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# AMR in Aquaculture, recent developments

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(UK)



Centre for Environment  
Fisheries & Aquaculture  
Science



Aquatic Animal Health

OIE Collaborating Centre for  
Emerging Aquatic Animal Diseases



**Cefas**

# FAO Reference Centre for AMR (UK)



**Established 2018**

Cefas – aquatic animals  
and the environment

APHA – terrestrial  
animals, the  
environment and food  
stuffs

VMD – monitoring  
antimicrobial use AMU  
and development of  
policy surrounding AMR  
and AMU



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Year one in review

Supports National action plan implementation

Build capacity for veterinary AMR, AMU and Residues surveillance



Active surveillance in Bangladesh with local farmers and FAO Officials.

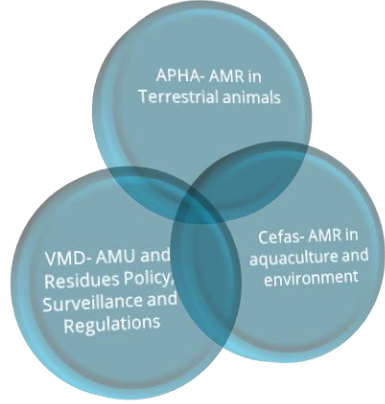


Antimicrobial use surveillance and medicines authorizations Ghana Food and Drug Administration.



Residues surveillance workshop in Laos

# FAO Reference Centre for AMR



# Ghana

Meetings with key stakeholders

Training: AST and disease diagnostics

Projects looking at AMU and at AMR in aquaculture and livestock sectors

Cefas: involved in Lake Volta tilapia

Received: 19 April 2017 | Revised: 31 May 2017 | Accepted: 6 June 2017  
DOI: 10.1101/161268

SHORT COMMUNICATION

WILEY *Journal of Fish Diseases*



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**First detection of Infectious Spleen and kidney Necrosis Virus (ISKNV) associated with massive mortalities in farmed tilapia in Africa**

José Gustavo Ramírez-Paredes, Richard K. Paley, William Hunt, Stephen W. Feist, David M. Stone, Terry Field, David J. Haydon, Peter A. Ziddah, Samuel Duodu, Timothy S. Wallis, David W. Verner-Jeffreys

doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/1680538>

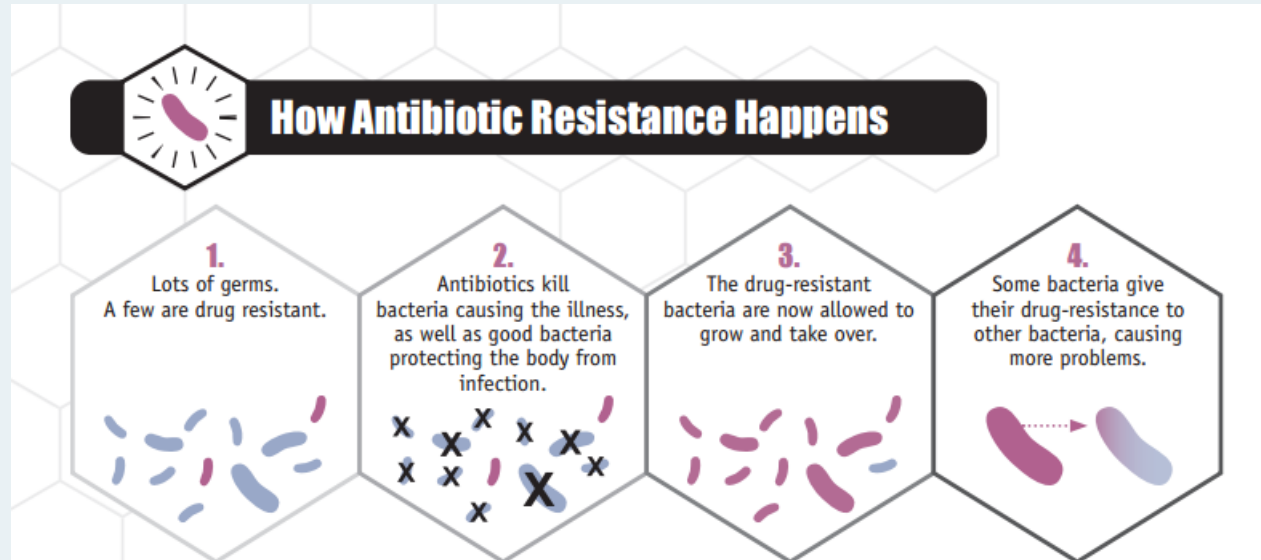


# Use of antibiotics in Aquaculture

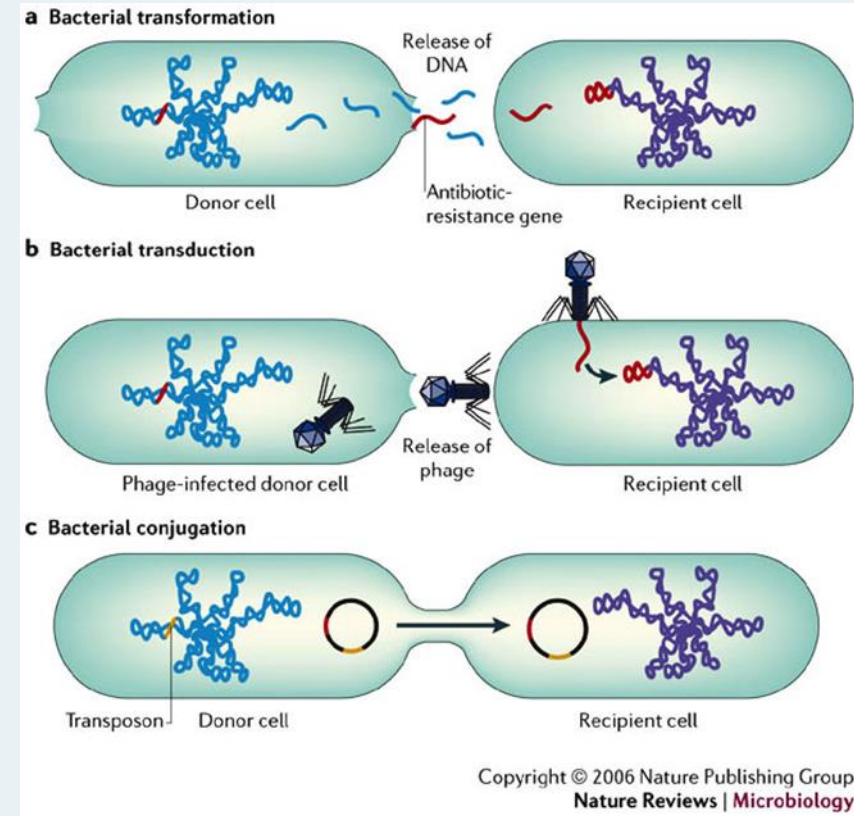
- Antimicrobials used to control bacterial diseases in farmed fish
- Vaccines: reduced use. e.g. 50 mt in Norway in 1991 to 649 kg in 2007
- Limited range of available licensed antibiotics  
UK: oxytetracycline, amoxicillin, (oxolinic acid), florfenicol



# What is resistance

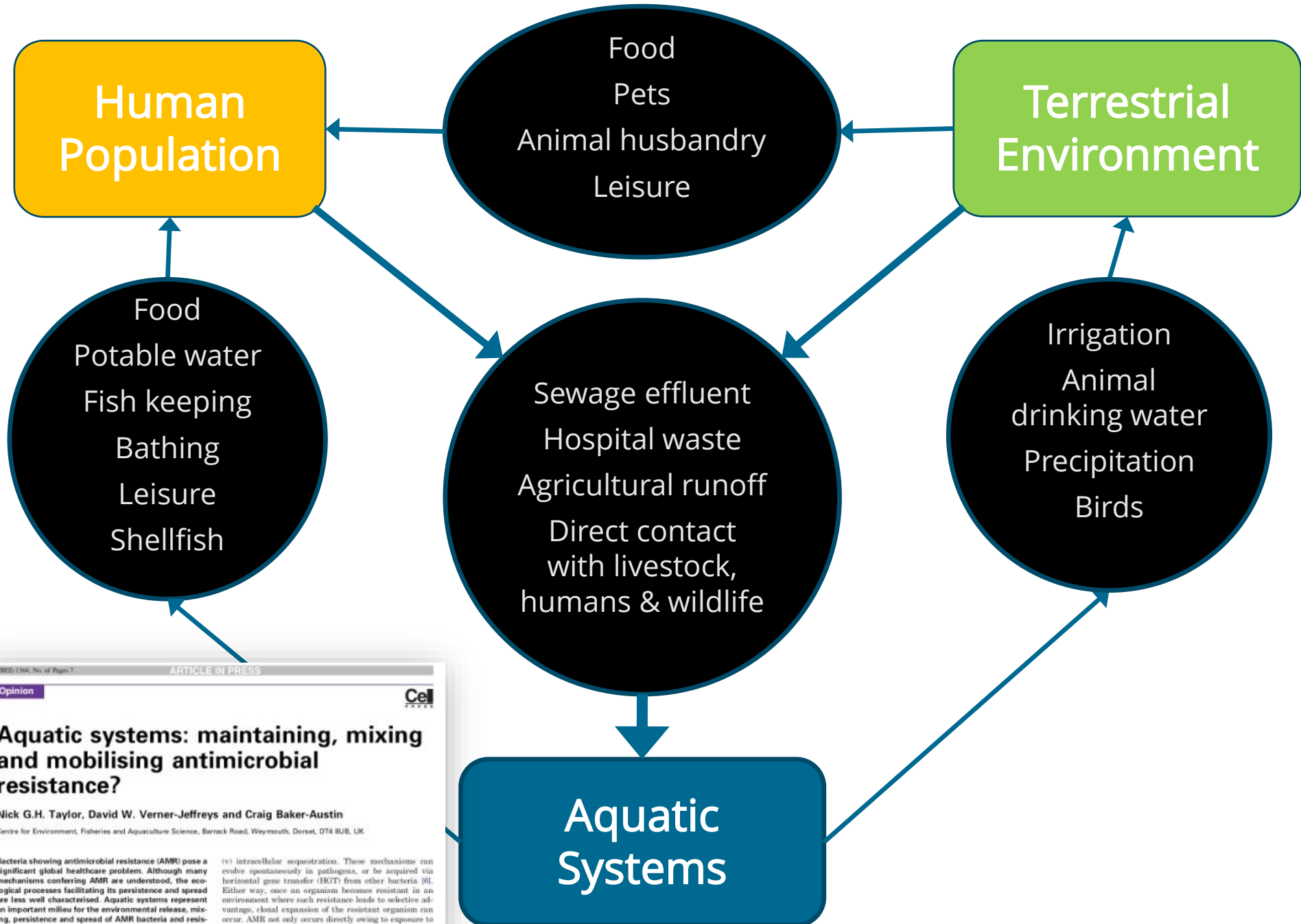


CDC, *Antibiotic resistance threats in the United States, 2013*. 2013, Centre for Disease Control and Prevention.



FROM THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE:

[Antimicrobial-resistant bacteria in the community setting](#) E. Yoko Furuya & Franklin D. Lowy *Nature Reviews Microbiology* 4, 36-45 (January 2006) doi:10.1038/nrmicro1325



1888-1894, No. of Pages 7  
ARTICLE IN PRESS

Opinion **Cell**

**Aquatic systems: maintaining, mixing and mobilising antimicrobial resistance?**

Nick G.H. Taylor, David W. Verner-Jeffreys and Craig Baker-Austin

Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, Barrack Road, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 8UB, UK

Bacteria showing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) pose a significant global healthcare problem. Although many mechanisms conferring AMR are understood, the ecological processes facilitating its persistence and spread are less well characterised. Aquatic systems represent an important milieu for the environmental release, mixing, persistence and spread of AMR bacteria and resistance genes associated with horizontally transferable genetic elements. Additionally, genetic diversity and (v) intracellular sequestration. These mechanisms can evolve spontaneously in pathogens, or be acquired via horizontal gene transfer (HGT) from other bacteria [6]. Either way, once an organism becomes resistant in an environment where such resistance leads to selective advantage, clonal expansion of the resistant organism can occur. AMR not only occurs directly owing to exposure to antimicrobials used in the clinic, human community and agricultural systems, but can also be mobilised for

# AMR in Aquaculture

- Early reports of resistance:
  - N. America: SA and Tet resistant *A. salmonicida* strains 1950's and 1960s
  - Pentaresistant strains by early 1990's in N. European *A. salmon* culture
- Some resistance intrinsic
- Early recognition of role of conjugative plasmids in spreading AMR in aquaculture pathogens
  - R plasmids now found in almost all drug resistant fish pathogens (Aoki 1992)
  - Increasing evidence that these R plasmids, and associated AMR genes, integrons and transposons often very similar to those found in clinical isolates





# Drivers of AMR in Aquaculture

- Direct selection pressure:
  - Antibiotic use
- Gene transfer from the environment:
  - Pond fertilization
  - Agricultural run off
  - Human effluent



# Drivers of AMR

- >90% of LMICs
- Major
- Poor
- Risk
- In EU antibi





### Typical therapeutants used in Indian major carp feeds

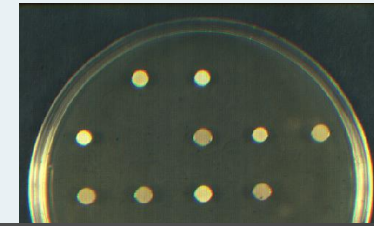
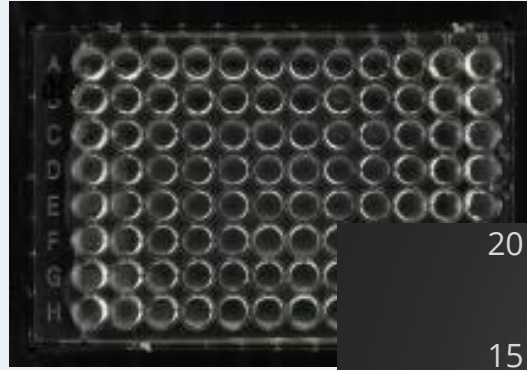
Feed additive	Content (percent AI*)	Cost	Dosage and use
<b>Branded antibiotics</b>			
Oxytetracyclin	10		
Enrofloxacin	10	600 INR/kg (US\$12.7/kg)	
Sulphamethoxisole + Trimethioprim	10+2		100 mg AI/kg fish weight (consecutively for 7 days)
Chlorotetracyclin	15		
<b>Crustacean parasiticides</b>			
Ivermectin	0.2	280 INR/kg (US\$5.9/kg)	1 kg brand product/1 000 kg feed) (consecutively for 5 days)
<b>Anthelmintics</b>			
Albendazole	5	260 INR/kg (US\$5.5/kg)	1 kg brand product/1 000 kg feed (consecutively for 5 days)

\* AI = active ingredient.

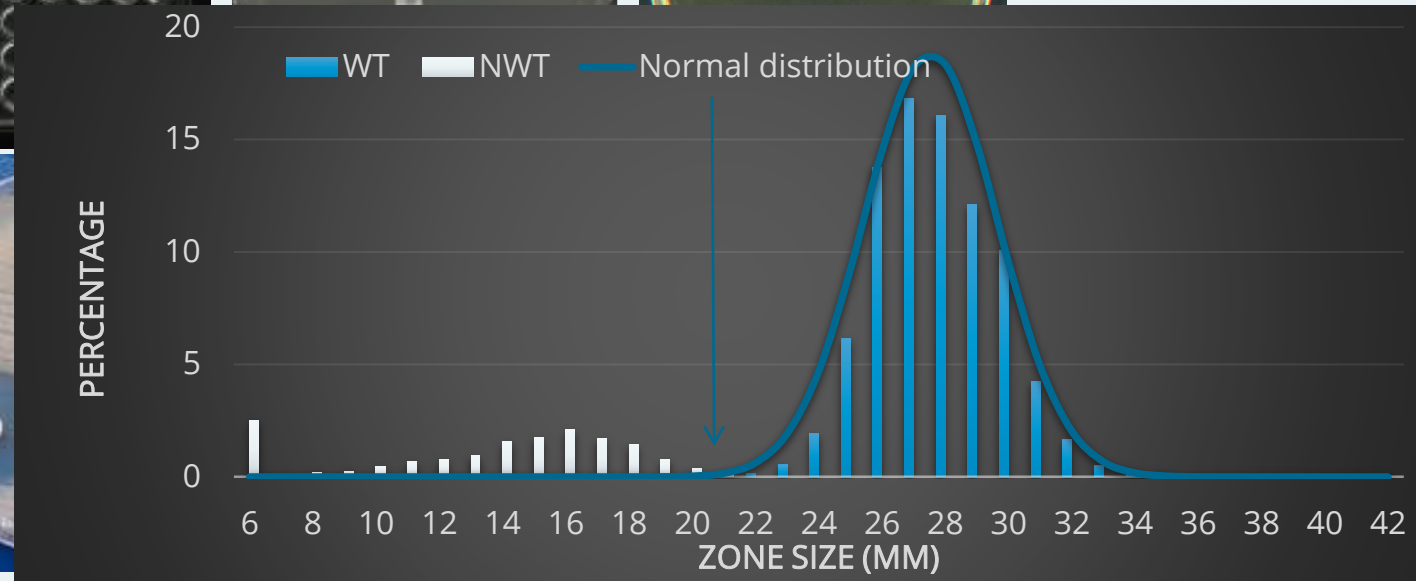
Source: Field Survey (2010).

# Detection of resistance

- Phenotypic  
Quantitative  
MIC



Qualitative  
S/I/R or  
ECOFF: Wild Type  
versus non Wild Type

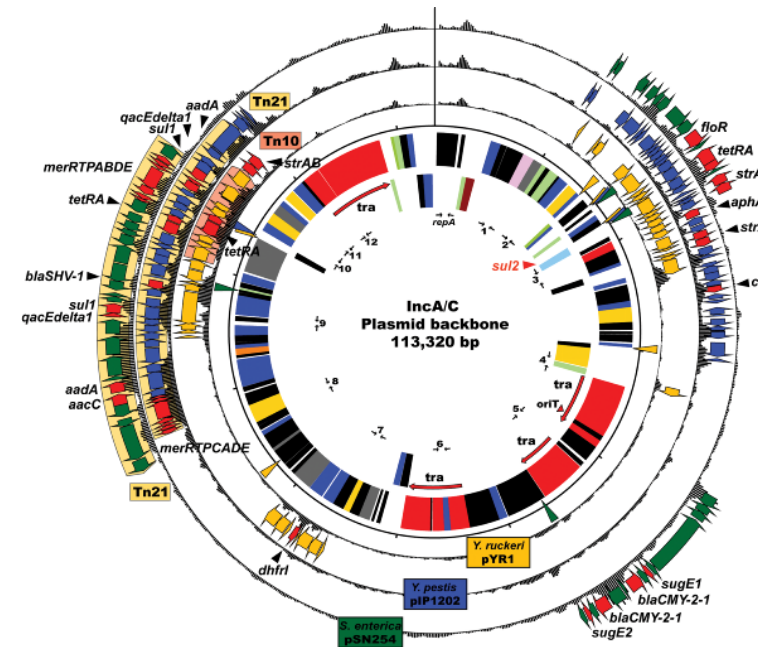


- Genotypic Next Generation Sequencing

# IncA/C – an example

- IncA/C are a group of plasmids conferring resistance to a range of antibiotics, including florenphenicol, streptomycin and tetracycline. Now found in numerous distantly-related bacteria:
- *Yersinia pestis* (bubonic plague) in Madagascar.
- *Vibrio cholerae* in China.
- *Salmonella enterica* (humans and cattle) in USA and France.

- Furunculosis in Atlantic salmon in Canada.
- *Photobacterium damsela* subsp. *damsela* in Japan.
- *Edwardsiella ictiluri* in catfish, USA.
- All linked to acquisition of incA/C plasmids via horizontal gene transfer



# Multidrug resistant *Edwardsiella ictiluri* from catfish in USA

- Resistance mediated by IncA/C plasmid.
- Transferrable resistance to :

Florfenicol, oxytetracycline, chloramphenicol, streptomycin, potentiated sulphonamides, ampicillin, and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation cephalosporins (e.g. ceftiofur and ceftiofur)

- R genes: *floR* and *blaCMY-2* detected.

Welch et al. 2009 Antimicrob Agents Chemother 53, 845-846



# Example: *Flavobacterium psychrophilum*

- Rainbow trout fry syndrome (RTFS)/ bacterial cold water disease : one of common diseases constraining salmonid production worldwide
- No licensed vaccines
- Farmers use antibiotics
- Surveillance data gaps
  - Antimicrobial use to control RTFS/BCWD
  - Resistance
    - Rates of resistance in Fp
    - Risks of resistance in Fp emerging?
  - Complication: differences in testing procedures and the interpretive criteria between laboratories.



# Filling the data gaps...:

140 *F. psychrophilum* isolates tested , 125 from range UK farms 2005-2015

## Broth Microdilution



- VET04-A2 guideline (CLSI, 2014)
- Sensititre CMP1MSP plates

## Disc Diffusion

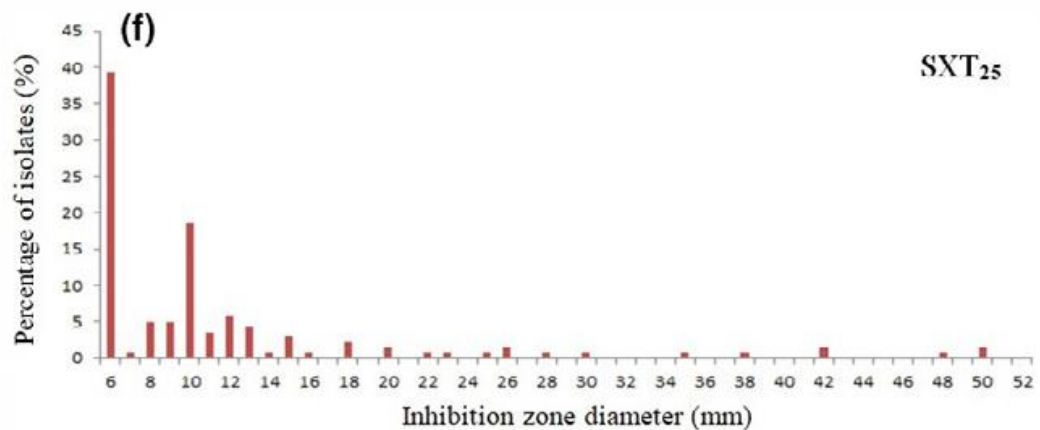
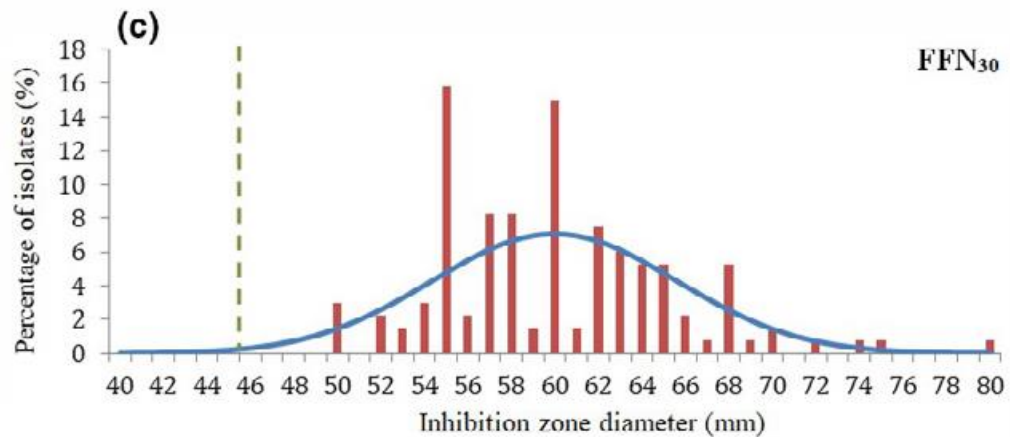
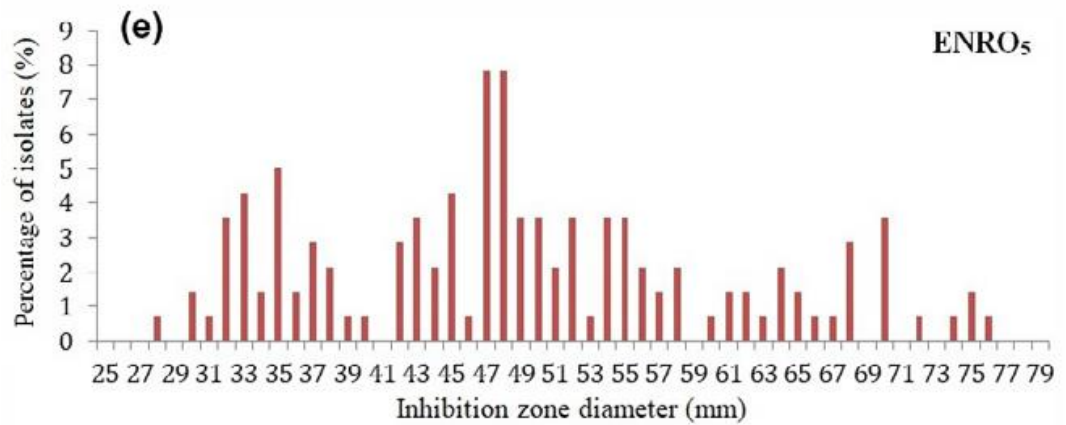
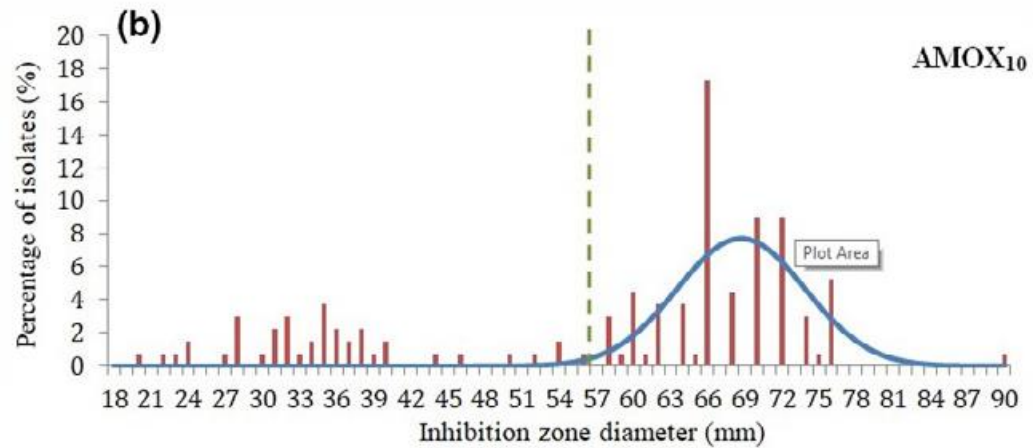
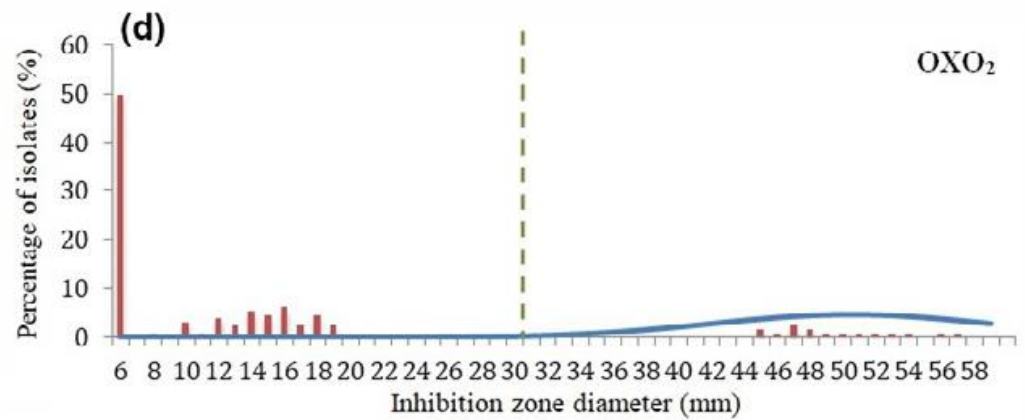
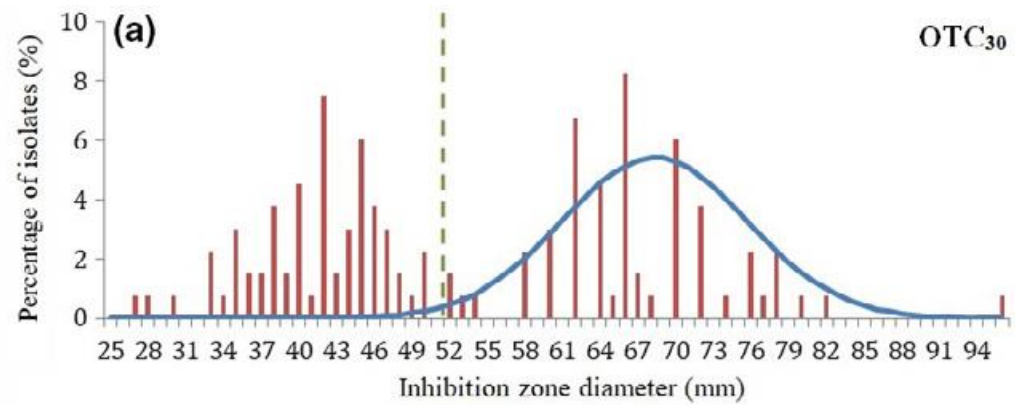
- M42-P protocol (CLSI, 2006)
- AMOX, 10 µg; ENRO, 5 µg; FFN, 30 µg; OA, 2 µg; OTC, 30 µg; SXT, 25 µg

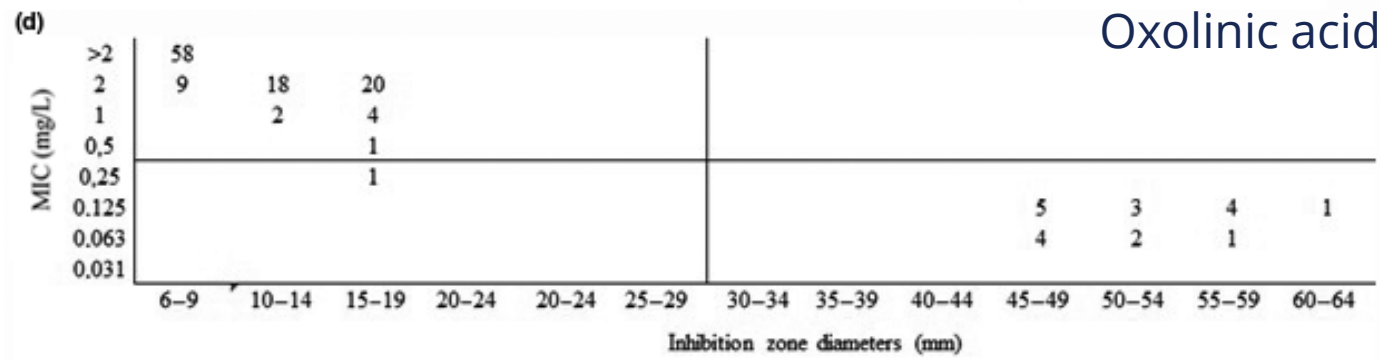
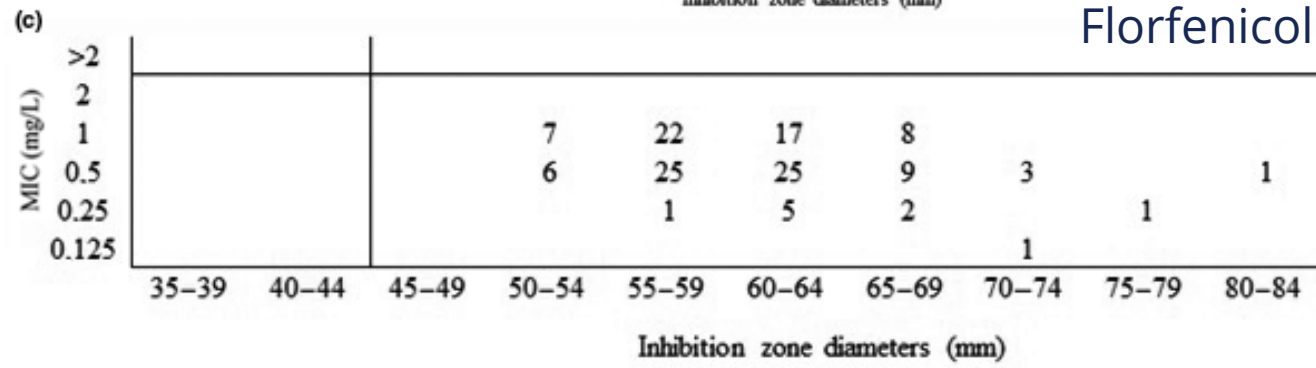
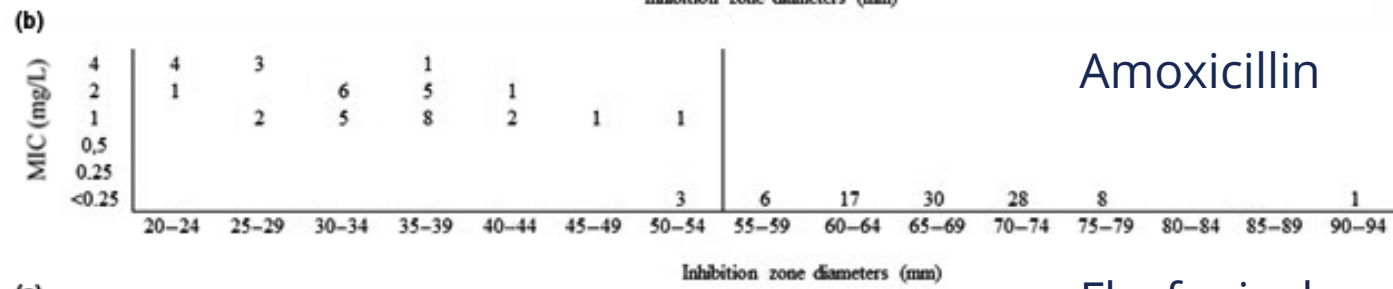
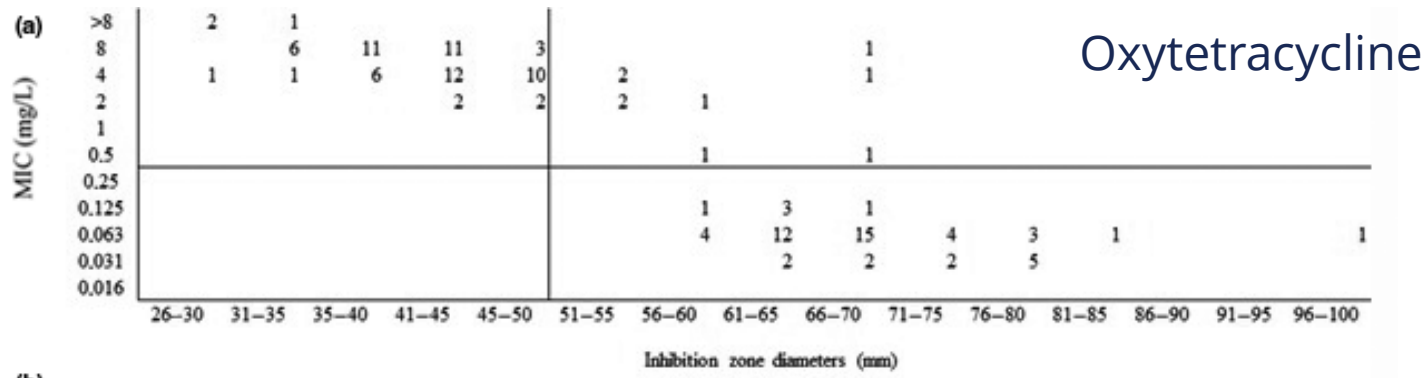


Normalized resistance interpretation(NRI) was used to: determine the epidemiological cut-off value (COWT). Identify wild type (full susceptibility, WT) and non-wild type (reduced susceptibility, NWT) isolates.





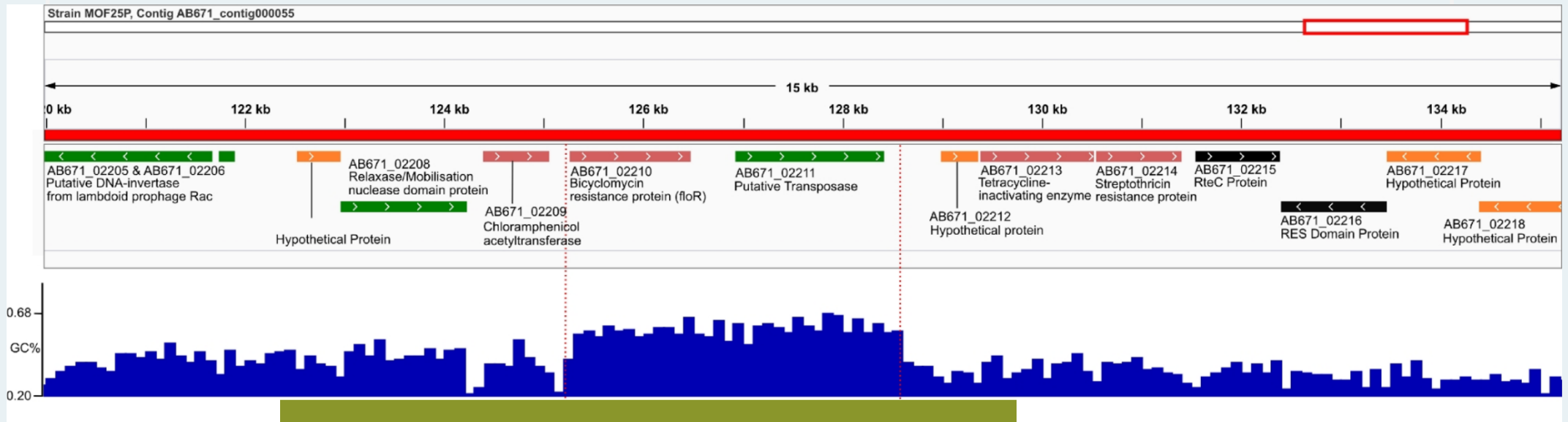




# Conclusions

- Florfenicol is still the most effective treatment for controlling RTFS outbreaks within the UK.
- Oxytetracycline and amoxicillin could be considered as alternative antimicrobials to FFN for RTFS management.
- It is important to perform routine susceptibility testing using standardised methods (e.g. VET04-A2 guideline) and  $CO_{WT}$  values (e.g. NRI).





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Volume 93, Issue 4  
April 2017

### Article Contents

Abstract

INTRODUCTION

MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Detection of the florfenicol resistance gene *floR* in *Chryseobacterium* isolates from rainbow trout. Exception to the general rule?

David W. Verner-Jeffreys ✉, Thomas Brazier, Ramon Y Perez, David Ryder, Roderick M. Card, Timothy J. Welch, Rowena Hoare, Thao Ngo, Nikki McLaren, Richard Ellis, ... Show more

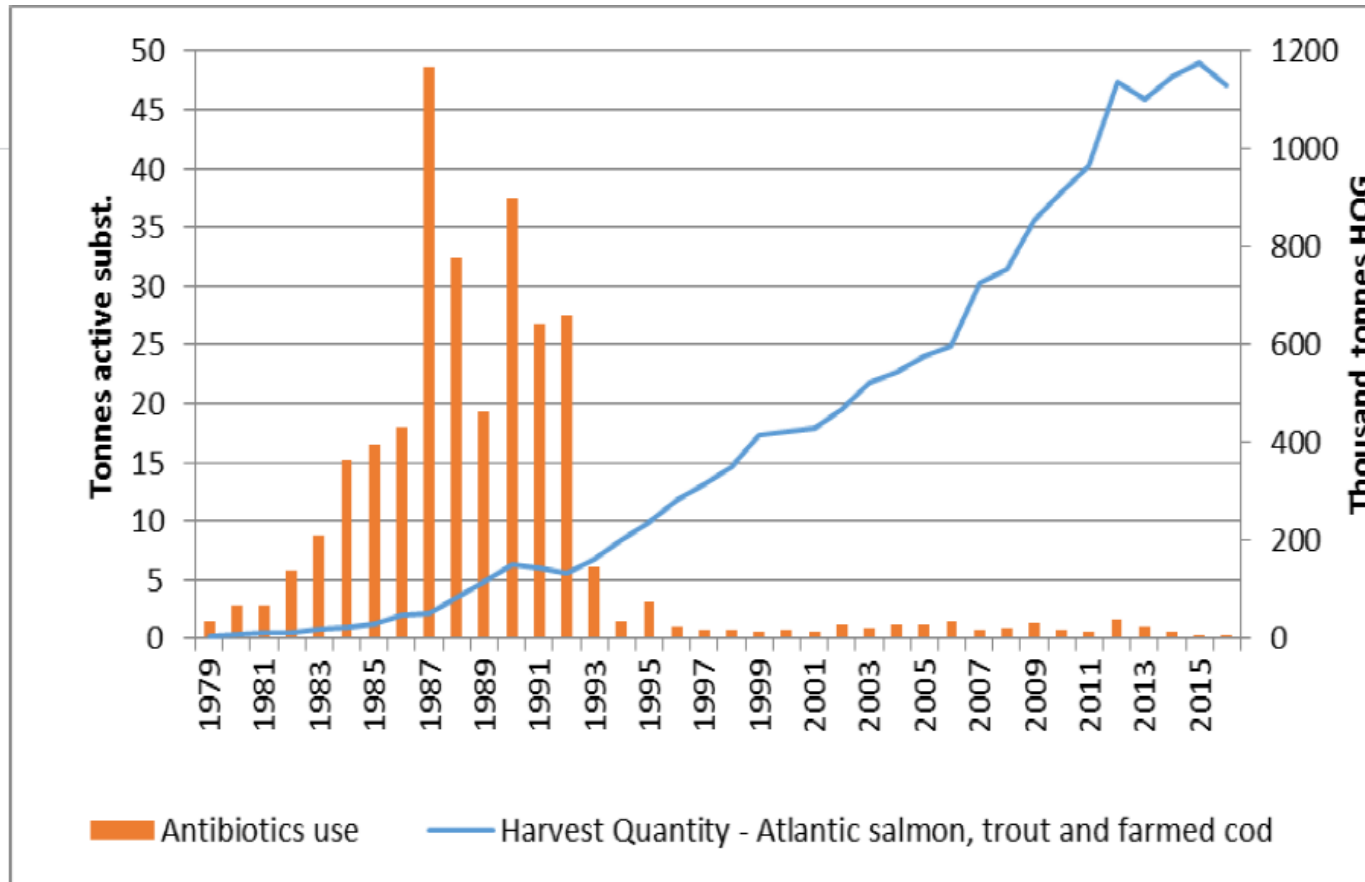
FEMS Microbiol Ecol (2017) 93 (4): fix015.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/femsec/fix015>

Published: 11 February 2017 Article history ▼

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### Abstract



Norwegian data but similar trends in Scotland



The challenge domestication of new species

Emerging disease and escalating use of antibiotic through the 1980s

Rapid decline in antibiotic use in the early 1990s as vaccine technology advanced

# Antibiotic Usage Data

Antibiotic usage by food-producing animal species,  
2018 compared with 2015, 2016 and 2017

		Total coverage %*	2018 Total tonnage**	2018 Total per unit***	Compared with 2015 %	Compared with 2016 %	Compared with 2017 %
Gamebirds		90	9.7	—	—	↓ 52	↓ 25
Salmon		100	1.0	6.5 mg/kg	—	—	↓ 60
Trout		90	0.2	13 mg/kg	—	—	↓ 32
Dairy†		30	4.9	17 mg/kg	↓ 30	↓ 36	↑ 9
Beef † (¥)		5.5 (4.0)	1.1 (1.0)	21 mg/kg (25 mg/kg)	— 0	— ↓ (2)	— ↓ (6)

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Source: p. 8

[VARSS REPORT 2018](#)

# Conclusions

- Use of antimicrobials in aquaculture has driven selection of resistant bacteria
- Strong evidence: transfer of R determinants and plasmids from human/terrestrial animal environments into aquaculture environments
- Transfer in opposite direction yet to be established
- Focus of future work:
  - Determine extent of use of antimicrobial agents in aquaculture
  - Assess development of resistance in key pathogens
  - Standard setting : methods and interpretative criteria. Generation of ECOFF values for key aquaculture pathogens. CLSI & EUCAST
  - Gain better understanding of factors promoting environmental persistence (e.g. co-selection for metals/ biocide resistance)
  - Assess real risks to humans, terrestrial animals and fish of antibiotic use in aquaculture
  - Recommend methods/practices to minimise identified risks
  - One Health Approaches needed!



# Acknowledgements

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