



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 29.9.2003  
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**COMMISSION STAFF WORKING PAPER**

**Written comments of the Community on the report of the meeting of the Bureau of the  
OIE [Office International des Epizooties] Aquatic Animals Health Standards  
Commission [Paris June 2003] to be submitted for adoption and consideration in the  
72nd General Session to be held in May 2004**

## COMMISSION STAFF WORKING PAPER

### **Written comments of the Community on the report of the meeting of the Bureau of the OIE [Office International des Epizooties] Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission [Paris June 2003] to be submitted for adoption and consideration in the 72nd General Session to be held in May 2004**

#### **MEMORANDUM TO THE COMMISSION**

The Bureau of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (AAC), met between 23-27 June 2003 drafted a Report, which has proposed certain modifications to the International Aquatic Animal Health Code.

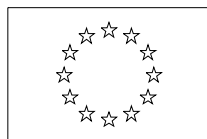
These proposals for modifications are for adoption or consideration at the next General Session in May 2004.

The report has been circulated to member countries with requests for comments. The comments will be reviewed by the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission in October 2003. In view of the status of this Health Code, in particular in making recommendations for international trade in aquatic animals and their products and for the categorisation of diseases, it is necessary for the Community to take a common position on this matter.

The Commission therefore proposes to the Council to authorise the Commission to present to the OIE, as since 1995, the following written comments in the Annex before the 30 September for the meeting referred to above. This is in order to allow the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission to take the Community comments into account during their meeting, prior to submission of the final versions to the General Session in May 2004. The cover letter to be sent with our response is attached at Annex A (Doc D(2003) 521805).

In order to facilitate the examination of the comments of the Community, they have been incorporated in boxes into the OIE report. In this context, the Community thanks the OIE for providing the electronic version of the Reports

## ANNEX A



UNION EUROPÉENNE

Bruxelles, le  
D(2003) 521805/HB/vb

**Objet: Réunion du Code zoosanitaire – 23-27 juin 2003**

Monsieur le Directeur général,

Nous vous prions de bien vouloir trouver en annexe les commentaires de l'Union Européenne sur le rapport du Code sanitaire international pour les maladies des poissons, de l'Office International des Epizooties, en vue de la préparation de la Session générale de 2004.

Nous vous saurions gré de bien vouloir prendre en compte ces commentaires lors de la réunion de la Commission du Code zoosanitaire prévue en octobre 2003.

Nous tenons également à vous remercier pour l'excellente collaboration entre nos services et nous vous prions d'agréer, Monsieur le Directeur général, l'expression de nos sentiments distingués.

Robert Coleman  
*Directeur Général*

Annexe: 1

Copie: Tous les directeurs/chefs de service vétérinaire de la Communauté/chefs de service vétérinaire de l'ACs

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**ANNEX**

Original: English  
July 2003

**DRAFT REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE AQUATIC ANIMAL  
HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION**

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

**Paris 23–27 June 2003**

The OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards 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.

**Community comment**

**The Community acknowledges that the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission has taken the comments of the EC during the updating of the *Code* and *Manual* into consideration**

**The amendments proposed in Appendices III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, and IX are supported provided that the comments specified and inserted in the text of that Appendix are taken into account.**

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 71<sup>st</sup> General Session**

### Community comment

In Appendix IV, there are references to the approved amendment of the definitions of fallowing.

In this respect the Community would like to note that the definition of fallowing in the changes agreed (replacement of the phrase “acting as carriers” with “capable of transferring the disease agent”) should apply to the second sentence as well as the first. The definition of fallowing does not give any sense of the purpose of fallowing; that is to empty a site of aquatic animals so that when new animals are reintroduced the risk of re-infection is minimal. The definition therefore needs to include the notion that that the duration of the fallow period needs to be sufficient to prevent re-occurrence of the disease of concern from residual infection in the ponds, tanks or environment around open cage systems.

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*.

#### **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

### Community comment

The Community acknowledges that the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission has taken the comments of the EC during the updating of the *Code* into consideration.

The OIE AAC should take into consideration the possible need to harmonise with the “*Terrestrial Code*” the use and meaning of the expressions “*prescribed biosecurity conditions*” and the different levels of surveillance in the different chapters of the “*Aquatic Code*”.

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*.

#### Community comment

The Community acknowledge the understanding from the AAC to have the old proposal for sampling procedures still valid until replaced with updated diseases-specific sampling procedures as indicated in Appendix VI of the report.

#### 3.1.1. Changes adopted at the 71<sup>st</sup> 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 IATA<sup>1</sup> 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**

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<sup>1</sup> IATA: International Air Transport Association

### 7.1.1. **FAO<sup>2</sup>, NACA<sup>3</sup>, SEAFDEC<sup>4</sup> 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 FAO/DFO<sup>5</sup> 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.

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<sup>2</sup> FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

<sup>3</sup> NACA: Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia-Pacific

<sup>4</sup> SEAFDEC: South-East Asia Fisheries Development Centre

<sup>5</sup> DFO: Department of Fisheries and Oceans

A questionnaire on the status of aquatic animal disease awareness among Regional Commission members 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.

#### **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), 5 to 9 January 2004 (Bureau); 7 to 11 June 2004 (Commission) and 11 to 15 October 2004.

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../Appendices



**MEETING OF THE OIE AQUATIC ANIMALS HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION**

**Paris, 23–27 June 2003**

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**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 71<sup>st</sup> 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 71<sup>st</sup> 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

Appendix I (contd)

- 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

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CHAPTER 1.2.1.

NOTIFICATIONS AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL  
INFORMATION

**Community comment**

**The Community supports the proposed deletion of article 1.2.1.7**

[ 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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[ ] deleted



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.
- 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*.
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(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

**Community comment**

The Community has a general opinion that international trade in populations of live fish known to be infected should not take place. However, trade in populations of live fish not proven as being free from infection may take place with the proper risk management measures in place and with the knowledge of the competent authorities involved.

The Community therefore propose to change the newly inserted text to be amended to:

As a general principle, international trade in *aquatic animals* and their *products* from populations not proven free from 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*. Furthermore, international trade in *live aquatic animals* from populations known to be infected with a listed disease and considered to be capable of transmitting the *disease* should generally not take place. International trade in products of *aquatic animals* 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*.

The Community also propose to add to the paragraph:

In order to facilitate the international trade, it is necessary for the competent authorities involved, to establish the appropriate communication before the trade takes place. Furthermore, in cases where Member Countries share water catchment areas or coastal areas with neighbouring countries, the appropriate communication should be established also with the competent authorities of the neighbouring countries.

## 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****Community comment**

As proposed in the report from the FDC in January and later agreed at the General Session in May 2003, the disease names of molluscs is now; *Infection with ..... (pathogen name)*. The Community supported this amendment and asked OIE for the purpose of harmonisation, to consider this amendment also for fish and crustaceans diseases.

The Community will ask the AAC to reconsider chapter for fish and crustaceans diseases and harmonise the naming of the all the diseases in the *Code* and *Manual*.

There are multiple references to prescribed biosecurity conditions, which include an early detection system. These will potentially replace the current laid down standard monitoring and surveillance approach for territories without a history of the disease in question and apply to maintenance of freedom. If the guidelines for such systems are not fully developed and robust the interpretation by countries could vary significantly. The Community would ask the AAC to take this into consideration when developing the relevant chapters.

## 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: redbfin 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.

**Community comment**

**The Community proposes to include a new article in *all* disease chapters indicating which species can be considered not to be responsible for the passive transmission of the disease in question, i.e. “proven non-carriers”. The general recommendations of the OIE Code as regards trade between non-approved zones and approved zones should not apply to these species as the disease in question is not transmitted through international trade.**

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.

**Community comment**

**The AAC should consider to reword the first paragraph of article 2.1.1.8 to present the most important parts of the paragraph clearer to the reader, as the present wording is not very easily available to the reader.**



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.

**Community comment**

**The AAC should consider to reword the first paragraph of article 2.1.1.9 to present the most important parts of the paragraph clearer to the reader, as the present wording is not very easily available to the reader.**

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.

**Community comment**

**The AAC should consider to reword the first paragraph of article 2.1.1.10 to present the most important parts of the paragraph clearer to the reader, as the present wording is not very easily available to the reader.**

### **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.

##### **Community comment**

**The AAC should consider to reword the first paragraph of article 2.1.1.11 to present the most important parts of the paragraph clearer to the reader, as the present wording is not very easily available to the reader.**

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.

**Community comment**

**The Community proposes to amend the following sentence**

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

**To (amendment in *bold underlined italic*)**

Such EHN free *aquaculture establishments* must be supplied by a contained water source only (e.g. a spring, well, borehole, rain catchment, etc.) ***which is*** 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

**The AAC should harmonise the mentioned sentence with the corresponding sentence in the mollusc and crustaceans chapters.**

**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.

**Community comment**

The AAC should consider to reword the first paragraph of article 2.1.1.14 to present the most important parts of the paragraph clearer to the reader, as the present wording is not very easily available to the reader.

Furthermore, this Article states that an aquaculture establishment can be declared free if “none of the species listed in Articles 2.1.1.2 and 2.1.1.3 is present”. Article 2.1.1.3 does not list any species. Species currently found to be susceptible by experimental challenge are listed under article 2.1.1.4. It would seem sensible to amend article 2.1.1.14 to refer to articles 2.1.1.2 and 2.1.1.4, and thus cover species found to be susceptible by both natural infections and experimental challenge.

Although experimental infections that result from excessive challenges by injection or bath exposure may not be replicated under natural conditions and pose a threat, infection resulting from cohabiting fish with clinically infected fish indicates that the species is susceptible and this should be taken into account under the rules for seeking and maintaining freedom from disease.

Is it intended that Territories could be declared free without any specific biosecurity conditions in place if no susceptible species are present?

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.**Community comment**

The wording of article 2.1.1.17 should be reconsidered with the view making it clear that in the case of a limited outbreak in a previous free zone or country, and where that Member Country takes action to eradicate the disease, it should not be necessary to suspend the approved status of the whole approved zone or country. Where possible the suspension of the approved status should be limited to the area(s) with epidemiological connections to the outbreak.

This comment is also valid to the corresponding articles in the other disease chapters.

Furthermore, the AAC should consider to reword the third paragraph of article 2.1.1.17 to present the most important parts of the paragraph clearer to the reader (i.e. *what is the requirements for restoring free status*) as the present wording is not very easily available to the reader.

**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.

**Community comment**

**Article 2.1.1.18 – 21 has nothing to do with the heading “Suspension and restoration of free status”. A new heading should be introduced.**

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.

**Community comment**

**In order to take into account the comments in Section 1.3.1, the Community proposes to amend the sentence to read:**

The *Competent Authorities of exporting countries* should not authorise the exportation of uneviscerated dead fish from populations known to be infected with EHN without the knowledge of the *importing country*.

CHAPTER 3.1.5.

**INFECTION WITH MARTEILIA REFRINGENS**

**Community comment**

There are multiple references to prescribed biosecurity conditions, which include an early detection system. These will potentially replace the current laid down standard monitoring and surveillance approach for territories without a history of the disease in question and apply to maintenance of freedom. If the guidelines for such systems are not fully developed and robust the interpretation by countries could vary significantly

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.

**Community comment**

In article 3.1.5.4., there is a listing of species of shellfish susceptible to what is described as *Marteilia* spp. without any guidance on the approach to be taken to establish (and maintain) freedom from that disease. The Community understands that although there are no significant mortalities in the listed species from this disease the infection cannot be differentiated from *Marteilia refringens* using current laboratory tools, and the species may currently be considered as susceptible to *Marteilia refringens*. This matter needs to be given further consideration.

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.

**Community comment**

**The Community proposes to include a new article in *all* disease chapters indicating which species can be considered not to be responsible for the passive transmission of the disease in question, i.e. “non-carriers”. The general recommendations of the OIE Code as regards trade between non-approved zones and approved zones should not apply to these species as the disease in question is not transmitted through international trade.**

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.**Community comment**

**The AAC should consider to reword the first paragraph of article 3.1.5.8 to present the most important parts of the paragraph clearer to the reader, as the present wording is not very easily available to the reader.**

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.

**Community comment**

**The AAC should consider to reword the first paragraph of article 3.1.5.9 to present the most important parts of the paragraph clearer to the reader, as the present wording is not very easily available to the reader.**

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.**Community comment**

**The AAC should consider to reword the first paragraph of article 3.1.5.11 to present the most important parts of the paragraph clearer to the reader, as the present wording is not very easily available to the reader.**

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.**Community comment**

**Article 3.1.5.18 – 22 has nothing to do with the heading “Suspension and restoration of free status”. A new heading should be introduced.**

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.

**Community comment**

**The Community will repeat the general comment in Chapter 1.3.1 about the principal opinion to not trade in live animals from populations known to be infected.**

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****Community comment**

As proposed in the report from the FDC in January and later agreed at the General Session in May 2003, the disease names of molluscs is now; *Infection with ..... (pathogen name)*. The Community supported this amendment and asked OIE for the purpose of harmonisation, to consider this amendment also for fish and crustaceans diseases.

The Community will ask the AAC to reconsider chapter for fish and crustaceans diseases and harmonise the naming of the all the diseases in the *Code* and *Manual* Community comment

There are multiple references to prescribed biosecurity conditions, which include an early detection system. These will potentially replace the current laid down standard monitoring and surveillance approach for territories without a history of the disease in question and apply to maintenance of freedom. If the guidelines for such systems are not fully developed and robust the interpretation by countries could vary significantly

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.

**Community comment**

The Community proposes to include a new article in *all* disease chapters indicating which species can be considered not to be responsible for the passive transmission of the disease in question, i.e. “non-carriers”. The general recommendations of the OIE Code as regards trade between non-approved zones and approved zones should not apply to these species as the disease in question is not transmitted through international trade.

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.

**Community comment**

The AAC should consider to reword the first paragraph of article 4.1.2.8 to present the most important parts of the paragraph clearer to the reader, as the present wording is not very easily available to the reader.

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.

**Community comment**

**The AAC should consider to reword the first paragraph of article 4.1.2.9 to present the most important parts of the paragraph clearer to the reader, as the present wording is not very easily available to the reader.**

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.

**Community comment**

**The AAC should consider to reword the first paragraph of article 2.1.11 to present the most important parts of the paragraph clearer to the reader, as the present wording is not very easily available to the reader.**

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.**Community comment**

**Article 4.1.2.18 – 22 has nothing to do with the heading “Suspension and restoration of free status”. A new heading should be introduced.**

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.

**Community comment**

**The Community will repeat the general comment in Chapter 1.3.1 about the principal opinion to not trade in live animals from populations known to be infected.**

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.

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

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**Community comment**

The Community has the following general comment to the certificates

There is a need for clarification of point II and III in the certificate. What is important from a disease point of view, is where the fish has been in contact with water or other aquatic animals that may increase the risk of transmitting the disease to the fish covered by the certificate. It is therefore important that the certificate have information about the localisation of the farm of origin and its health status. Furthermore, if the fish has been in contact with other aquatic animals after it left the farm of origin, the place of this contact and the health status at this place should be identified. The AAC may consider introducing a note where it is clear that it might be necessary to list several “place of production”.

Furthermore, in point 1 the word *Latin name* should be replaced by *Scientific name*.

Secondly, in the first line of point V declaration, it is necessary to use the same words describing the consignments as used in the boxes ticked in point I Identification.

Finally the cross-reference to the *free countries* in third line below the table should be to articles 2.1.X.7 to 2.1.X.9

L I V E F I S H A N D G A M E T E S

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 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:.....

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



Model Certificate No. 2.

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

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**Community comment**

**In point 1 the word *Latin name* should be replaced by *Scientific name*.**

**Secondly, in the first line of point V Declaration, it is necessary to use the same words describing the consignments as used in the boxes ticked in point I Identification.**

**The AAC may consider introducing a note where it is clear that it might be necessary to list several “place of production”.**

**Finally the cross-reference to the *free countries* in third line below the table should be to articles 2.1.X.7 to 2.1.X.9**

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.

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

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**Community comment**

The Community has the following general comment to the certificates

The title may indicate that these requirements should apply to live molluscs and gametes for farming purposes, as well as live molluscs for the purpose of human consumption.

There is a need for clarification of point II and III in the certificate. What is important from a disease point of view, is where the molluscs has been in contact with water or other aquatic animals that may increase the risk of transmitting the disease to the molluscs covered by the certificate. It is therefore important that the certificate have information about the localisation of the farm/harvested natural bed of origin and its health status. Furthermore, if the molluscs have been in contact with other aquatic animals after it left the farm of origin, like purification centres etc, the place of this contact and the health status at this place should be identified.

The AAC may consider introducing a note where it is clear that it might be necessary to list several “place of production”.

Furthermore, in point 1 the word *Latin name* should be replaced by *Scientific name*.

Finally the cross-reference to the *free countries* in third below the table should be to articles 2.1.X.7 to 2.1.X.9

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.

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

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**Community comment**

The Community has the following general comment to the certificates

There is a need for clarification of point II and III in the certificate. What is important from a disease point of view, is where the crustaceans has been in contact with water or other aquatic animals that may increase the risk of transmitting the disease to the crustaceans covered by the certificate. It is therefore important that the certificate have information about the localisation of the farm of origin and its health status. Furthermore, if the crustaceans have been in contact with other aquatic animals after it left the farm of origin, the place of this contact and the health status at this place should be identified.

The AAC may consider introducing a note where it is clear that it might be necessary to list several “place of production”.

Furthermore, in point 1 the word *Latin name* should be replaced by *Scientific name*.

Finally the cross-reference to the *free countries* in third line below the table should be to articles 2.1.X.7 to 2.1.X.9

L I V E C R U S T A C E A N S

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.

	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.

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

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**Community comment**

**The Community has the following general comment to the certificates**

**The AAC may consider introducing a note where it is clear that it might be necessary to list several “place of production”.**

**In point 1 the word *Latin name* should be replaced by *Scientific name*.**

**The cross-reference to the *free countries* in third line below the table, should be to articles 2.1.X.7 to 2.1.X.9**

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 (x1000):.....

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

## Community comment

The Community supported the criteria for listing that was approved at the General Session in May 2003 and will support the principle of a single list of diseases as proposed by the AAC.

However, although the criteria for listing diseases were adopted at the last session of the OIE, the Community is of the opinion that there is a need to fine-tune some of the parameters and explanatory notes that support them. The wording in the present criteria gives room for interpretation, which may result in different outcomes of the assessment. For example, it is not clear under criterion 1, what is considered "significant production losses due to morbidity or mortality". The Community proposes to include in the explanatory note some guidelines for what level of loss that is considered as significant. Furthermore under criterion 7, the Community consider the requirement "several countries/zones are free of the disease based on the....." should be specified further. Several EU-Member States are free from or have control programs for Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis (IPN).

Based on the interpretation of the criteria, the Community supports the proposal from the AAC with the following amendments

- IPN should be listed. It complies with criterion no 7, as several EU Member States are free or have control programs in place. Furthermore, it is difficult to control at a farm level, and the potential for economical loss is severe.

- *Microcytos mackini* should be listed. It complies with criterion no 1, as where it occurs in farmed populations, the disease has been shown to cause significant production losses. It could also be argued that it complies with criterion 2.

- *Perkinsus olseni/atlanticus* should not be listed. *P. atlanticus* could be considered as wide-spread. Hence, by the changes in taxonomy considering *P.olseni/atlanticus* as one species, it does no longer seem to comply with criterion 7. Furthermore, the economical impact of an infection may be considered as less severe than for IPN.

The Community also invites the AAC to consider a further specification of some of the listed diseases. Some diseases like IPN and VHS are listed due to their impact on salmonids. At the same time, different strains of these viruses are found naturally occurring in marine fish. The Community therefore proposes to list the strains pathogenic to the economically important species only.

## 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 (A–C)	Parameters that support a listing	Explanatory notes
<b>A. Consequences</b>			
1.		Where it occurs, the disease has been shown to cause significant production losses due to morbidity <sup>6</sup> 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> <sup>7</sup> species, 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.	
<b>And</b>			
<b>B. Spread</b>			
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.
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.

<sup>6</sup> 'morbidity' includes, for example, loss of production due to spawning failure

<sup>7</sup> 'susceptible' is not restricted to 'susceptible to clinical disease' but includes 'susceptible to covert infections'

No.	Criteria (A–C)	Parameters that support a listing	Explanatory notes
<b>And</b> <b>C. Diagnosis</b>			
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**

<b>A. For listed diseases</b>	
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>B. For non-listed diseases</b>	
1.	Emerging disease/pathogenic agent if there are findings that are of epidemiological significance to other countries

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 Xenohaliotis californiensis</i>	+	+	-	+	NA	+	+	+	Yes
Taura syndrome	+	-	-	+	NA	+	+	+	Yes
White spot disease	+	+	-	+	NA	+	+	+	Yes
Yellowhead disease	+	-	-	+	NA	+	+	+	Yes
Tetrahedral baculovirosis ( <i>Baculovirus penaei</i> )	+	-	-	+	NA	+	+	+	Yes
Spherical baculovirosis ( <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

## **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