on which Member Countries are invited to send comments by **30 September 2003**).

2.3. OIE recognition of freedom from listed diseases

The Commission examined the existing process for OIE recognition of freedom from foot and mouth disease. The Commission agreed to develop a procedure for OIE recognition of freedom from listed aquatic animal diseases using selected diseases as examples.

2.4. Revision of the list of diseases

The new criteria for listing were adopted by the International Committee in May 2003 and are included in this report as [Appendix VIII](#) for information. These criteria for listing must be used in the future by Member Countries to support any proposals for removing or adding diseases to the list.

The Commission applied these criteria to the current OIE-listed diseases, taking into account the information available in the International Database on Aquatic Animal Diseases and the *Aquatic Manual*. The outcome of this assessment and the Commission’s resulting proposal of which diseases to retain in a single list are shown in [Appendix IX](#) on which Member Countries are invited to send comments by **30 September 2003**.

3. Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals

3.1. Review of status of fourth edition of the *Aquatic Manual*

The Aquatic Animals Commission noted that the title of the *Diagnostic Manual for Aquatic Animal Diseases* has been changed by the International Committee so that it is now the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*.

3.1.1. Changes adopted at the 71st General Session

The new chapter on requirements for surveillance for international recognition of freedom from infection (see Part 1, chapter 1.1.4.) was adopted on the understanding that detailed guidelines on sampling requirements will be provided in the next (fifth) edition of the *Aquatic Manual* and that in the meantime, the sampling procedures in chapters I.1B, may be applied as an alternative.

3.1.2. Removal of references to ‘notifiable diseases’ and ‘other significant diseases’

See point 2.1.2.

3.1.3. Alignment of mollusc disease names to those used in the *Aquatic Code*

The Commission recognises that for the sixth edition of the *Aquatic Code* and the fourth edition of the *Aquatic Manual* there will be inconsistency in the names of the listed mollusc diseases between the two publications. A table has been included in the introductory chapter on mollusc diseases in the *Aquatic Manual* to align the names. The inconsistency will be removed in the next edition of the *Aquatic Manual*.

3.1.4. Sampling schedules and numbers – fish, molluscs and crustaceans (General Information Chapters)

See point 3.1.1.

3.2. Spring viraemia of carp

The Commission discussed a request recently received from a Member Country that the reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction for spring viraemia of carp (SVC) followed by genotyping be added as a confirmatory test to the SVC chapter in the fourth edition of the *Aquatic Manual*. It was agreed that such a significant addition to the chapter would need to be sent to Member Countries for comment, but there was now insufficient time for that to be done prior to publishing the fourth edition in August 2003. The OIE Reference Laboratory for SVC will be asked to consider including the method in a redrafted SVC chapter in time for consideration at the next meeting of the Commission in October 2003 and for circulation to Member Countries for comments with the report of that meeting.

4. Joint meeting with the Central Bureau

The Aquatic Animals Commission was joined by Dr David Wilson, Head of the International Trade Department.

4.1. Implementation of new disease list (date January 2005)

The Commission informed Dr Wilson that the new listing criteria for aquatic animal diseases as well as the new criteria for urgent notification of aquatic animal diseases had been adopted by the International Committee in May 2003. The Commission referred to the process of revising the list of diseases (see point 2.4.). Dr Wilson explained that the new notification requirements will become effective in January 2005 and that these will apply to the new list if adopted by the International Committee in May 2004.

4.2. OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare

Dr Wilson informed the Commission that Prof. Håstein has been appointed as a Member of the OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare to provide expertise on fish. The Group will meet in February 2004 prior to the OIE international conference on animal welfare. A topic on aquatic animals will be included on the agenda of this conference. Dr Wilson invited the Commission to identify and forward any aquatic animal welfare issues to him for consideration by this Group.

4.3. Transport of pathogens (risk categorisation of aquatic animal pathogens)

Prof. Barry Hill explained that changes made in 2003 to the IATA¹ regulations for dangerous goods reduces the requirements for materials shipped as diagnostic specimens. This had been accounted for in the new chapter on sampling methods in the *Terrestrial Manual* and will be added to the equivalent chapter in the fourth edition of the *Aquatic Manual*. As a similar situation may exist for the transport of terrestrial animal pathogens, the Aquatic Animals Commission requested the opinion of the Biological Standards Commission on this subject.

4.4. Risk analysis (recommendations by Ad hoc Group on Risk Analysis in Aquatic Animal Health)

Dr Wilson informed the Commission that volume 1 (qualitative risk analysis) of the OIE handbook on import risk analysis (IRA) will be published by the end of 2003. Volume 2 (quantitative risk analysis) is due for publication 6 months later.

The Commission reviewed the recommendations made by Ad hoc Group on Risk Analysis in Aquatic Animal Health and discussed with Dr Wilson how best to implement them. Dr Wilson highlighted the initiatives being taken by the OIE in increasing awareness of and building capacity for IRA. The Commission welcomed these initiatives and proposes to provide links from its web page to increase awareness of available guidelines and supporting documents.

5. The role and activities of the OIE in the field of aquatic animals

5.1. Presentations at international meetings and workshops

The Commission was not represented at any meetings and workshops in the period since the last meeting.

6. OIE Reference Laboratory activities

6.1. Updating the list of OIE Reference Laboratories

Although a call for nominations for additional Reference Laboratories for certain diseases had been circulated with the last report, none was received. The Commission discussed possible candidate laboratories on the basis of recognised expertise for the diseases in question and requested the Director General to approach the National Authorities in the OIE Member Countries concerned to ascertain if they would be willing to nominate the laboratories identified by the Commission.

6.2. Additional activities for OIE Reference Laboratories (e.g. ring tests)

The feasibility of OIE Reference Laboratories conducting inter-laboratory proficiency tests was discussed. A number of difficulties were identified that will require further deliberations. This item was therefore deferred to the next meeting of the Aquatic Animals Commission.

7. Any other business

7.1. Cooperation and partnership with other international and regional organisations

7.1.1. FAO², NACA³, SEAFDEC⁴ and other international organisations

Dr Rohana Subasinghe introduced the document entitled "Guidelines and Recommendations on the Design and Establishment of Surveillance and Zoning Programmes for Reducing the Risk of Aquatic Animal Diseases", which is the draft report and proceedings of the

1 IATA: International Air Transport Association

2 FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

3 NACA: Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia-Pacific

4 SEAFDEC: South-East Asia Fisheries Development Centre

FAO-DFO⁵/Canada/OIE Expert Consultation on Surveillance and Zonation for Responsible Movement of Live Aquatic Animals: A Framework for Reducing the Risk of Trans-Boundary Spread of Aquatic Animal Diseases, held from 14 to 18 October 2002 in Rome, Italy. The Commission thanked FAO for sharing the draft document and requested Dr Subasinghe to send the “final draft” to the President to provide a consolidated response from the Commission. The “final draft” will be further discussed during the next Commission meeting scheduled for October 2003.

The President tabled a letter sent by the Director General of NACA to the Director General of the OIE. In this letter NACA congratulates the new Commission membership and thanked OIE for its close collaboration with NACA over the past years. NACA identified the following three major areas of work that warrant continued collaboration.

- Asia aquatic animal disease reporting. In this regard, NACA requested the cooperation of OIE in a planned meeting of the NACA National Coordinators for aquatic animal disease reporting during 2004.
- Asia Aquatic Animal Health Advisory Group. The next meeting of the Asia Aquatic Animal Health Advisory Group will be held in November 2003 and NACA looks forward to the participation of members of the Commission and the OIE Regional Office in the Advisory Group meeting.
- Capacity building in WTO/SPS measures for aquatic animal health management. NACA is further planning, with FAO, and other partners, awareness building and training activities in some key areas, including risk assessment, surveillance systems and emergency response. NACA appreciates OIE’s cooperation in such capacity building efforts.

The Commission agreed that full co-operation and collaboration with NACA on above matters is highly desirable, mutually beneficial, and will undoubtedly improve awareness of the aquatic animal health status of the Asian Region. Dr Bernoth will attend and represent OIE at the Asia Aquatic Animal Health Advisory Group meeting in Bangkok in November 2003.

In the light of predicted expansion and increase in global aquaculture over the next two decades, the Commission discussed the need for more international activities to improve awareness on the work of the Commission, the *Aquatic Code* and *Manual*, compliance with international agreements, and improving aquatic animal health management and disease control measures in general. It was noted that the presence of members from African and Latin American regions at the Commission provides better opportunities for initiating and/or furthering Commission activities in those regions. The Commission, in collaboration with FAO and OIE, will endeavour to identify and prioritise activities as necessary and will develop mechanisms for their implementation.

7.1.2. Cooperation between Fishery and Veterinary Authorities, Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, Noumea, New Caledonia

Dr Bernoth reported that a Technical Item on aquatic animal diseases has been accepted for the conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania which will be held from 25 to 28 November 2003. Dr Bernoth will make a presentation to the Regional Commission on behalf of the OIE.

A questionnaire on the status of aquatic animal disease awareness among Member Countries of the Regional Commission has been circulated by the OIE Central Bureau. Responses will assist in preparing the presentation which will focus on the provision of aquatic animal health services in Regional Commission countries, and on aquatic animal disease reporting.

It is expected that the outcomes of this meeting will be of relevance to other regions.

5 DFO: Department of Fisheries and Oceans

7.2. Status of Aquatic Animals Commission Internet activities – Web site

Prof. Hill reported that the web site had been updated to reflect the new title of the Commission and its new membership.

7.3. Collaborating Centre – status of disease database; mapping facility

Three options are being considered by the Collaborating Centre for adding a mapping facility to display geographical distribution of disease occurrence and absence in OIE Member Countries, including the one being developed by OIE for HandiStatus II.

7.4. Amphibian disease issues – Evaluation of the OIE Questionnaire on amphibian diseases

Prof. Håstein had evaluated the responses received on the questionnaire on amphibian diseases. The Commission was disappointed at the poor response from Member Countries and the paucity of information provided by most respondents. Prof. Hill agreed to seek alternative sources of information on international trade in live amphibians and disease risks this presents. Dr Subasinghe offered to send Prof. Hill information on this trade.

7.5. Review of Aquatic Animals Commission work plan for 2003-2004

The Commission reviewed and updated the work plan for 2003-2004, which can be found at [Appendix X](#) for information.

7.6. International Symposium on Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics (ISVEE 11), Cairns, Australia, 2006

The Central Bureau had received a communication on the above-named symposium. The current President of ISVEE requested the possible involvement of the Aquatic Animals Commission at the symposium, which will have a major focus on aquatic animal epidemiology. The Commission welcomed the invitation to participate in this initiative to strengthen the application of epidemiology in aquatic animal health. The possibility of holding a Commission meeting in conjunction with the symposium, in line with the OIE decentralisation policy, will be discussed with the Director General.

7.7. Dates of next meetings

The proposed dates for the next meetings are: 6 to 10 October 2003 (Bureau and experts), 5 to 9 January 2004 (Commission and experts); 7 to 11 June 2004 (Commission) and 11 to 15 October 2004 (Bureau and experts).

After the meeting, the Director General indicated that the meeting of all the Members of the Commission should be held at least once a year. All other meetings will be reserved for the Bureau of the Commission (with experts if necessary), unless the financial situation for the year in question permits another meeting of the full Commission.

Furthermore, given that the International Committee has requested joint meetings of the Terrestrial Animal Code Commission with the Aquatic Animal Commission and with Scientific Commission, once year, the Director General will annually propose common dates in January to the three Presidents concerned.

../Appendices

MEETING OF THE OIE AQUATIC ANIMALS HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION

Paris, 23–27 June 2003

Agenda

- 1. Member Country comments on the report of the previous meeting (January 2003)**
- 2. *Aquatic Animal Health Code***
 - 2.1. Review of status of sixth edition of the *Aquatic Code*
 - 2.1.1. Changes adopted at the 71st General Session
 - 2.1.2. Removal of references to ‘notifiable diseases’ and ‘other significant diseases’
 - 2.1.3. Disposal of aquatic animal waste products
 - 2.2. New template for *Aquatic Code* chapters for listed diseases, consistent for fish, molluscs and crustaceans
 - 2.3. OIE recognition of freedom from listed diseases
 - 2.4. Revision of the list of diseases
- 3. *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals***
 - 3.1. Review of status of fourth edition of the *Aquatic Manual*
 - 3.1.1. Changes adopted at the 71st General Session
 - 3.1.2. Removal of references to ‘notifiable diseases’ and ‘other significant diseases’
 - 3.1.3. Alignment of mollusc disease names to those used in the *Aquatic Code*
 - 3.1.4. Sampling schedules and numbers – fish, molluscs and crustaceans (General Information Chapters)
 - 3.2. Spring viraemia of carp
- 4. Joint meeting with the Central Bureau**
 - 4.1. Implementation of new disease list (date January 2005)
 - 4.2. OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare
 - 4.3. Transport of pathogens (risk categorisation of aquatic animal pathogens)
 - 4.4. Risk analysis (recommendations by Ad hoc Group on Risk Analysis in Aquatic Animal Health)
- 5. The role and activities of the OIE in the field of aquatic animals**
 - 5.1. Presentations at international meetings and workshops
- 6. OIE Reference Laboratory activities**
 - 6.1. Updating the list of OIE Reference Laboratories
 - 6.2. Additional activities for OIE Reference Laboratories (e.g. ring tests)

7. Any other business

- 7.1. Cooperation and partnership with other international and regional organisations
 - 7.1.1. FAO, NACA, SEAFDEC and other international organisations
 - 7.1.2. Cooperation between Fishery and Veterinary Authorities, Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, Noumea, New Caledonia
 - 7.2. Status of Aquatic Animals Commission Internet activities –Web site
 - 7.3. Collaborating Centre – status of disease database; mapping facility
 - 7.4. Amphibian disease issues – Evaluation of OIE Questionnaire on amphibian diseases
 - 7.5. Review of Aquatic Animals Commission work plan for 2003–2004
 - 7.6. International Symposium on Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics (ISVEE 11), Cairns, 2006
 - 7.7. Dates of next meetings
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MEETING OF THE OIE AQUATIC ANIMALS HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION

Paris, 23-27 June 2003

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SECTION 1.2.
NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS

CHAPTER 1.2.1.
**NOTIFICATIONS AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL
INFORMATION**

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[Article 1.2.1.7.

All faxes, telegrams or electronic mail sent by *Veterinary Administrations* in pursuance of Articles 1.2.1.3 and 1.2.1.6 shall receive priority in accordance with the circumstances. Communications by fax, telephone, electronic mail or telegram, sent in the case of exceptional urgency when there is danger of spread of an epizootic disease, shall be given the highest priority accorded to these communications by the International Arrangements of Telecommunications.]

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RESOLUTION No. XIX

**Adoption of the sixth edition of the *International Aquatic Animal Health Code*
and the fourth edition of the *Diagnostic Manual for Aquatic Animal Diseases***

CONSIDERING

1. The present forms of the *International Aquatic Animal Health Code* (the *Code*) and *Diagnostic Manual for Aquatic Animal Diseases* (the *Manual*), which are the result of their adoption and modifications made to them by the agreement of the International Committee during previous General Sessions,
2. The necessity to update the *Code* and *Manual* in consultation with the Delegates of Member Countries, and the proposed revisions contained in Appendices VIII and XII of the Report of the June 2002 meeting of the Fish Diseases Commission (Document 71 SG/12/CS4 A) and Appendices III to XV of the Report of the January 2003 meeting of the Fish Diseases Commission (Document 71 SG/12/CS4 B),

THE COMMITTEE RESOLVES

1. To adopt the updates to the sixth edition of the *International Aquatic Animal Health Code* proposed in Appendices VIII and XII of Document 71 SG/12/CS4 A and Appendices III to XV of Document 71 SG/12/CS4 B, in English, French and Spanish, each text being authentic with the following modifications:
 - 1.1. In Appendix III (Obligations and ethics in international trade) Article 1.3.1.3. point 1c replace the word 'exceptional' with the word 'potential'
 - 1.2. In Appendix IV (General Definitions):
 - a) replace the words 'acting of carriers of the pathogen' with 'transferring the disease agent' in the definition of fallowing
 - b) in the definition of infection delete the words 'detection of the pathogen by the methods described in the *Manual*', retain the original wording changing 'infectious agent' to 'disease agent' so that the definition is 'the presence of the disease agent in the host'
 - c) in the definition of stamping-out policy, move the words 'as defined in this *Code*' to after '*disinfection* procedures' and add the words 'determined by risk assessment' after the words 'Fallowing should be for an appropriate period'
 - 1.3. In Appendix V (Guidelines for fallowing in aquaculture) Article X.X.X.1. replace the words 'the maximum period' with the words 'a period, the length of which should be' in the last line of the first paragraph
 - 1.4. In Appendix VI (Measures concerning the international transport of aquatic animal pathogens and pathological material):
 - a) in the English version, replace the word 'pathogens' with the words 'disease agents' in the title
 - b) delete Article 1.5.6.1.
 - c) replace the words 'returned or sterilised together with its packing, immediately upon receipt' with the words 'rendered safe by the Competent Authority' in the last line of Article 1.5.6.3.

Appendix IV (contd)

- 1.5. In Appendix VIII (Diseases notifiable to the OIE [of fish]) replace the words 'disease name virus' with 'disease agent name' throughout
- 1.6. In Appendix XI (Disease notification criteria)
 - a) delete the word 'proposed' in titles of Articles 1.1.2.1. and 1.1.2.2.
 - b) add the words 'Diseases proposed for listing must meet all of the relevant parameters set for each of the criteria, namely A. Consequences, B. Spread and C. Diagnosis. Therefore, to be listed, a disease must have the following characteristics: 1 or 2 or 3; and 4 or 5; and 6; and 7; and 8. to Article 1.1.2.1.
 - c) delete the word 'always' in point 1 of Article 1.1.2.1.
 - d) add the word 'For' to the two table headings (A and B) in Article 1.1.2.2. so that the headings now read: 'A. For listed diseases' and 'B. For non-listed diseases'
- 1.7. In Appendix XII (Notification and epidemiological information) add the words 'newly recognised' zoonotic potential to Article 1.2.1.3. point 1.e
- 1.8. In Appendix XIV (White spot disease) add the words 'and exporting country' to Article 4.1.2.1. so that the sentence now reads: 'Potential transfers of other decapod crustaceans from marine, brackish water or freshwater sources to white spot disease free zones should be subject to risk analysis when there is evidence from experimental challenge studies that one or more species in the *importing country* and *exporting country* is susceptible to white spot disease'
- 1.9. Move Appendix VII (Blood sampling and vaccination) and Appendix XIII (disinfection of crustacean farms) and the remainder of Part 5 of the *Code* (Health control and hygiene) to the *Manual*
2. To adopt the fourth edition of the *Diagnostic Manual for Aquatic Animal Diseases*.
3. To ask the Director General to publish the revised editions of the *International Aquatic Animal Health Code* and *Diagnostic Manual for Aquatic Animal Diseases*.

(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 20 May 2003)

SECTION 1.3.

**OBLIGATIONS AND ETHICS
IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

CHAPTER 1.3.1

GENERAL OBLIGATIONS

Article 1.3.1.1.

International trade in aquatic animals and aquatic animal products depends on a combination of health factors that should be taken into account to ensure unimpeded trade, without incurring unacceptable *risks* to human and aquatic animal health. As a general principle, international trade in aquatic animals and their products from populations known to be infected with a listed disease and considered to be capable of transmitting the disease should only be done with the full knowledge of the importing and exporting countries.

Because of the likely variations in aquatic animal health situations, various options are offered by the *Aquatic Code*. The aquatic animal health situation in the *exporting country*, in the *transit country* or *countries* and in the *importing country* should be considered before determining the requirements that have to be met for trade. To maximise harmonisation of the aquatic animal health aspects of *international trade*, *Competent Authorities* of Member Countries should base their import requirements on the OIE standards, guidelines and recommendations.

These requirements should be included in the model international aquatic animal health certificates approved by the OIE, which form Part 6 of this *Aquatic Code*.

Certification requirements should be exact and concise, and should clearly convey the wishes of the *importing country*. For this purpose, prior consultation between *Competent Authorities* of *importing* and *exporting countries* is useful and may be necessary. It enables the setting out of the exact requirements so that the signing veterinarian or other *certifying official* can, if necessary, be given a note of guidance explaining the understanding between the *Competent Authorities* involved.

When Members of, or representatives acting on behalf of, a *Competent Authority* wish to visit another country for matters of professional interest to the *Competent Authority* of the other country, the latter should be informed.

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CHAPTER 2.1.1.

EPIZOOTIC HAEMATOPOIETIC NECROSIS

Article 2.1.1.1.

For the purposes of this *Aquatic Code*, the disease agents of epizootic haematopoietic necrosis (EHN) are: EHN virus (EHNV), European sheatfish virus (ESV) and European catfish virus (ECV).

Provisions for recognition of freedom from EHN means that the conditions as outlined below are met for all of the agents listed above.

Article 2.1.1.2.

Naturally susceptible species in which clinical signs of EHNV infection are known to develop are: redfin perch (*Perca fluviatilis*) and rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*).

Naturally susceptible species in which clinical signs of ESV infection are known to develop are: sheatfish (*Silurus glanis*).

Naturally susceptible species in which clinical signs of ECV infection are known to develop are: catfish (*Ictalurus melas*).

Article 2.1.1.3.

The disease agents listed in Article 2.1.1.1 can cause asymptomatic infection in their respective susceptible species listed in Article 2.1.1.2.

Article 2.1.1.4.

Experimental EHNV infections have been reported in Macquarie perch (*Macquaria australasica*), silver perch (*Bidyanus bidyanus*), mountain galaxias (*Galaxias olidus*), and mosquito fish (*Gambusia affinis*) and other species belonging to the family Poeciliidae.

Article 2.1.1.5.

Suspect cases of natural infection with any of the agents listed in Article 2.1.1.1 in species other than those listed in Articles 2.1.1.2 and 2.1.1.3 should be referred immediately to the appropriate OIE Reference Laboratory, whether or not clinical signs are associated with the findings.

Article 2.1.1.6.

Methods for surveillance, diagnosis and confirmatory identification of the disease agents are provided in the *Aquatic Manual*.

Article 2.1.1.7.

EHN free country

A country may be considered free from EHN if it meets the conditions in Articles 2.1.1.8 or 2.1.1.9.

If a country shares a water catchment area with one or more other countries, it can only be declared an EHN free country if all the shared water catchment areas are declared free zones (see Articles 2.1.1.10 to 2.1.1.12).

Article 2.1.1.8.

A country where none of the species listed in Articles 2.1.1.2 and 2.1.1.3 is present or where there has never been any observed occurrence of the disease despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression may be considered free from EHN when *prescribed biosecurity conditions* have been in place continuously in the country for at least the previous 2 years as follows:

- 1) EHN is compulsorily notifiable to the *Competent Authority*, including notification of suspicion; and
- 2) an *early detection system* is in place within the country enabling the *Competent Authority* to undertake effective disease investigation and reporting, including access to laboratories capable of diagnosing and differentiating relevant diseases, and training of veterinarians or fish health specialists in detecting and reporting unusual disease occurrence; and
- 3) infection is not known to be established in wild populations; and
- 4) conditions applied to imports to prevent the introduction of EHN into the country are in place (see Section 1.4).

Article 2.1.1.9.

A country where the last known occurrence was within the previous 25 years or the infection status was previously unknown, for example because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression, may be considered free from EHN when:

- 1) it meets the *prescribed biosecurity conditions* detailed in Article 2.1.1.8; and
- 2) *targeted surveillance* as described in chapters 1.4 and 2.1.1 in the *Aquatic Manual* has been in place for at least the past 2 years in *aquaculture establishments* holding any of the susceptible species listed in Articles 2.1.1.2 and 2.1.1.3 without detection of the disease agents listed in Article 2.1.1.1. If there are areas of the country in which there are no such aquaculture establishments but in which there are wild populations of any of the susceptible species listed in Articles 2.1.1.2 and 2.1.1.3, those populations must be included in the *targeted surveillance*.

Article 2.1.1.10.

EHN free zone

An EHN free zone may be established within the *territory* of one or more countries of infected or unknown status if the zone meets the conditions referred to in Articles 2.1.1.11 or 2.1.1.12. Such EHN free zones must comprise: one or more entire water catchment area(s) from the sources of the waterways to the sea, or part of a catchment area from the source(s) to a natural or artificial barrier that prevents the upward migration of *fish* from lower stretches of the waterway. Such zones must be clearly delineated on a map of the *territory* of the country(ies) concerned by the *Competent Authority*.

If a zone extends over more than one country, it can only be declared an EHN free zone if the conditions outlined below apply to all shared areas of the zone.

Article 2.1.1.11.

A zone where none of the species listed in Articles 2.1.1.2 and 2.1.1.3 is present or where there has never been any observed occurrence of the disease despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression may be considered free from EHN when *prescribed biosecurity conditions* have been in place continuously in the zone for at least the previous 2 years as follows:

- 1) EHN is compulsorily notifiable to the *Competent Authority*, including notification of suspicion; and
- 2) an *early detection system* is in place within the *zone* enabling the *Competent Authority* to undertake effective disease investigation and reporting, including access to laboratories capable of diagnosing and differentiating relevant diseases, and veterinarians or fish health specialists are trained in detecting and reporting unusual disease occurrence; and
- 3) infection is not known to be established in wild populations; and
- 4) official control measures to prevent the introduction of EHN into the *zone* are in place.

Article 2.1.1.12.

A zone where the last known occurrence was within the previous 25 years or the infection status was previously unknown, for example because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression, may be considered free from EHN when:

- 1) it meets the *prescribed biosecurity conditions* detailed in Article 2.1.1.11; and
- 2) *targeted surveillance* as described in chapters 1.4 and 2.1.1 in the *Aquatic Manual* has been in place for at least the past 2 years in aquaculture establishments holding any of the susceptible species listed in Articles 2.1.1.2 and 2.1.1.3 without detection of the disease agents listed in Article 2.1.1.1. If there are areas of the zone in which there are no such *aquaculture establishments* but in which there are wild populations of any of the susceptible species listed in Articles 2.1.1.2 and 2.1.1.3, those populations must be included in the *targeted surveillance*.

Article 2.1.1.13.

EHN free aquaculture establishment

An EHN free *aquaculture establishment* may be located within an EHN infected country or zone or within a country or zone of unknown status with respect to EHN if it meets the conditions referred to in Articles 2.1.1.14 or 2.1.1.15. Such EHN free *aquaculture establishments* must be supplied by a contained water source only (e.g. a spring, well, borehole, rain catchment, etc.) and be free from stocks of wild *fish* of the susceptible species listed in Articles 2.1.1.2 and 2.1.1.3, and there must be a natural or artificial barrier that prevents the migration of *fish* from lower stretches of the waterway into the *aquaculture establishment* or its water supply.

Article 2.1.1.14.

An *aquaculture establishment* where none of the species listed in Articles 2.1.1.2 and 2.1.1.3 is present or where there has never been any observed occurrence of the disease despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression may be considered free from EHN when *prescribed biosecurity conditions* have been in place continuously in the *aquaculture establishment* for at least the previous 2 years as follows:

- 1) EHN is compulsorily notifiable to the *Competent Authority*, including notification of suspicion; and
- 2) the *aquaculture establishment* complies with an *early detection system* enabling the *Competent Authority* to undertake effective disease investigation and reporting, including access to laboratories capable of diagnosing and differentiating relevant diseases, and the staff are trained in detecting and reporting unusual disease occurrence; and
- 3) official control measures to prevent the introduction of EHN into the *aquaculture establishment* are in place.

Article 2.1.1.15.

An *aquaculture establishment* where the last known occurrence of EHN was within the previous 25 years or the infection status was previously unknown, for example because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression, may be considered free from EHN when:

- 1) it meets the *prescribed biosecurity conditions* detailed in Article 2.1.1.14; and
- 2) *targeted surveillance* as described in chapters 1.4 and 2.1.1 in the *Aquatic Manual* has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of the disease agents listed in Article 2.1.1.1.

Article 2.1.1.16.

Maintenance of free status

A country, *zone* or *aquaculture establishment* that is considered free from EHN following the provisions of Articles 2.1.1.8, 2.1.1.11 and 2.1.1.14 may maintain its official status as EHN free provided that the *prescribed biosecurity conditions* are continuously maintained.

A country, *zone* or *aquaculture establishment* that is considered free from EHN following the provisions of Articles 2.1.1.9, 2.1.1.12 and 2.1.1.15 may discontinue *targeted surveillance* and maintain its official status as EHN free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of EHN exist and the *prescribed biosecurity conditions* are continuously maintained. In cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of EHN, *targeted surveillance* will need to be continued, but at a level commensurate with the degree of risk assessed by the *Competent Authority*.

Article 2.1.1.17.

Suspension and restoration of free status

If a *Competent Authority* has reason to believe that any of the conditions for recognition of country, *zone* or *aquaculture establishment* freedom has been breached, it should immediately suspend the free status, implement any necessary containment measures and conduct an investigation.

If the investigation confirms that the suspected breach has not taken place, free status may be restored.

If the investigation confirms that the suspected breach has taken place, suspension of free status is continued. The *Competent Authority* should carry out an epizootiological investigation to determine the likelihood of disease entry and establishment and re-establish the conditions in Articles 2.1.1.7. to 2.1.1.9, 2.1.1.10. to 2.1.1.12, or 2.1.1.13. to 2.1.1.15 if free status is to be restored. Steps leading to re-establishment of free status may require depopulation, *fallowing*, *disinfection* and other measures as described in Section 1.6.

Article 2.1.1.18.

When importing live fish or their sexual products, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require that the consignment be accompanied by an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country.

This certificate must certify, on the basis of a surveillance scheme conducted according to the procedures described above and detailed in the Aquatic Manual, whether or not the place of production of the consignment is a country, zone or aquaculture establishment officially declared EHN free.

The certificate shall be in accordance with Model Certificate No. 1 given in Part 6 of this Aquatic Code.

Article 2.1.1.19.

If the Competent Authority of the exporting country cannot certify the place of production of the consignment as being free from EHN, the importing country should assess the risks associated with the importation of live fish or their sexual products prior to a decision on whether to authorise an importation.

Article 2.1.1.20.

When importing dead fish of the susceptible species listed in Articles 2.1.1.2 and 2.1.1.3 the Competent Authority of the importing country should require that the consignment be accompanied by an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country.

This certificate must certify, on the basis of a surveillance scheme conducted according to the procedures described above and detailed in the Aquatic Manual, whether or not the place of production of the consignment is a country, zone or aquaculture establishment officially declared EHN free.

The certificate shall be in accordance with Model Certificate No. 2 given in Part 6 of this Aquatic Code.

Article 2.1.1.21.

If the Competent Authority of the exporting country cannot certify the place of production of the consignment as being free from EHN, the importing country should assess the risks associated with the importation of dead unviscerated fish of the susceptible species listed in Articles 2.1.1.2 and 2.1.1.3 prior to a decision on whether to authorise an importation.

Article 2.1.1.22.

The Competent Authorities of exporting countries should not authorise the exportation of live fish from populations known to be infected with EHN without the full agreement of the importing country.

CHAPTER 3.1.5.

INFECTION WITH *MARTEILIA REFRINGENS*

Article 3.1.5.1.

The disease agent is *Marteilia refringens*.

Article 3.1.5.2.

Naturally susceptible species in which clinical signs of infection with *Marteilia refringens* are known to develop are: European flat oyster (*Ostrea edulis*), Australian mud oyster (*Ostrea angasi*), Argentinean oyster (*Ostrea puelchana*) and Chilean flat oyster (*Ostrea chilensis*).

Article 3.1.5.3.

Marteilia refringens can cause asymptomatic infection in the susceptible species listed in Article 3.1.5.2.

Article 3.1.5.4.

Infections with *Marteilia* spp. of unclear taxonomic affiliation have been described in the following species: common edible cockle (*Cerastoderma [Cardium] edule*), blue mussel (*Mytilus edulis*), Mediterranean mussel (*Mytilus galloprovincialis*), giant clam (*Tridacna maxima*) and calico scallop (*Argopecten gibbus*).

Article 3.1.5.5.

Suspect cases of natural infection with *Marteilia refringens* in species other than those listed in Articles 3.1.5.2 and 3.1.5.3 should be referred immediately to the appropriate OIE Reference Laboratory, whether or not clinical signs are associated with the findings.

Article 3.1.5.6.

Methods for surveillance, diagnosis and confirmatory identification of *Marteilia refringens* are provided in the *Aquatic Manual*.

Article 3.1.5.7.

***Marteilia refringens* free country**

A country may be considered free from *Marteilia refringens* if it meets the conditions in Articles 3.1.5.8 or 3.1.5.9.

If a country shares water bodies of coastal areas with one or more other countries, it can only be declared a *Marteilia refringens* free country if all the shared coastal areas are declared free zones (see Articles 3.1.5.10. to 3.1.5.12.).

Article 3.1.5.8.

A country where none of the susceptible species listed in Article 3.1.5.2 is present or where there has never been any observed occurrence of infection with *Marteilia refringens* despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression may be considered free from infection with *Marteilia refringens* when *prescribed biosecurity conditions* have been in place continuously in the country for at least the previous 2 years as follows:

- 1) infection with *Marteilia refringens* is compulsorily notifiable to the *Competent Authority*, including notification of suspicion; and
- 2) an *early detection system* is in place within the country enabling the *Competent Authority* to undertake effective disease investigation and reporting, including access to laboratories capable of diagnosing and differentiating relevant infections, and training of veterinarians or mollusc health specialists in detecting and reporting unusual infection occurrence; and
- 3) infection is not known to be established in wild populations; and
- 4) conditions applied to imports to prevent the introduction of *Marteilia refringens* (e.g. live molluscs introduced for aquaculture purposes or for human consumption) into the country are in place (see Section 1.4).

Article 3.1.5.9.

A country where the last known occurrence was within the previous 25 years or the infection status was previously unknown, for example because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression of the infection, may be considered free from infection with *Marteilia refringens* when:

- 1) it meets the *prescribed biosecurity conditions* detailed in Article 3.1.5.8; and
- 2) *targeted surveillance* as described in chapters 1.4 and 3.1.5 in the *Aquatic Manual* has been in place for at least the past 2 years for susceptible species listed in Article 3.1.5.2 in *aquaculture establishments* or wild populations without detection of the disease agent listed in Article 3.1.5.1.

Article 3.1.5.10.

***Marteilia refringens* free zone**

A *zone* free of infection with *Marteilia refringens* may be established within the *territory* of one or more countries of infected or unknown status if the *zone* meets the conditions referred to in Articles 3.1.5.11 or 3.1.5.12.

Such *Marteilia refringens* free zones must comprise: one or more entire water body of coastal area(s) defined on the basis of the distribution of the susceptible species listed in Article 3.1.5.2, geographical and hydrographical criteria. Such zones must be clearly delineated on a map of the *territory* of the country(ies) concerned by the *Competent Authority*.

If a *zone* extends over more than one country, it can only be declared a *Marteilia refringens* free *zone* if the conditions outlined below apply to all shared areas of the *zone*.

Article 3.1.5.11.

A zone where none of the susceptible species listed in Article 3.1.5.2 is present or where there has never been any observed occurrence of infection with *Marteilia refringens* despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression may be considered free from infection with *Marteilia refringens* when *prescribed biosecurity conditions* have been in place continuously in the zone for at least the previous 2 years as follows:

- 1) infection with *Marteilia refringens* is compulsorily notifiable to the *Competent Authority*, including notification of suspicion; and
- 2) an *early detection system* is in place within the *zone* enabling the *Competent Authority* to undertake effective disease investigation and reporting, including access to laboratories capable of diagnosing and differentiating relevant infections, and veterinarians or molluscs health specialists are trained in detecting and reporting unusual disease occurrence; and
- 3) infection is not known to be established in wild populations; and
- 4) official control measures to prevent the introduction of *Marteilia refringens* (e.g. live molluscs introduced for aquaculture purposes or for human consumption) into the *zone* are in place.

Article 3.1.5.12.

A zone where the last known occurrence was within the previous 25 years or the infection status was previously unknown, for example because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression of the infection, may be considered free from infection with *Marteilia refringens* when:

- 1) it meets the *prescribed biosecurity conditions* detailed in Article 3.1.5.11; and
- 2) *targeted surveillance* as described in chapters 1.4 and 3.1.5 in the *Aquatic Manual* has been in place for at least the past 2 years for the susceptible species listed in Article 3.1.5.2 in *aquaculture establishments* or wild populations without detection of the disease agent listed in Article 3.1.5.1.

Article 3.1.5.13.

***Marteilia refringens* free aquaculture establishment**

An *aquaculture establishment* free of infection with *Marteilia refringens* may be located within an *Marteilia refringens* infected country or zone or within a country or zone of unknown status with respect to *Marteilia refringens* if it meets the conditions referred to in Articles 3.1.5.14 or 3.1.5.15.

Such *aquaculture establishments* free of infection with *Marteilia refringens* must be supplied by a contained water source (e.g. a well, borehole, closed recirculation system, etc.) in which the culture system water cannot be contaminated by the disease agent, and be inaccessible to susceptible species or potential carriers from the natural environment.

Article 3.1.5.14.

An *aquaculture establishment* where none of the susceptible species listed in Article 3.1.5.2 is present or where there has never been any observed occurrence of infection with *Marteilia refringens* despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression may be considered free from infection with *Marteilia refringens* when *prescribed biosecurity conditions* have been in place continuously in the *aquaculture establishment* for at least the previous 2 years as follows:

- 1) infection with *Marteilia refringens* is compulsorily notifiable to the *Competent Authority*, including notification of suspicion; and
- 2) the *aquaculture establishment* complies with an *early detection system* enabling the *Competent Authority* to undertake effective disease investigation and reporting, including access to laboratories capable of diagnosing and differentiating relevant infections, and the staff are trained in detecting and reporting unusual disease occurrence; and
- 3) infection is not known to be established in wild populations; and
- 4) official control measures to prevent the introduction of *Marteilia refringens* into the *aquaculture establishment* are in place.

Article 3.1.5.15.

An *aquaculture establishment* where the last known occurrence of infection with *Marteilia refringens* was within the previous 25 years or the infection status was previously unknown, for example because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression, may be considered free from infection with *Marteilia refringens* when:

- 1) it meets the *prescribed biosecurity conditions* detailed in Article 3.1.5.14; and
- 2) *targeted surveillance* as described in chapters 1.4 and 3.1.5 in the *Aquatic Manual* has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of the disease agent listed in Article 3.1.5.1.

Article 3.1.5.16.

Maintenance of free status

A country, zone or *aquaculture establishment* that is considered free from infection with *Marteilia refringens* following the provisions of Articles 3.1.5.8, 3.1.5.11 and 3.1.5.14 may maintain its official status as free of infection with *Marteilia refringens* provided that the *prescribed biosecurity conditions* are continuously maintained.

A country, zone or *aquaculture establishment* that is considered free from infection with *Marteilia refringens* following the provisions of Articles 3.1.5.9, 3.1.5.12 and 3.1.5.15 may maintain its official status as free of infection with *Marteilia refringens* provided that *targeted surveillance* is continued at a level commensurate with the degree of risk assessed by the *Competent Authority*.

Article 3.1.5.17.

Suspension and restoration of free status

If a *Competent Authority* has reason to believe that any of the conditions for recognition of country, zone or *aquaculture establishment* freedom has been breached, it should immediately suspend the free status, implement any necessary containment measures and conduct an investigation.

If the investigation confirms that the suspected breach has not taken place, free status may be restored.

If the investigation confirms that the suspected breach has taken place, suspension of free status is continued. The *Competent Authority* should carry out an epizootiological investigation to determine the likelihood of *Marteilia refringens* entry and establishment and re-establish the conditions in Articles 3.1.5.7. to 3.1.5.9, 3.1.5.10. to 3.1.5.12, or 3.1.5.13. to 3.1.5.15 if *Marteilia refringens* free status is to be restored.

Article 3.1.5.18.

When importing live molluscs of any age group for re-immersion, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require that the consignment be accompanied by an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued by the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* or a *certifying official* approved by the *importing country*.

This *certificate* must certify, on the basis of a surveillance scheme conducted according to the procedures described above and detailed in the *Aquatic Manual*, whether or not the place of production of the consignment is a country, *zone* or *aquaculture establishment* officially declared free of infection with *Marteilia refringens*.

The certificate shall be in accordance with Model Certificate No. 3 given in Part 6 of this *Aquatic Code*.

Article 3.1.5.19.

If the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* cannot certify the place of production of the consignment as being free from infection with *Marteilia refringens*, the importing country should assess the *risks* associated with the importation prior to a decision on whether to authorise an importation.

Article 3.1.5.20.

When importing live molluscs of commercial size destined for human consumption, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require that the consignment be accompanied by an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued by the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* or a *certifying official* approved by the *importing country*.

This *certificate* must certify, on the basis of a surveillance scheme conducted according to the procedures described above and detailed in the *Aquatic Manual*, whether or not the place of production of the consignment is a country, *zone* or *aquaculture establishment* officially declared *Marteilia refringens* free.

The certificate shall be in accordance with Model Certificate No. 3 given in Part 6 of this *Aquatic Code*.

Article 3.1.5.21.

If the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* cannot certify the place of production of the consignment as being free from infection with *Marteilia refringens*, the importing country should assess the *risks* associated with the importation of molluscs of commercial size destined for human consumption prior to a decision on whether to authorise an importation.

Rather than refusing such imports, the *importing country* may opt to manage these *risks*, if the consignment is destined:

1. directly for human consumption without any re-immersion, or
2. for storage, during a short period before consumption, in tanks or holding facilities that ensure isolation from the local environment and avoid the potential introduction of *Marteilia refringens*.

Article 3.1.5.22.

The *Competent Authorities* of *exporting countries* should not authorise the exportation of live *molluscs* from populations known to be infected with *Marteilia refringens* without the full agreement of the *importing country*.

CHAPTER 4.1.2.

WHITE SPOT DISEASE

Article 4.1.2.1.

The disease agent of white spot disease (WSD) is white spot virus (WSV) in the genus *Whispovirus*. Synonyms commonly used in the scientific literature and official documents include: white spot bacilliform virus (WSBV), penaeid rod-shaped DNA virus (PRDV), and other names as listed in the *Aquatic Manual* chapter on this disease.

Article 4.1.2.2.

For the purpose of this *Aquatic Code*, all decapod (Order Decapoda) crustaceans from marine, brackish or freshwater sources are potential hosts for white spot disease. White spot disease is potentially lethal to most commercially cultivated penaeid (Family Penaeidae) shrimps and prawns.

Article 4.1.2.3.

The disease agent listed in Article 4.1.2.1 can cause asymptomatic infection in their respective susceptible species listed in Article 4.1.2.2.

Article 4.1.2.4.

Experimental WSD infections have been reported in many decapod families where natural infections have not been reported.

Article 4.1.2.5.

Suspect cases of natural infection with the agent listed in Article 4.1.2.1 in species other than those listed in Articles 4.1.2.2 and 4.1.2.3 should be referred immediately to the appropriate OIE Reference Laboratory, whether or not clinical signs are associated with the findings.

Article 4.1.2.6.

Methods for surveillance, diagnosis and confirmatory identification of the disease agent are provided in the *Aquatic Manual*.

Article 4.1.2.7.

WSD free country

A country may be considered free from WSD if it meets the conditions in Articles 4.1.2.8 or 4.1.2.9.

If a country shares a water resource (coastal zone, gulf, inland farming area, etc.) with one or more other countries, it can only be declared a WSD free country if all the area covered by the shared water resource is declared free zones (see Articles 4.1.2.10. to 4.1.2.12.).

Article 4.1.2.8.

A country where none of the species listed in Articles 4.1.2.2 and 4.1.2.3 is present or where there has never been any observed occurrence of the disease despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression may be considered free from WSD when *prescribed biosecurity conditions* have been in place continuously in the country for at least the previous 2 years as follows:

- 1) WSD is compulsorily notifiable to the *Competent Authority*, including notification of suspicion; and
- 2) an *early detection system* is in place within the country enabling the *Competent Authority* to undertake effective disease investigation and reporting, including access to laboratories capable of diagnosing and differentiating relevant diseases, and training of veterinarians or crustacean health specialists in detecting and reporting unusual disease occurrence; and
- 3) infection is not known to be established in wild populations; and
- 4) conditions applied to imports to prevent the introduction of WSD (e.g. with importation of live crustaceans for aquaculture purposes or *commodity* products intended for reprocessing prior to *marketing*, etc.) into the country are in place (see Section 1.4).

Article 4.1.2.9.

A country where the last known occurrence was within the previous 25 years or the infection status was previously unknown, for example because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression, may be considered free from WSD when:

- 1) it meets the *prescribed biosecurity conditions* detailed in Article 4.1.2.8; and
- 2) *targeted surveillance* as described in chapters 1.4 and 4.1.2 in the *Aquatic Manual* has been in place for at least the past 2 years in *aquaculture establishments* holding any of the susceptible species listed in Articles 4.1.2.2 and 4.1.2.3 without detection of the disease agent listed in Article 4.1.2.1. If there are areas of the country in which there are no such aquaculture establishments but in which there are wild populations of any of the susceptible species listed in Articles 4.1.2.2 and 4.1.2.3, those populations must be included in the *targeted surveillance*.

Article 4.1.2.10.

WSD free zone

A WSD free *zone* may be established within the *territory* of one or more countries of infected or unknown status if the *zone* meets the conditions referred to in Articles 4.1.2.11 or 4.1.2.12. Such WSD free zones must comprise: one or more distinct water resource (coastal zone, gulf, inland farming area, etc.). Such zones must be clearly delineated on a map of the *territory* of the country(ies) concerned by the *Competent Authority*.

If a *zone* extends over more than one country, it can only be declared an WSD free *zone* if the conditions outlined below apply to all shared areas of the *zone*.

Article 4.1.2.11.

A zone where none of the species listed in Articles 4.1.2.2 and 4.1.2.3 is present or where there has never been any observed occurrence of the disease despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression may be considered free from WSD when *prescribed biosecurity conditions* have been in place continuously in the zone for at least the previous 2 years as follows:

- 1) WSD is compulsorily notifiable to the *Competent Authority*, including notification of suspicion; and
- 2) an *early detection system* is in place within the *zone* enabling the *Competent Authority* to undertake effective disease investigation and reporting, including access to laboratories capable of diagnosing and differentiating relevant diseases, and veterinarians or crustacean health specialists are trained in detecting and reporting unusual disease occurrence; and
- 3) infection is not known to be established in wild populations; and
- 4) official control measures to prevent the introduction of WSD (e.g. with importation of live crustaceans for aquaculture purposes or *commodity* products intended for reprocessing prior to *marketing*, etc.) into the *zone* are in place.

Article 4.1.2.12.

A zone where the last known occurrence was within the previous 25 years or the infection status was previously unknown, for example because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression, may be considered free from WSD when:

- 1) it meets the *prescribed biosecurity conditions* detailed in Article 4.1.2.11; and
- 2) *targeted surveillance* as described in chapters 1.4 and 4.1.2 in the *Aquatic Manual* has been in place for at least the past 2 years in aquaculture establishments holding any of the susceptible species listed in Articles 4.1.2.2 and 4.1.2.3 without detection of the disease agent listed in Article 4.1.2.1. If there are areas of the zone in which there are no such aquaculture establishments but in which there are wild populations of any of the susceptible species listed in Articles 4.1.2.2 and 4.1.2.3, those populations must be included in the *targeted surveillance*.

Article 4.1.2.13.

WSD free aquaculture establishment

A WSD free *aquaculture establishment* may be located within a WSD infected country or zone or within a country or zone of unknown status with respect to WSD if it meets the conditions referred to in Articles 4.1.2.14 or 4.1.2.15. Such WSD free *aquaculture establishments* must be supplied by a contained water source (e.g. a well, borehole, closed recirculation system, etc.) in which the culture system water cannot be contaminated by the disease agent and is inaccessible to susceptible species or potential carriers from the natural environment.

Article 4.1.2.14.

An *aquaculture establishment* where none of the species listed in Articles 4.1.2.2 and 4.1.2.3 is present or where there has never been any observed occurrence of the disease despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression may be considered free from WSD when *prescribed biosecurity conditions* have been in place continuously in the *aquaculture establishment* for at least the previous 2 years as follows:

- 1) WSD is compulsorily notifiable to the *Competent Authority*, including notification of suspicion; and
- 2) the *aquaculture establishment* complies with an *early detection system* enabling the *Competent Authority* to undertake effective disease investigation and reporting, including access to laboratories capable of diagnosing and differentiating relevant diseases, and the staff are trained in detecting and reporting unusual disease occurrence; and
- 3) official control measures to prevent the introduction of WSD into the *aquaculture establishment* are in place.

Article 4.1.2.15.

An *aquaculture establishment* where the last known occurrence of WSD was within the previous 25 years or the infection status was previously unknown, for example because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression, may be considered free from WSD when:

- 1) it meets the *prescribed biosecurity conditions* detailed in Article 4.1.2.14; and
- 2) *targeted surveillance* as described in chapters 1.4 and 4.1.2 in the *Aquatic Manual* has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of the disease agent listed in Article 4.1.2.1.

Article 4.1.2.16.

Maintenance of free status

A country, *zone* or *aquaculture establishment* that is considered free from WSD following the provisions of Articles 4.1.2.8, 4.1.2.11 and 4.1.2.14 may maintain its official status as WSD free provided that the *prescribed biosecurity conditions* are continuously maintained.

A country, *zone* or *aquaculture establishment* that is considered free from WSD following the provisions of Articles 4.1.2.9, 4.1.2.12 and 4.1.2.15 may discontinue *targeted surveillance* and maintain its official status as WSD free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of WSD exist and the *prescribed biosecurity conditions* are continuously maintained. In cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of WSD, *targeted surveillance* will need to be continued, but at a level commensurate with the degree of risk assessed by the *Competent Authority*.

Article 4.1.2.17.

Suspension and restoration of free status

If a *Competent Authority* has reason to believe that any of the conditions for recognition of country, *zone* or *aquaculture establishment* freedom has been breached, it should immediately suspend the free status, implement any necessary containment measures and conduct an investigation.

If the investigation confirms that the suspected breach has not taken place, free status may be restored.

If the investigation confirms that the suspected breach has taken place, suspension of free status is continued. The *Competent Authority* should carry out an epizootiological investigation to determine the likelihood of disease entry and establishment and re-establish the conditions in Articles 4.1.2.7. to 4.1.2.9, 4.1.2.10. to 4.1.2.12, or 4.1.2.13. to 4.1.2.15 if free status is to be restored. Steps leading to re-establishment of free status may require depopulation, *fallowing*, *disinfection* and other measures as described in Section 1.6.

Article 4.1.2.18.

When importing live crustaceans of any life stage, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require that the consignment be accompanied by an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country.

This certificate must certify, on the basis of a surveillance scheme conducted according to the procedures described above and detailed in the Aquatic Manual, whether or not the place of production of the consignment is a country, zone or aquaculture establishment officially declared WSD free.

The certificate shall be in accordance with Model Certificate No. 4 given in Part 6 of this Aquatic Code.

Article 4.1.2.19.

If the Competent Authority of the exporting country cannot certify the place of production of the consignment as being free from WSD, the importing country should assess the risks associated with the importation of live crustaceans of any life stage prior to a decision on whether to authorise an importation.

Article 4.1.2.20.

When importing dead crustaceans, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require that the consignment be accompanied by an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country.

This certificate must certify, on the basis of a surveillance scheme conducted according to the procedures described above and detailed in the Aquatic Manual, whether or not the place of production of the consignment is a country, zone or aquaculture establishment officially declared WSD free.

The certificate shall be in accordance with Model Certificate No. 5 given in Part 6 of this Aquatic Code.

Article 4.1.2.21.

If the Competent Authority of the exporting country cannot certify the place of production of the consignment as being free from WSD, the importing country should assess the risks associated with the importation of whole, or parts of, dead crustaceans prior to a decision on whether to authorise an importation.

Rather than refusing such imports, the importing country may opt to manage these risks, if the consignment is:

- 1) destined directly for human consumption without further processing, or
- 2) destined for processing in establishments with safe disposal of processing waste in a manner that ensures isolation from the local environment to avoid the potential introduction of WSD, or
- 3) has been treated, e.g. cooked, such that the white spot virus is inactivated.

Article 4.1.2.22.

The Competent Authorities of exporting countries should not authorise the exportation of live or dead crustaceans of any life stage from populations known to be infected with WSD without the full agreement of the importing country.

Model Certificate No. 1.

**INTERNATIONAL AQUATIC ANIMAL
HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR
LIVE FISH AND GAMETES**

LIVE FISH AND GAMETES

NOTE: Mark all the relevant items with a cross in the appropriate space.

I. Identification

- Cultured stocks Wild stocks Fish Sperm Unfertilised eggs
 Fertilised eggs Larvae

1) Species
Latin name:.....
Common name:.....

2) Age (years): Unknown 0+ 1+ 2+ >2+

3) Total weight (kg):.....
OR
Number (1000):.....

II. Place of [harvest] production

1) Country:.....
2) Zone:.....
3) Aquaculture establishment/Zone:
Name:.....
Location:.....

III. Origin of consignment (if different from II)

1) Country:.....
2) Zone:.....
3) Aquaculture establishment/Zone:
Name:.....
Location:.....

IV. Destination

1) Country:.....
2) Zone:.....
3) Aquaculture establishment/Zone:
Name:.....
Location:.....
4) Nature and identification of means of transport:.....
.....

V. Declaration

I, the undersigned, certify that the live fish and/or fish larvae, fish gametes, ova and fertilised eggs in the present consignment have as their place of production a: Country, Zone, Aquaculture establishment that has been subjected to an official fish health surveillance scheme according to the procedures described in the OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals* and that the Country, Zone or Aquaculture establishment identified in Section II is officially recognised as being free from the pathogens causing the diseases listed in the *Aquatic Code*, as identified in the table below.

	Country		Zone		Aquaculture establishment	
	Yes*	No	Yes*	No	Yes*	No
Epizootic haematopoietic necrosis						
Infectious haematopoietic necrosis						
<i>Oncorhynchus mason</i> virus disease						
Spring viraemia of carp						
Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia						
[And any of the following if required by the importing country]						
Channel catfish virus disease						
Viral encephalopathy and retinopathy						
Infectious pancreatic necrosis						
Infectious salmon anaemia						
Epizootic ulcerative syndrome						
Bacterial kidney disease (<i>Renibacterium salmoninarum</i>)						
Enteric septicaemia of catfish (<i>Edwardsiella ictaluri</i>)						
Piscirickettsiosis (<i>Piscirickettsia salmonis</i>)						
Gyrodactylosis (<i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i>)						
Red sea bream iridoviral disease						
White sturgeon iridoviral disease						

*When certifying freedom from any of the listed diseases, please refer to the Articles in the corresponding chapters of the Aquatic Code to indicate which provisions for recognition of freedom apply (Articles 2.1.X.8. to 2.1.X.10. relate to free countries; Articles 2.1.X.10. to 2.1.X.12. relate to free zones; and Articles 2.1.X.13. to 2.1.X.15. relate to free aquaculture establishments).

Exporting country:.....

Competent Authority:.....

Stamp:

Date:.....

Issued at:.....

Name and address of Certifying Official:

.....

Signature:.....

IMPORTANT NOTE: This certificate must be completed no more than three days prior to shipment.

Model Certificate No. 2.

**INTERNATIONAL AQUATIC ANIMAL
HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR
DEAD [UNEVISCERATED] FISH**

DEAD [UNEVISCERATED] FISH

NOTE: Mark all the relevant items with a cross in the appropriate space.

I. Identification

Eviscerated Uneviscerated

Cultured stocks Wild stocks

1) Species:

Latin name:.....

Common name:.....

2) Age (years): Unknown 0+ 1+ 2+ >2+

3) Total weight (kg):.....

OR

Number (1000):.....

II. Place of production

1) Country:.....

2) Zone:.....

3) Aquaculture establishment/Zone:

Name:.....

Location:.....

III. Destination

1) Country:.....

2) Zone:.....

3) Aquaculture establishment/Zone:

Name:.....

Location:.....

4) Nature and identification of means of transport:.....

.....

IV. Declaration

I, the undersigned, certify that the dead fish and/or fish products in the present consignment have as their place of production a: Country, Zone, Aquaculture establishment that has been subjected to an official fish health surveillance scheme according to the procedures described in the OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals* and that the Country, Zone or Aquaculture establishment identified in Section II is officially recognised as being free from the pathogens causing the diseases listed in the *Aquatic Code*, as identified in the table below.

	Country		Zone		Aquaculture establishment	
	Yes*	No	Yes*	No	Yes*	No
Epizootic haematopoietic necrosis						
Infectious haematopoietic necrosis						
<i>Oncorhynchus masou</i> virus disease						
Spring viraemia of carp						
Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia						
[And any of the following if required by the importing country]						
Channel catfish virus disease						
Viral encephalopathy and retinopathy						
Infectious pancreatic necrosis						
Infectious salmon anaemia						
Epizootic ulcerative syndrome						
Bacterial kidney disease (<i>Renibacterium salmoninarum</i>)						
Enteric septicaemia of catfish (<i>Edwardsiella ictaluri</i>)						
Piscirickettsiosis (<i>Piscirickettsia salmonis</i>)						
Gyrodactylosis (<i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i>)						
Red sea bream iridoviral disease						
White sturgeon iridoviral disease						

*When certifying freedom from any of the listed diseases, please refer to the Articles in the corresponding chapters of the *Aquatic Code* to indicate which provisions for recognition of freedom apply (Articles 2.1.X.8. to 2.1.X.10. relate to *free countries*; Articles 2.1.X.10. to 2.1.X.12. relate to *free zones*; and Articles 2.1.X.13. to 2.1.X.15. relate to *free aquaculture establishments*).

Exporting country:.....

Competent Authority:.....

Stamp:

Date:.....

Issued at:.....

Name and address of Certifying Official:

.....
.....
.....

Signature:.....

Model Certificate No. 3.

**INTERNATIONAL AQUATIC ANIMAL
HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR
LIVE MOLLUSCS AND GAMETES**

LIVE MOLLUSCS AND GAMETES

NOTE: Mark all the relevant items with a cross in the appropriate space.

I. Identification

Cultured stocks Wild stocks

1) Species:

Latin name:.....

Common name:.....

2) Age: Gametes Unknown >24 months 12-24 months
 0-11 months larvae

3) Total weight (kg):.....
OR
Number (/ 1000):.....

II. Place of [harvest] production

1) Country:.....

2) Zone:.....

3) Aquaculture establishment/Zone:

Name:.....

Location:.....

III. Origin of consignment (if different from II)

1) Country:.....

2) Zone:.....

3) Aquaculture establishment/Zone:

Name:.....

Location:.....

IV. Destination

1) Country:.....

2) Zone:.....

3) Aquaculture establishment/Zone:

Name:.....

Location:.....

4) Nature and identification of means of transport:.....
.....

V. Declaration

I, the undersigned, certify that the live molluscs and/or gametes in the present consignment have as their place of [harvest] production a: Country, Zone, Aquaculture establishment that is subjected to an official mollusc health surveillance scheme according to the procedures described in the OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*, and that the Country, Zone or Aquaculture establishment identified in Sections II and III above is/are officially recognised as being free from the pathogens causing the diseases listed in the *Aquatic Code*, as identified in the table below.

	Country		Zone		Aquaculture establishment	
	Yes*	No	Yes*	No	Yes*	No
Infection with <i>Bonamia exitiosus</i>						
Infection with <i>Bonamia ostreae</i>						
Infection with <i>Haplosporidium nelsoni</i>						
Infection with <i>Marteilia refringens</i>						
Infection with <i>Marteilia sydneyi</i>						
Infection with <i>Mikrocytos mackini</i>						
Infection with <i>Mikrocytos roughleyi</i>						
Infection with <i>Perkinsus marinus</i>						
Infection with <i>Perkinsus olseni/ atlanticus</i>						
[And any of the following if required by the importing country]						
Infection with <i>Candidatus Xenohalictis californiensis</i>						
Infection with <i>Haplosporidium costale</i>						

*When certifying freedom from any of the listed diseases, please refer to the Articles in the corresponding chapters of the *Aquatic Code* to indicate which provisions for recognition of freedom apply (Articles 3.1.X.8. - 3.1.X.10. relate to *free countries*; Articles 3.1.X.10. – 3.1.X.12. relate to *free zones*; and Articles 3.1.X.13. – 3.1.X.15. relate to *free aquaculture establishments*).

Exporting country:.....
 Competent Authority:.....

Stamp:

Date:.....
 Issued at:.....
 Name and address of Certifying Official:

 Signature:.....

IMPORTANT NOTE: This certificate must be completed no more than three days prior to shipment.

Model Certificate No. 4.

**INTERNATIONAL AQUATIC ANIMAL
HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR
LIVE CRUSTACEANS**

LIVE CRUSTACEANS

NOTE: Mark all the relevant items with a cross in the appropriate space.

I. Identification

- Cultured stocks Wild stocks
- 1) Species:
Latin name:.....
Common name:.....
- 2) Age: Fertilised eggs or nauplii Postlarvae Juveniles Broodstock
- 3) Total weight (kg):.....
OR
Number (1000):.....

II. Place of [harvest] production

- 1) Country:.....
- 2) Zone:.....
- 3) Aquaculture establishment/Zone:
Name:.....
Location:.....

III. Origin of consignment (if different from II)

- 1) Country:.....
- 2) Zone:.....
- 3) Aquaculture establishment/Zone:
Name:.....
Location:.....

IV. Destination

- 1) Country:.....
- 2) Zone:.....
- 3) Aquaculture establishment/Zone:
Name:.....
Location:.....
- 4) Nature and identification of means of transport:.....
.....

V. Declaration

I, the undersigned, certify that the live crustaceans in the present consignment have as their place of [harvest] production a: Country, Zone, Aquaculture establishment that is subjected to an official crustacean health surveillance scheme according to the procedures described in the OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*, and that the Country, Zone, or Aquaculture establishment identified in Sections II and III above is/are officially recognised as being free from the pathogens causing the diseases listed in the *Aquatic Code*, as identified in the table below.

Appendix VII (contd)

	Country		Zone		Aquaculture establishment	
	Yes*	No	Yes*	No	Yes*	No
Taura syndrome						
White spot disease						
Yellowhead disease						
[And any of the following if required by the importing country]						
Tetrahedral baculovirus (<i>Baculovirus penaei</i>)						
Spherical baculovirus (<i>Penaeus monodon</i> - type baculovirus)						
Infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis						
Crayfish plague (<i>Aphanomyces astaci</i>)						
Spawner-isolated mortality virus disease						

*When certifying freedom from any of the listed diseases, please refer to the Articles in the corresponding chapters of the Aquatic Code to indicate which provisions for recognition of freedom apply (Articles 4.1.X.8. to 4.1.X.10. relate to *free countries*; Articles 4.1.X.10. to 4.1.X.12. relate to *free zones*; and Articles 4.1.X.13. to 4.1.X.15. relate to *free aquaculture establishments*).

Exporting country:.....
 Competent Authority:.....

Stamp:

Date:.....
 Issued at:.....
 Name and address of Certifying Official:

 Signature:.....

IMPORTANT NOTE: This certificate must be completed no more than three days prior to shipment.

Model Certificate No. 5.

**INTERNATIONAL AQUATIC ANIMAL
HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR
DEAD CRUSTACEANS**

DEAD CRUSTACEANS

NOTE: Mark all the relevant items with a cross in the appropriate space.

I. Identification

- Cultured stocks Wild stocks
- 1) Species:
Latin name:.....
Common name:.....
- 2) Quantity (total weight, kg):.....
OR
Number (1000):.....
- 3) Head on animals Head off animals Peeled animals
 Block frozen Individually quick frozen Other processing method

II. Place of [harvest] production

- 1) Country:.....
- 2) Zone:.....
- 3) Aquaculture establishment/Zone:
Name:.....
Location:.....

III. Origin of consignment (if different from II)

- 1) Country:.....
- 2) Zone:.....
- 3) Aquaculture establishment/Zone:
Name:.....
Location:.....

IV. Destination

- 1) Country:.....
- 2) Zone:.....
- 3) Company:.....
- 4) Nature and identification of means of transport:.....
.....

V. Declaration

I, the undersigned, certify that the dead crustaceans in the present consignment have as their place of [harvest] production a: Country, Zone, Aquaculture establishment that is subjected to an official crustacean health surveillance scheme according to the procedures described in the OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*, and that the Country, Zone, or Aquaculture establishment identified in Sections II and III above is/are officially recognised as being free from the pathogens causing the diseases listed in the *Aquatic Code*, as identified in the table below, and that the crustaceans have not been subjected to emergency harvest due to the suspicion or the confirmation of the presence of the diseases identified in the table below.

	Country		Zone		Aquaculture establishment	
	Yes*	No	Yes*	No	Yes*	No
Taura syndrome						
White spot disease						
Yellowhead disease						
[And any of the following if required by the importing country]						
Tetrahedral baculovirus (<i>Baculovirus penaei</i>)						
Spherical baculovirus (<i>Penaeus monodon</i> - type baculovirus)						
Infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis						
Crayfish plague (<i>Aphanomyces astaci</i>)						
Spawner-isolated mortality virus disease						

*When certifying freedom from any of the listed diseases, please refer to the Articles in the corresponding chapters of the Aquatic Code to indicate which provisions for recognition of freedom apply (Articles 4.1.X.8. to 4.1.X.10. relate to free countries; Articles 4.1.X.10. to 4.1.X.12. relate to free zones; and Articles 4.1.X.13. to 4.1.X.15. relate to free aquaculture establishments).

Exporting country:.....
 Competent Authority:.....

Stamp:

Date:.....
 Issued at:.....
 Name and address of Certifying Official:

 Signature:.....

IMPORTANT NOTE: This certificate must be completed no more than three days prior to shipment.

CHAPTER 1.1.2.

DISEASE NOTIFICATION CRITERIA AND DISEASES LISTED BY THE OIE

Article 1.1.2.1.

Criteria for listing an aquatic animal disease

Diseases proposed for listing must meet all of the relevant parameters set for each of the criteria, namely A. Consequences, B. Spread and C. Diagnosis. Therefore, to be listed, a *disease* must have the following characteristics: 1 or 2 or 3; and 4 or 5; and 6; and 7; and 8.

No.	Criteria (AĖC)	Parameters that support a listing	Explanatory notes
A. Consequences			
1.		Where it occurs, the disease has been shown to cause significant production losses due to morbidity ⁶ or mortality at a national or multinational (zonal or regional) level.	There is a general pattern that the disease will lead to losses in <i>susceptible</i> ⁷ <i>species</i> , and that morbidity or mortality are related primarily to the agent and not management or environmental factors.
2.	Or	The disease has been shown to, or is strongly suspected to, negatively affect wild aquatic animal populations that are shown to be an asset worth protecting.	See above
3.	Or	The agent is of public health concern.	
And			
B. Spread			
4.		Infectious aetiology of the disease is proven.	
5.	Or	An infectious agent is strongly associated with the disease, but the aetiology is not yet known.	Infectious diseases of unknown aetiology can have equally high-risk implications as those diseases where the infectious aetiology is proven. Whilst disease occurrence data are gathered, research should be conducted to elucidate the aetiology of the disease and the results be made available within a reasonable period of time.
6.	And	Potential for international spread, including via live animals, their products and inanimate objects.	Under international trading practices, the entry and establishment of the disease is a likely risk.

⁶ 'morbidity' includes, for example, loss of production due to spawning failure

⁷ 'susceptible' is not restricted to 'susceptible to clinical disease' but includes 'susceptible to covert infections'

No.	Criteria (AĒC)	Parameters that support a listing	Explanatory notes
7.	And	Several countries/zones are free of the disease based on the recommendations of the <i>Aquatic Animal Health Code</i> and <i>Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals</i> .	<i>Free countries/zones</i> could still be protected. Listing of diseases that are ubiquitous or extremely widespread would render notification unfeasible, however, individual countries that run a control programme on such a disease can demand its listing provided they have undertaken a scientific evaluation to support their request. Examples may be the protection of <i>broodstock</i> from widespread diseases, or the protection of the last remaining <i>free zones</i> from a widespread disease.
And C. Diagnosis			
8.		A repeatable, robust means of detection/diagnosis exists.	A diagnostic test should be widely available and preferably has undergone a formal standardisation and validation process using routine field samples (see <i>OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals</i>).

Article 1.1.2.2.

Criteria for urgent notification of aquatic animal diseases

A. For listed diseases	
1.	First occurrence or re-occurrence of a disease in a country or zone of a country, if the country or zone of the country was previously considered to be free of that particular disease; or
2.	Occurrence in a new host species; or
3.	New pathogen strain or new disease manifestation; or
4.	Potential for international spread of the disease; or
5.	Zoonotic potential.
B. For non-listed diseases	
1.	Emerging disease/pathogenic agent if there are findings that are of epidemiological significance to other countries

Appendix IX

Aquatic animal diseases currently listed in the <i>Aquatic Code</i>	Meets new disease listing criteria adopted in 2003								Retain on OIE list?
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Epizootic haematopoietic necrosis	-	+	-	+	NA	+	+	+	Yes
Infectious haematopoietic necrosis	+	+	-	+	NA	+	+	+	Yes
<i>Oncorhynchus mason</i> virus disease	?	?	-	+	NA	-	+	+	No
Spring viraemia of carp	+	+	-	+	NA	+	+	+	Yes
Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia	+	+	-	+	NA	+	+	+	Yes
Channel catfish virus disease	+	-	-	+	NA	+	+	+	Yes
Viral encephalopathy and retinopathy	-	-	-	+	NA	-	?	+	No
Infectious pancreatic necrosis	+	-	-	+	NA	+	-	+	No
Infectious salmon anaemia	+	-	-	+	NA	+	+	+	Yes
Epizootic ulcerative syndrome	+	+	-	+	NA	+	+	+	Yes
Bacterial kidney disease (<i>Renibacterium salmoninarum</i>)	-	-	-	+	NA	+	+	+	No
Enteric septicaemia of catfish (<i>Edwardsiella ictaluri</i>)	+	-	-	+	NA	+	-	+	No
Piscirickettsiosis (<i>Piscirickettsia salmonis</i>)	+	-	-	+	NA	-	-	+	No
Gyrodactylosis (<i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i>)	-	+	-	+	NA	+	+	+	Yes
Red sea bream iridoviral disease	+	-	-	+	NA	-	-	+	No
White Sturgeon iridoviral disease	-	-	-	+	NA	-	-	+	No
Infection with <i>Bonamia ostreae</i>	+	?	-	+	NA	+	+	+	Yes
Infection with <i>Bonamia exitiosus</i>	+	?	-	+	NA	+	+	+	Yes
Infection with <i>Mikrocytos roughleyi</i>	-	-	-	+	NA	-	+	+	No
Infection with <i>Mikrocytos mackini</i>	-	-	-	+	NA	+	+	+	No
Infection with <i>Haplosporidium nelsoni</i>	+	+	-	+	NA	-	?	+	No
Infection with <i>Marteilia refringens</i>	+	+	-	+	NA	+	+	+	Yes
Infection with <i>Marteilia sydneyi</i>	+	?	-	+	NA	-	+	+	No
Infection with <i>Perkinsus marinus</i>	+	?	-	+	NA	+	+	+	Yes
Infection with <i>Perkinsus olseni/atlanticus</i>	+	-	-	+	NA	+	+	+	Yes
Infection with <i>Haplosporidium costale</i>	-	-	-	+	NA	-	+	+	No
Infection with <i>Candidatus Xenohalotus californiensis</i>	+	+	-	+	NA	+	+	+	Yes
Taura syndrome	+	-	-	+	NA	+	+	+	Yes
White spot disease	+	+	-	+	NA	+	+	+	Yes
Yellowhead disease	+	-	-	+	NA	+	+	+	Yes
Tetrahedral baculovirus (<i>Baculovirus penaei</i>)	+	-	-	+	NA	+	+	+	Yes
Spherical baculovirus (<i>Penaeus monodon</i> -type baculovirus)	+	-	-	+	NA	+	+	+	Yes
Infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis	+	+	-	+	NA	+	+	+	Yes
Crayfish plague (<i>Aphanomyces astaci</i>)	+	+	-	+	NA	+	+	+	Yes
Spawner-isolated mortality virus disease	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	No

NA: Not applicable

Aquatic Animals Commission Work Plan for 2003–2004

Update *Aquatic Animal Health Code*

- Re-draft *Aquatic Code* Chapter on Evaluation of Competent Authorities on basis of new chapter in the *Aquatic Code* on Evaluation of Veterinary Services
- Draft an *Aquatic Code* Chapter on disinfection of *aquaculture establishments* and circulate to Commission Members before next meeting
- Draft new *Aquatic Code* Chapter on disposal of aquatic animal waste and circulate to Commission Members before next meeting
- Give consideration to risk categorisation of aquatic animal pathogens for transport purposes
- Develop guiding principles for the listing of closely related disease agents
- Harmonise the naming principles for diseases of fish, molluscs and crustaceans
- Develop a procedure for OIE recognition of freedom from listed aquatic animal diseases

Update *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*

- Re-draft *Aquatic Manual* Chapters on disinfection of fish, mollusc and crustacean *aquaculture establishments* and circulate to Commission Members before next meeting
- Develop a new template for disease chapters for future editions of the *Aquatic Manual* to be used by authors, including specific requirements for monitoring and surveillance

Meetings

- Eleventh International Conference of the European Association of Fish Pathologists, Malta, September 2003
- Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (New Caledonia, November 2003)
- Second annual meeting of the Asia Regional Advisory Group for Aquatic Animal Health, Bangkok, Thailand, November 2003

Other issues

- Evaluate Member Countries' comments on proposed changes to the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* and make appropriate changes in time for submission to the OIE International Committee for adoption
- Follow up on the questionnaire sent to all OIE Delegates on trade in live amphibians
- Follow up on the report of the Ad hoc Group on Risk Analysis for Aquatic Animal Health and agree tasks for the Commission for action to fulfil the recommendations of the OIE International Conference on Risk Analysis in Aquatic Animal Health, which was held in February 2000
- Consider new candidates for OIE Reference Laboratories for listed diseases
- Evaluate annual reports (2003) of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centre for aquatic animal diseases
- Ask diagnostic chapter authors to update disease cards for listed diseases

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