Follow-up on EFSA Opinions on vectors & reservoirs of listed diseases of aquatic animals and on recent changes to the WOAH Aquatic Code concerning species susceptible to certain listed diseases of aquatic animals

For Discussion

Point A.09

PAFF MEETING 20 October 2023

Drivers for discussion

1. EFSA Scientific Opinions

ToR 1: Vector and reservoir species

[ToR 2: Conditions under which species should be considered as vectors and reservoirs of listed diseases – for possible future discussion]

2. WOAH

- updated list of susceptible species concerning infection with *Marteilia refringens*

EFSA ToR 1: Vectors/ Reservoirs

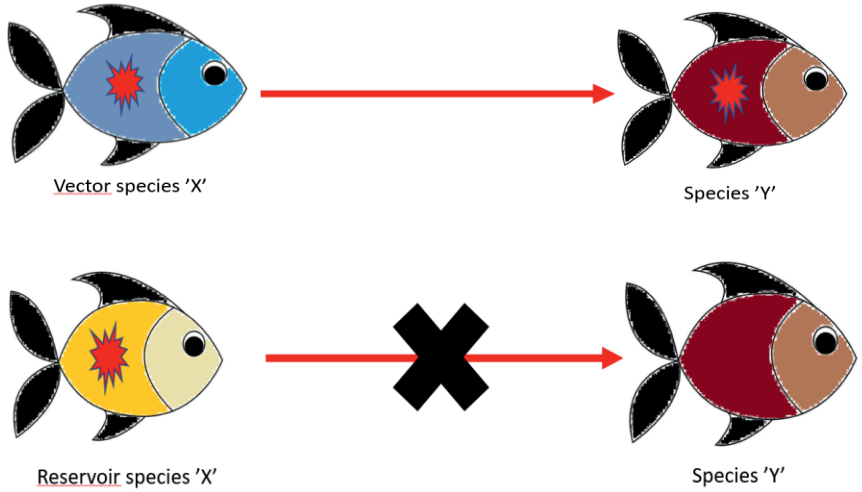
- Vector species in the Annex to CIR (EU) 2018/1882 are largely the same as Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 1251/2008
    - some changes were made
    - but not a complete review
- 3 mandates (fish, molluscs & crustaceans) to EFSA in June 2022 with a view to:
    - Updating the list of vectors/ reservoirs for listed diseases of aquatic animals (ToR 1)
    - [Reviewing the conditions under which these species should be considered to transmit the relevant disease (ToR 2)]
- Reasons:
    - legal basis has now changed under the AHL (Article 8)
    - scientific developments since 2008

ToR 1: Vectors/ Reservoirs

WORKING DEFINITIONS USED IN SCIENTIFIC OPINIONS

A species is considered a **VECTOR** when the pathogen has been **identified in or on the species** and it has been **demonstrated to transmit the pathogen to susceptible species**

A species is considered to be **RESERVOIR** if the pathogen has been **identified in or on the species**, but **evidence of transmission of the pathogen to susceptible species is not available**



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Proposed approach to listing vectors/ reservoirs

- **According to all 3 Scientific Opinions**: 'Although the quantification of the **risk of spread of the pathogens** by the vectors or reservoir species was not part of the terms of reference, **such risks do exist for the vector species**, since transmission from infected vector species to susceptible species was proven. Where evidence for transmission from infected fish was not found, these were defined as reservoirs. Nonetheless, **the risk of the spread of the pathogens from infected reservoir species cannot be excluded.'**

- **Article 8 of AHL:** 'The list shall comprise those animal species, or groups of animal species which **pose a considerable risk** for the spread of specific listed diseases…'

- **EFSA**: 'risks do exist for the vector species' **= AHL: 'pose a considerable risk'**

- **EFSA**: 'the risk of the spread of the pathogens from infected reservoir species cannot be excluded'**≠ AHL**: 'pose a considerable risk'

- => **Propose to list vectors** where the risk they pose can be managed

- => **Propose not to list reservoirs** because the 'considerable risk' requirement not fulfilled

Taking this approach into account, how would the list of VECTOR species look?

DISEASE	VECTOR SPECIES
Epizootic haematopoietic necrosis	-
Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia	-
Infectious haematopoietic necrosis	-
Infection with HPR-deleted infectious salmon anaemia virus	-
Koi herpes virus disease	*Carrassius auratus, Ctenopharyngodon Idella, Carrassius gibelio, Gymnocephalus cernua, Hypophthalmichthys molitrix, Rutilus rutilus, Tinca tinca*
Infection with *Mikrocytos mackini*	*Crassostrea virginica*
Infection with *Perkinsus marinus*	~~*Boonea impressa*~~
Infection with *Bonamia exitiosa*	-
Infection with *Bonamia ostreae*	-
Infection with *Marteilia refringens*	-
Infection with Taura Syndrome virus	*Episesarma mederi, Macrobrachium lanchesteri,*
Infection with Yellow head virus	-
Infection with whitespot syndrome virus	~~*Genus Nitocra, Octolasmis neptuni*~~

Further explanation of previous slides

- Earlier, suggested to list all vectors where the risk they pose can be managed
- Concerning species with strikethrough on previous slide i.e.
  - *Boonea impressa* (sea snail),
  - Genus *Nitocra* (copepod),
  - *Octolasmis neptuni* (barnacle)

  The risk posed by these organisms would be extremely difficult for CAs to manage => it is proposed not to list them as vectors

  Therefore:

  - vectors will be listed only for KHV (8 species), *M.mackini* (1 species) and Taura Syndrome (1 species) = 10 vector species in total proposed for listing
  - Currently > 200 vector species are listed in CIR (EU) 2018/1882

EFSA ToR 2: Conditions under which species should be considered as vectors and reservoirs of listed diseases

- Currently set out in:
  - Annex I to CDR (EU) 2020/990 and
  - Annex XXX to CDR (EU) 2020/692
- Conclusions from ToR 2 are similar to conditions set out in above Regulations
- Currently reflecting – no amendments proposed at this time

2. WOAH AHG REPORT

- List of susceptible species for all diseases other than *P. marinus* and *M. refringens* amended in June 2022, by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/925

- Agreed to await the outcome from WOAH AHGs concerning susceptible species of *P. marinus* and *M. refringens*

- List of species susceptible to *M. refringens* adopted by WOAH in May 2023. Expect new list of species susceptible to *P. marinus* to be adopted in May 2024.

- AHG report on *M.refringens* is available at WOAH Specialist Commission Report - Comprehensive report, EURL represented

- Concerning *M. refringens*, suggest to make the following changes to the third column of Annex to CIR (EU) 2018/1882:

DISEASE	SUSCEPTIBLE SPECIES
Infection with *Marteilia refringens*	~~*Ostrea angasi*~~, ~~*Ostrea chilensis*~~, *Ostrea edulis*, ~~*Ostrea puelchana*~~, *Ostrea stentina*, *Solen marginatus*, *Xenostrobus securis*, *Chamelea gallina*, *[Mytilus edulis, Mytilus galloprovincialis]*

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2. WOAH AHG REPORT (continued)

Marteilia refringens

- Following discussions with MSs in 2018, it was agreed that *M.edulis* and *M.galloprovincialis* would not be listed in CIR (EU) 2018/1882, as species which are susceptible to *M.refringens*
- Based on experience at MS level and following fact- finding Missions by Dir. F
- Recently, WOAH AHG has again confirmed that these species fulfil WOAH criteria for listing
- Commission not aware of any negative outcomes following de-listing of *M.edulis* and *M.galloprovincialis* in 2018
- Propose to exclude both species in the next amendment of CIR (EU) 2018/1882, unless MSs have reservations, or have new information which is of relevance

Summary & Proposal

- Delete vector species currently listed in 4th column of Annex to CIR (EU) 2018/1882
- List only the species of vectors put forward by EFSA, for which risk management measures can be applied by CAs
- Do not list reservoirs because they do not pose a ‘considerable risk’ (according to EFSA working definitions)
- Reduce list of vectors from >200 species to 10 species none of which concern Cat B or C diseases => significant simplification of trade
- Task EURLs to inform Commission of reports of new vector species either from scientific literature or from practical experience – future amendments to be made as necessary
- Amend lists of susceptible species to take account of WOAH AHG Report on *M.refringens*, other than listing *M.edulis and M.galloprovincialis* as susceptible to *M.refringens*
- Comments today and/or in writing by **03 November to SANTE-ANIMAL-HEALTH-LAW@ec.europa.eu**
- Draft amendment for discussion and possible opinion in Nov/Dec

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Thank you

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