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Aquatic Animal Commission

## CH 6.2 Principles for responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in aquatic animals

OIE Sub-Regional Workshop on Antimicrobial Resistance in Aquaculture  
Durban, South Africa  
26-28 November 2019

# Section 6: Antimicrobial use in aquatic animals

- Chapter 6.1 Introduction to the recommendations for controlling antimicrobial resistance. (First adopted in 2010; Most recent update adopted in 2011)
- Chapter 6.2 **Principles for responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in aquatic animals.** (First adopted in 2011)
- Chapter 6.3 Monitoring the quantities and usage patterns of antimicrobial agents used in aquatic animals. (First adopted in 2012)
- Chapter 6.4 Development and harmonisation of national antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes for aquatic animals. (First adopted in 2012)
- Chapter 6.5 Risk analysis for antimicrobial resistance arising from the use of antimicrobials in aquatic animals. (First adopted in 2015)



# Purpose

- Provide guidance for the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in aquatic animals.
- Outline the obligations of all organisations responsible for registration, marketing, authorisation, production, distribution and use of antimicrobial agents.



# Objectives

1. Maintain the efficacy of antimicrobial agents, ensure their responsible use to optimise their efficacy and safety.
2. Comply with ethical and economic obligations to keep aquatic animals healthy
3. Prevent / reduce the transfer of resistant microorganisms and resistance determinants to humans and terrestrial animals.
4. Prevent antimicrobial residues exceeding the maximum residue limit in food



# Responsibilities of Competent Authorities

1. Providing appropriate information in support of prudent use of antimicrobials in aquatic animals.
2. Develop up to date guidelines on data requirements for evaluating antimicrobial agent applications.
3. Develop strategy for the containment of antimicrobial resistance through the promotion of prudent use of antimicrobial agents, biosecurity, vaccination policies and improved animal health care at the farm level.
4. Expeditiously grant marketing authorisations when criteria of quality, efficacy and safety are met.
5. Disseminate information on AMR collected during surveillance programmes and should monitor the proficiency of susceptibility testing labs.

# Responsibilities of the veterinary pharmaceutical industry

1. Providing information to competent authority on quality, safety and efficacy of antimicrobial agents.
2. Providing information to competent authority with information to evaluate the amount of antimicrobial agents marketed.
3. Discourage the advertisement of antimicrobial agents directly to the aquatic animal producer.



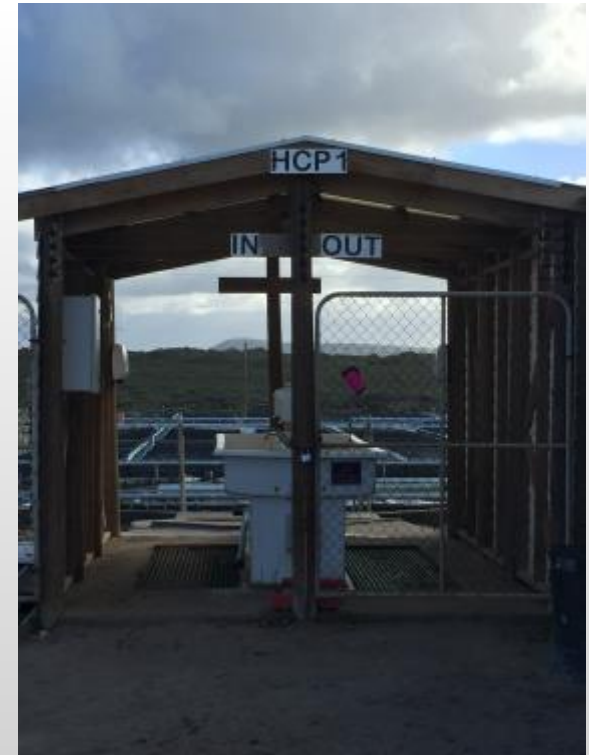
# Responsibilities of the veterinarians

1. Identifying, preventing and treating aquatic animal diseases.
2. Promote sound animal husbandry, hygiene, vaccination and alternative strategies to minimise antimicrobial use.
3. Only prescribe, dispense or administer a specific course of treatment for aquatic animals under their care.
4. Thorough clinical assessment and laboratory testing to support definitive diagnosis.
5. Susceptibility testing of the target microorganism should be used to confirm the choice of treatment.
6. Treatment regime, dose, treatment intervals and duration, withdrawal period should be clearly indicated to the producer.



# Responsibilities of the farmer

1. Implement health programmes on farms to promote animal health through biosecurity, husbandry, nutrition, vaccination and good water quality.
2. Only use antimicrobial agents when prescribed by a veterinarian and follow directions on application dosage and withdrawal period.
3. Ensure that antimicrobial agents are appropriately stored, handled and disposed.
4. Adequate records are kept regarding antimicrobial agent used, bacteriology and susceptibility.
5. Inform veterinarian of recurrent disease and lack of treatment efficacy.





# Recommendations from Global Conference:

- Ensure that the OIE standards and guidelines including the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents are respected in their country
- Continue to encourage governments, relevant regional and international organisations and donors to provide resources for applied research in vaccines and alternative therapeutics to reduce the use of antimicrobial agents in aquatic animals.



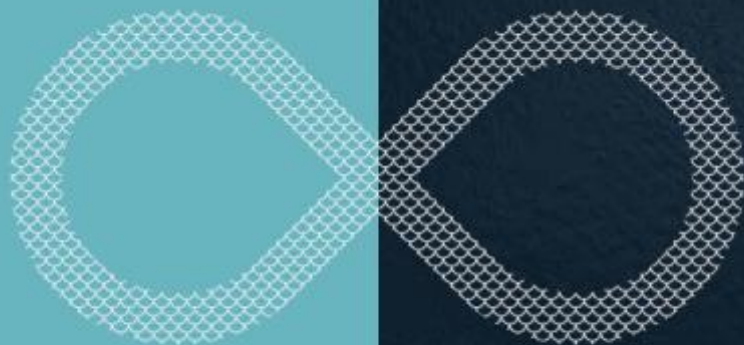
# Recommendations from Global Conference:

- Antimicrobial agents for treatment of diseases in aquatic animals are over used in some aquaculture sectors or countries. Alternative methods for disease prevention are needed to facilitate prudent antibiotic.
- Ensure that the OIE standards respected in their country; and promote advances in disease management to reduce the need for antimicrobials;



Benefits  
of aquatic  
animals are  
infinite

Keep them  
healthy!



By keeping aquatic animals healthy, the livelihoods of millions around the world are secured, the diversity of life below water is protected, and food security can be ensured for our future generations.

Take actions today  
to protect aquatic animal health  
and preserve their infinite ∞ benefits.

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Protecting animals, preserving our future



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*Protecting animals, preserving our future*

# Thank you for your attention

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