

*Seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Aquatic Animals
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OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code - a trade facilitating standard

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A background image showing a school of fish swimming in clear water, with the fish appearing slightly out of focus to create a sense of depth.

**Link between OIE standards and
WTO-SPS Agreement**

General mandate of the OIE:
to improve animal health worldwide

One of the OIE's main objectives



*'to safeguard world trade by
publishing health standards for
international trade in animals and
animal products'*



- **Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement**

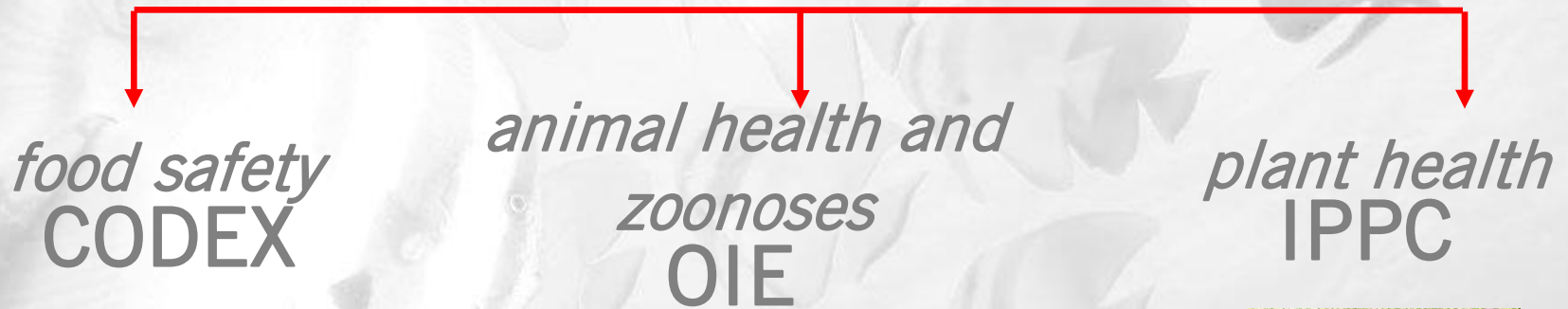
came into force in 1995

- **SPS Agreement Art 2 : Basic right**

“Members have the right to take sanitary and phytosanitary measures necessary for the protection of human, animal or plant life or health, provided that such measures are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Agreement”

The '3 sisters'

International Standard Setting Organisations



WTO SPS Agreement recognises **OIE** as a reference organisation for international standards on **animal health** and **zoonoses**

Setting health measures

Options:

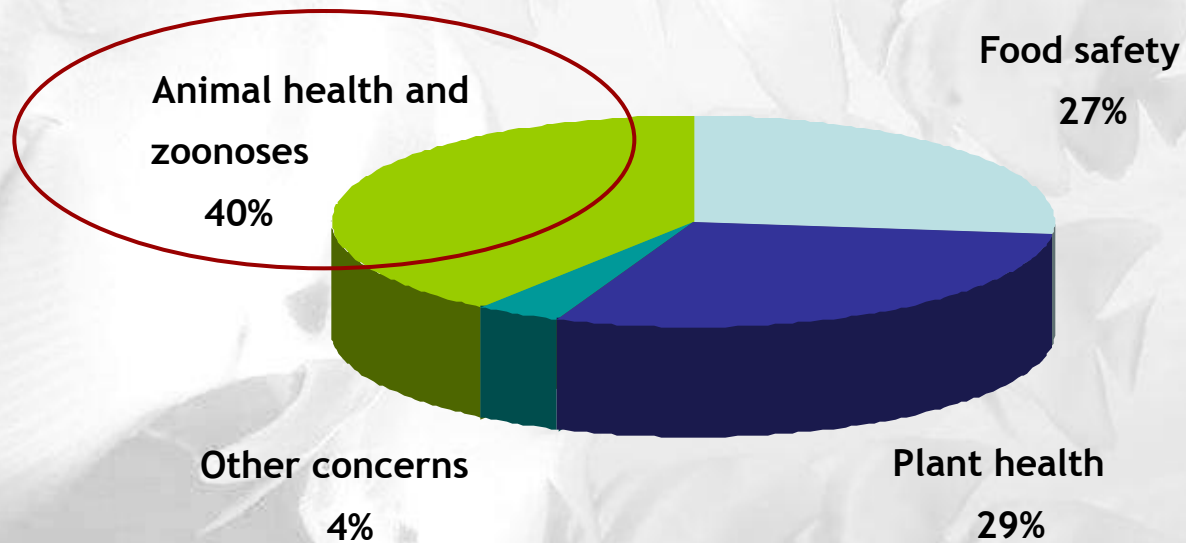
SPS: Article 3:3

- Must be based on an OIE international standard;

OR

- Import Risk Analysis:
 - in the absence of a relevant standard; or
 - when a Member chooses to adopt a higher level of protection than that provided by the OIE standard.

Relevance of OIE standards to SPS trade concerns



A background image showing a school of various fish swimming in clear, shallow water. The fish are rendered in a light, semi-transparent style, creating a sense of depth and movement.

OIE's international standards

OIE's international standards



OIE develops and publishes

- health standards for the prevention and control of animal diseases as well as for the safe trade of animals and animal products
=> **Codes**
- biological standards for diagnostic tests and vaccines
=> **Manuals**

Adopted by OIE Member Countries during General Session each May
by consensus

Using a science-based approach

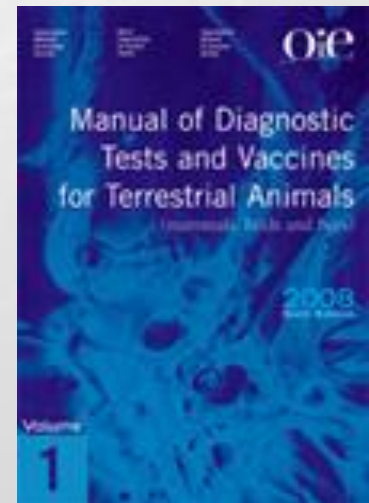
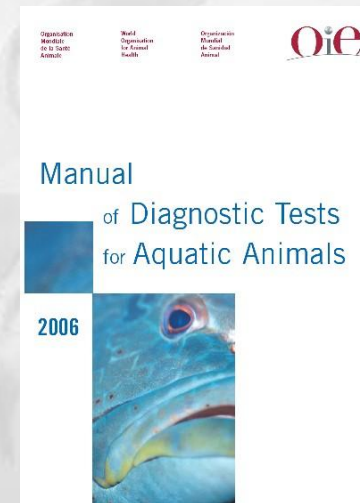
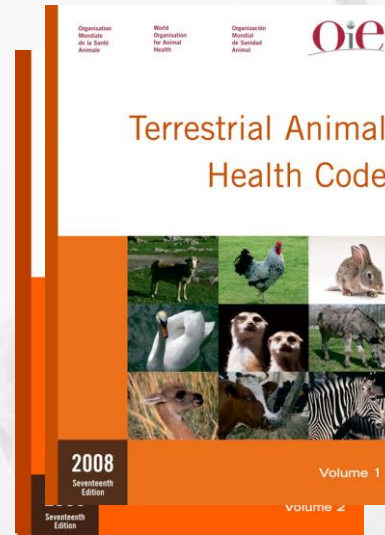
**Terrestrial Animal Health Code –
mammals, birds and bees**

**Aquatic Animal Health Code -
amphibians, crustaceans, fish and
molluscs**

**Manual of Diagnostic Tests and
Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals**

**Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic
Animals**

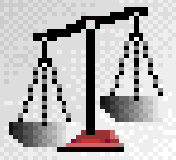
**available on the
OIE Website**



What is the purpose of the Codes?

Primary objectives:

- Set recommended actions to be used by *Veterinary Authorities* or other *Competent Authorities*
 - to establish health regulations for the safe importation of animals and animal products
(i.e. protect animal and human health and guard against zoonotic diseases)
 - while avoiding unjustified trade restrictions
- Provide guidance for the setting up and implementation of **efficient** animal health and public health **policies** at **national level**
- Now expanding into animal welfare (farmed fish) and animal production food safety



Codes are **not textbooks** on animal diseases.

Setting and updating international standards



COMMITTEE,
COMMISSIONS,
DELEGATES

PROBLEM

Specialist
Commissions

Review

Advice of experts or other
Specialist Commissions

Draft text

1

2

DELEGATES

Comments

World
Assembly

OIE INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD

Adoption

Delegates of
175 Members



Opportunities for OIE Members to influence international standard setting



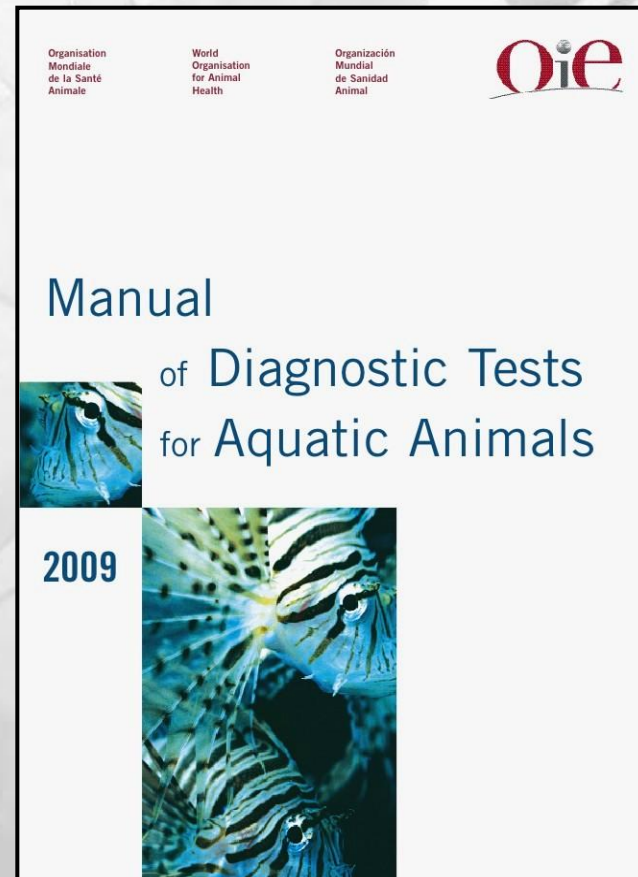
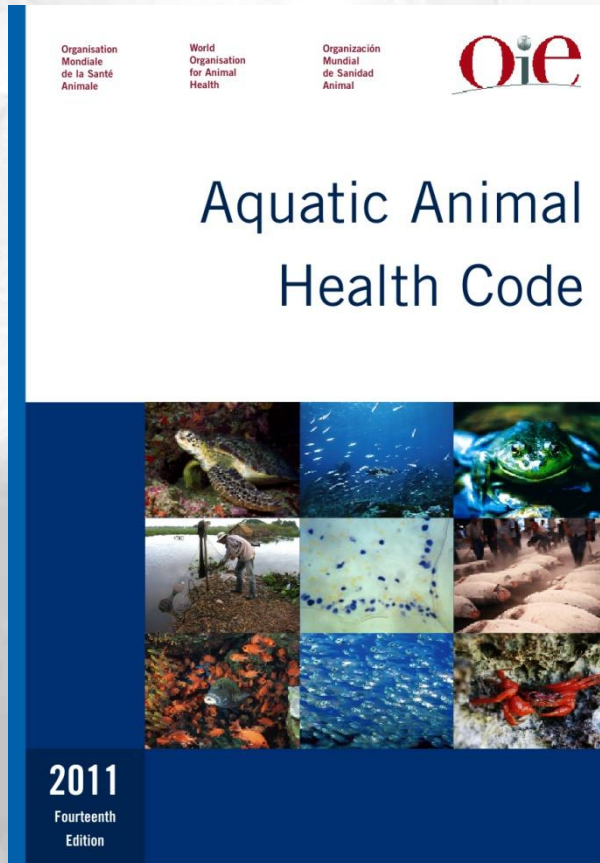
=> **Members** are thus **primarily responsible** for setting and the adoption of international standards and should therefore always attempt to actively participate in the standard setting process



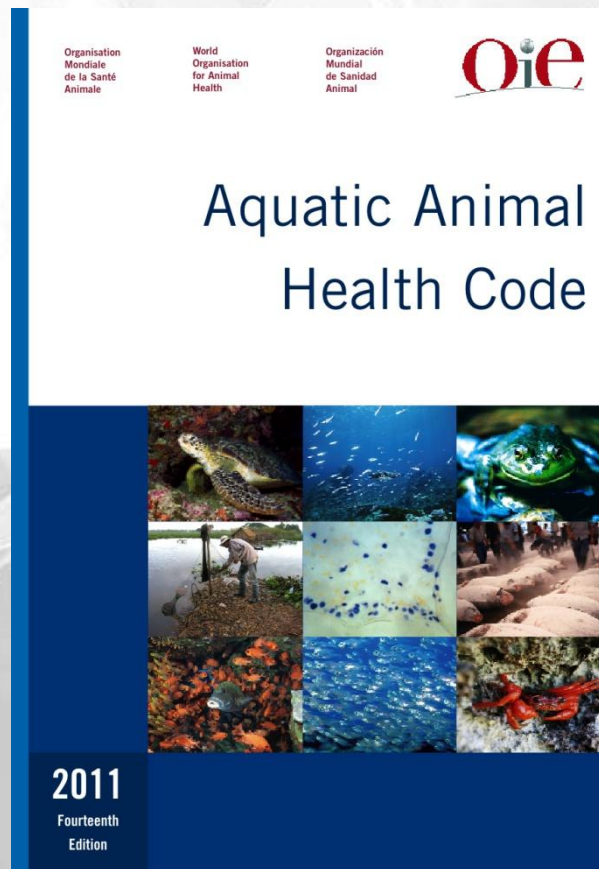
Aquatic animals



The OIE standards applicable to international trade in **aquatic animals and their products** are laid out in the *OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code* and in the *OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals* and aim to reduce disease risks



OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code (‘Aquatic Code’)



Available on-line at the OIE website



International Standard Setting

- > Overview
- > Terrestrial code
- > Terrestrial manual
- > **Aquatic code**
- > Access online
- > Aquatic manual
- > Specialists commissions & groups
- > Implications of private standards

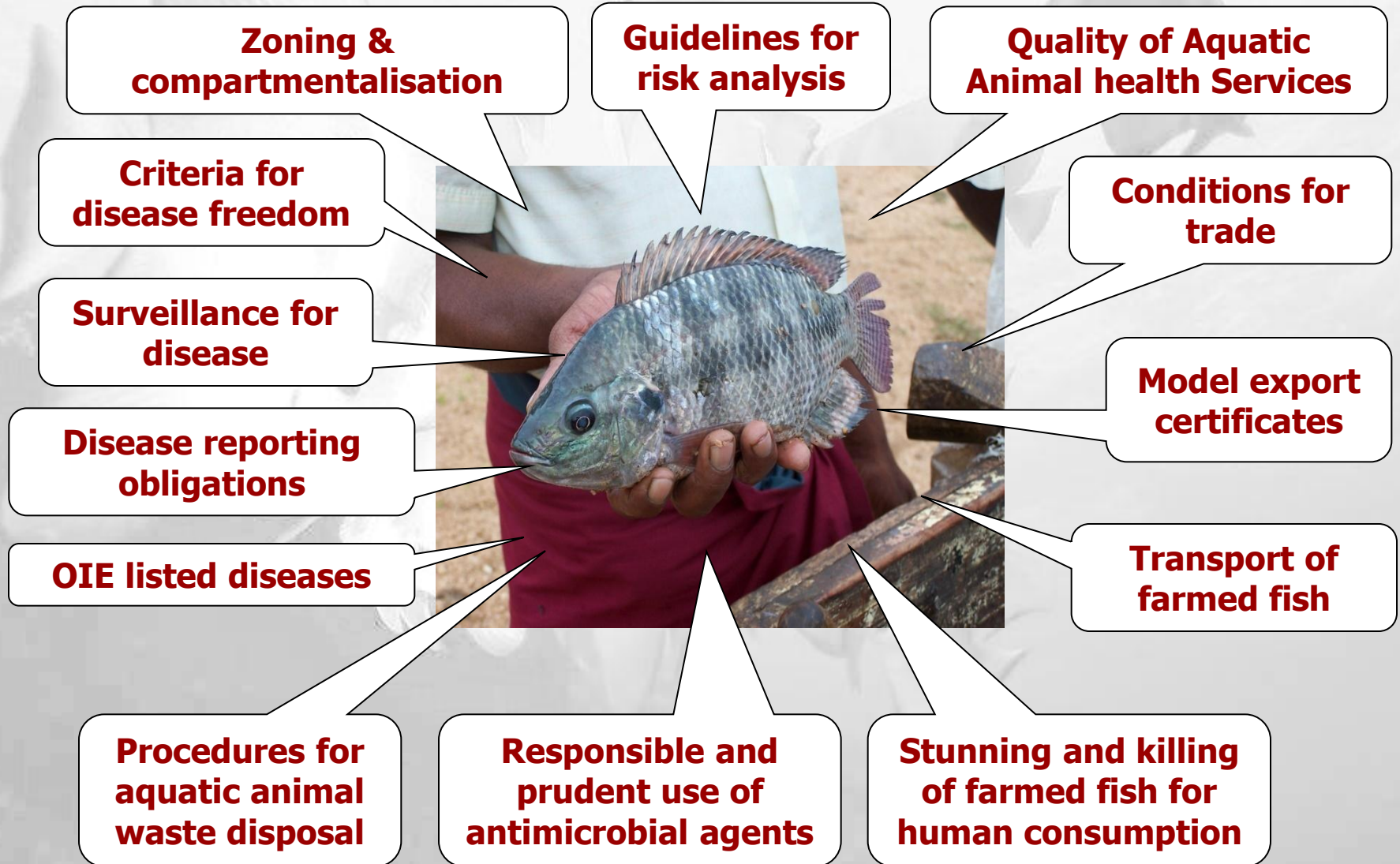
Aquatic Animal Health Code

Index

Aquatic Animal Health Code (2011) Contents

	Foreword
	Guide to the use of the Aquatic Animal Health Code
	Glossary
	AQUATIC ANIMAL DISEASE DIAGNOSIS, SURVEILLANCE AND NOTIFICATION
	Notification of diseases and epidemiological information
	Criteria for listing aquatic animal diseases
	Diseases listed by the OIE
	Aquatic animal health surveillance
	RISK ANALYSIS
	General considerations
	Import risk analysis
	QUALITY OF AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH SERVICES
	Quality of Aquatic Animal Health Services
	GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS: DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL
	Zoning and compartmentalisation
	Application of compartmentalisation
Section 1.	
Chapter 1.1.	
Chapter 1.2.	
Chapter 1.3.	
Chapter 1.4.	
Section 2.	
Chapter 2.1.	
Chapter 2.2.	
Section 3.	
Chapter 3.1.	
Section 4.	
Chapter 4.1.	
Chapter 4.2.	

Some of the information available in the *Aquatic Code*



Provisions in the *Aquatic Code*



General Provisions (Horizontal issues)

- **User's guide**
- **Glossary**

- **Section 1 : Animal disease diagnosis, surveillance and notification**
 - Notification of diseases and epidemiological information
 - Criteria for listing aquatic animal diseases
 - Diseases listed by the OIE
 - Aquatic animal health surveillance

- **Section 2 : Risk analysis**
 - General considerations
 - Import risk analysis

- **Section 3 : Quality of Aquatic Animal Health Services**
 - Quality of Aquatic Animal Health Services

General Provisions (Horizontal issues) (cont...)

Section 4 : General recommendations : disease prevention and control

- Zoning/compartmentalisation
- Application of compartmentalisation
- Recommendations on disinfection
- Contingency planning
- Fallowing in aquaculture
- Handling, disposal and treatment of aquatic animal waste (adopted May 2010)

Section 5 : Trade measures, import/export procedures and health certification

- General obligations for certification
- Certification procedures
- Criteria to assess safety of aquatic animal commodities (adopted May 2010)
- Safe transport
- Measures applicable before, during transit, on arrival of commodities
- Border posts
- Model health certificates for international trade

General Provisions (contd)

Section 6 : Veterinary Public Health

- Control of hazards in aquatic animal feeds
- Introduction to recommendations for controlling antimicrobial resistance
- Principles for responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in aquatic animals (adopted May 2011)

Section 7 : Welfare of Farmed Fish

- Transport
- Stunning and killing for human consumption (adopted May 2010)
- Killing for disease control purposes (proposed for adoption 2011)

Disease specific chapters - OIE listed diseases

Section 8: Diseases of Amphibians

- 2 OIE-listed amphibian diseases



Section 9: Diseases of Crustaceans

- 8 OIE-listed crustacean diseases



Section 10: Diseases of Fish

- 9 OIE-listed fish diseases



Section 11: Diseases of Molluscs

- 7 OIE-listed mollusc diseases



CHAPTER 10.5.

INFECTIOUS SALMON ANAEMIA

Article 10.5.1.

For the purposes of the *Aquatic Code*, infectious salmon anaemia (ISA) means *infection* with ISA virus (ISAV) of the genus *Isavirus* of the family Orthomyxoviridae.

Information on methods for *diagnosis* are provided in the *Aquatic Manual*.

Article 10.5.2.

Scope

The recommendations in this Chapter apply to: Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), brown and sea trout (*S. trutta*) and rainbow trout (*Onchorynchus mykiss*). These recommendations also apply to any other *susceptible species* referred to in the *Aquatic Manual* when traded internationally.

Article 10.5.3.

Importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for any purpose from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from infectious salmon anaemia

1. *Competent Authorities* should not require any ISA related conditions, regardless of the ISA status of the *exporting country, zone or compartment* when authorising the importation or transit of the following *aquatic animals* and *aquatic animal products* from the species referred to in Article 10.5.2, intended for any purpose and complying with Article 5.3.1:
 - a. *commodities* treated in a manner that inactivates the *disease agent* e.g. leather made from fish skin, pasteurised products and some ready-to-eat meals; and fish oil and fish *meal* intended for use in *feed* (under study).
2. When authorising the importation or transit of *aquatic animals* and *aquatic animal products* of a species referred to in Article 10.5.2, other than those referred to in point 1 of Article 10.5.3, *Competent Authorities* should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 10.5.7, to 10.5.12, relevant to the ISA status of the *exporting country, zone or compartment*.
3. When considering the importation or transit of *aquatic animals* and *aquatic animal products* from an *exporting country, zone or compartment* not declared free of ISA of a

Disease specific chapters

Each specific disease chapter includes:

Recommendations to prevent the disease in question being introduced into the importing country

- definition of the pathogen / disease;
- list of host species that are susceptible to the disease and are internationally traded;
- list of 'safe' commodities (irrespective of disease status);
- how to determine the free status of a country, zone or compartment
- maintenance of free status;

Disease specific chapters (cont...)

Recommendations to prevent the disease in question being introduced into the importing country (cont...)

- Requirements for the:

- importations of live aquatic animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free of disease 'X';
- importations of live aquatic animals from a country, zone or compartment not declared free of disease 'X';
- importations of aquatic animal products for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free of disease 'X';

Recommendations to prevent the disease in question being introduced into the importing country (cont...)

- Requirements for the:
 - importation of live animals intended for use in animal feed, or for agricultural, industrial or pharmaceutical use from a country, zone or compartment not declared free of disease 'X'; (amphibian and fish chapters only);
 - importations of aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment declared free of disease 'X';
 - importations of aquatic animal commodities for retail trade for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free of disease 'X';

Glossary

- ***Aquatic Animal Health Services***
- ***Competent Authority***
- ***Veterinary Authority***
- **Disease** means clinical or non clinical infection with one or more of the aetiological agents of the diseases referred to in the Aquatic Code.
- ***Aquatic animal health status***
- ***Certifying official***
- ***Compartment***

Critically important

- OIE Delegates should realise and accept their **responsibility to participate actively** in the debate and setting of international standards
- Once a standard is adopted the Delegate is **obligated to implement/support** the adopted standard
- Focal points have an important role in the standard setting procedure, through the **preparation of comments for the Delegate** for new or revised OIE standards

AAHSC March 2012 Report



Includes:

- Amended *Code* text/chapters being proposed for adoption at OIE General Session in May 2012;
- Chapters for Member comments (deadline 27 August 2012):
 - Control of hazards in aquatic animal feeds (Chapter 6.1.)
 - Amendment to disease name for Infectious salmon anaemia (Article 1.3.1.)
 - Amendments to disease specific chapter for Infectious salmon anaemia (Ch10.5.)
 -
- Annexes for Member information, e.g. AHG reports

Available on OIE website at:

http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/International_Standard_Setting/docs/pdf/Aquatic_Commission/A_AAC_Mar_2012.pdf

Thank you for your attention

