


Dr Gillian Mylrea
World Organisation for Animal Health
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Devising import health measures for aquatic animal commodities



Outline


- Underlying principles
- OIE Member obligations (importing and exporting Members!)
- Determining import measures
- Hypothetical case study
- Conclusions




Useful document on OIE website:

- *Devising import health measures for animal commodities*

http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/guides/EN_commodity-based%20approach.pdf



Part 1: Underlying principles



Import health measures

- Import health measures aim to minimise the risks to aquatic animals and public health associated with trade in these commodities.




Setting health measures

The SPS Agreement allows WTO members two options:

1. To base their health measures on the OIE standards
this is the strongly encouraged option.
2. To conduct a scientific risk analysis
... where there is no relevant standard, or when a Member chooses to adopt a higher level of protection than that provided by the OIE standards.

- In reality, the setting of health measures always involves some form of risk analysis, and the resulting measures may be a combination of the OIE standards and additional measures acceptable to the importing country and its trading partners.

Part 2: OIE Member obligations



Member Country obligations

- For the conduct of safe international trade in aquatic animals and their products (commodities) without unjustified sanitary restrictions, trading partners must meet their obligations as Members of the OIE and of the WTO
- The OIE has published a document on the "International trade: Rights and Obligations of OIE Members".

http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/A_Right%20and%20obligations_March2009.pdf

Notification obligations (Ch 1.1.)

- Laid down in the *Aquatic Code* Chapter 1.1. Notification of diseases and epidemiological information
- Obliges each OIE Member to make available to others, through the OIE "whatever information is necessary to minimise the spread of aquatic animal diseases and their aetiological agents and to assist in achieving better world-wide control of these diseases".
 - The presence of an infectious agent, even in the absence of clinical disease, should be reported.
- In addition to notifying specific disease findings, countries shall also provide information on the measures taken to prevent the spread of diseases....
 - e.g. possible quarantine measures and restrictions on the movement of aquatic animals, aquatic animal products, biological products and other miscellaneous objects that could by their nature be responsible for transmission of disease (including vectors, where applicable).

General obligations (Ch 5.1.)

- 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 import health measures required for trade.
- To maximise harmonisation of the sanitary aspects of international trade, Members should base their import health measures on OIE standards;
- Certification requirements should be exact and concise, and should clearly reflect the agreed positions of the trading partners.

Importing country obligations



Import health measures should:

- comply with the national level of protection chosen for aquatic animal and public health;
- only be for the exclusion of pathogens/diseases:
 - not present in the importing country or if present, are subject to an official control program;
 - if pathogens/diseases subject to official control programs, should not provide a higher level of protection on imports than the protection provided for the same pathogens/diseases within that country;
 - which are OIE listed, unless the importing country has identified the pathogen as presenting a significant risk for that country (in an IRA).


Exporting country obligations

- Be prepared to supply to the importing country information relevant to the safety of the traded commodity:
 - e.g. aquatic animal health situation, surveillance systems; border control measures; disease reporting procedures; structure of the AAHS; outcomes of any recent evaluation of its AAHS including an OIE PVS Evaluation; and risk analyses conducted by other countries
- Have in place inspection and certification procedures by certifying officials







Part 3: Determining import measures




Step 1: Identify the hazard(s)

- Which commodity is to be imported?
e.g. from which species of aquatic animal is the commodity derived?
- What disease agents could be imported with that commodity?
e.g. for which diseases is the species a susceptible host?
- From which exporting countries have those disease agents been reported in those species?
 - Look at information in WAHID to find out eg:
 - Immediate notifications and follow-up reports submitted by Member Countries
 - Six-monthly reports describing the OIE-listed disease situations in each country
 - Annual reports providing further background information on animal health, on laboratory facilities etc.
 - Available information can be explored as follows:
 - by country (or group of countries)
 - by disease
 - Focusing on control measures
 - comparing the animal health situation between two countries



Step 2: Identify the *Aquatic Code* recommendations on trade for the disease(s) under consideration

- For each listed disease, there is a chapter in the *Aquatic Code* that:
 - lists the host species that are susceptible to the disease **and** that are internationally traded
 - lists 'safe' commodities (from those species) for which an importing country should not request any measures, even if the commodity originates in a country where the disease occurs
 - makes recommendations for trade in other commodities derived from those species, taking into account:
 - the nature of the commodity (live or dead)
 - the origin of the commodity (from an area declared free of the disease, or not declared free)
 - the intended purpose (eg aquaculture, aquatic animal feed, human consumption, ...).



Step 3: Determine import health measures

- **Option 1:** Adopt the OIE recommendations (strongly recommended).
- **Option 2:** Where the *Aquatic Code* does not make recommendations for a particular commodity, it means that OIE experts have not yet developed relevant health measures; in this case, conduct a scientific risk analysis risk.
- **Option 3:** If the OIE recommendations do not appear to meet the importing country's ALOP, also conduct a scientific risk analysis risk.



- Throughout all of this process,
talk to the potential exporting country(ies)!



Step 4: Draw up an import health certificate

- Use the model health certificates presented in Chapter 5.10. of the *Code* as templates, with the contents of the certificate being adapted to the commodity as required.

Model health certificate for international trade in live aquatic animals

COUNTRY

1.1 Country of origin: 1.2 Name of importer/exporter:

1.3 Country of destination: 1.4 Consigner:

1.5 Country of origin: 1.6 Name of consigner of origin:

1.7 Country of destination: 1.8 Name of consigner of destination:

1.9 Name of origin:

1.10 Name of destination:

1.11 Name of species:

1.12 Name of pathogen: 1.13 Name of disease:

1.14 Name of pathogen: 1.15 Name of disease:

1.16 Name of pathogen: 1.17 Name of disease:

1.18 Name of pathogen: 1.19 Name of disease:

1.20 Name of pathogen: 1.21 Name of disease:

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1.100 Name of pathogen: 1.101 Name of disease:

**Step 4:
Draw up an import health certificate**

Include the following information:

- identify the commodity to be imported, e.g. live *P. vannamei*
- list the pathogens the importing country is justified in taking measures for that commodity, taking into account the country's obligations and the data available;
- list the import health measures recommended for each of these pathogens by referring to the articles in the *Code* relevant to the commodity;
- list, when relevant, the additional health measures to be imposed by the importing country as a result of a risk analysis;

**Part 4:
A hypothetical case study –
Country A wishes to import live *Penaeus vannamei*
broodstock for aquaculture purposes, from a
potential range of exporting countries B to F**



Step 1: Identify the hazards

- What is the commodity that is to be imported?
Live P. vannamei
- What disease agents could be imported with that commodity?
In the *Aquatic Code* (2010), *P. vannamei* is identified as susceptible to the following OIE-listed diseases:
 - Taura syndrome (TS)
 - White spot disease (WSD)
 - Infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis (IHHN)
- From which countries have those diseases or their agents been reported?

**WAHID: Taura syndrome –
List of countries by disease situation**

Disease never occurred			Disease restricted to certain zone(s) / region(s) of the country	
Country	Latest report date	Surveillance	Country	Latest report date
A (IC)	Jul - Dec, 2009	General and targeted surveillance	D (EC)	Jul - Dec, 2009
B (EC)	Jan - Jun, 2009	General and targeted surveillance	Disease absent during the report period	
Infection present (with no clinical disease)			Country	Latest report date
C (EC)	Jan - Jun, 2009		E (EC)	Jul - Dec, 2008
Demonstrated clinical disease			Country	Latest report date
			F (EC)	Jan - Jun, 2009

Hazard ID for all diseases

Country Disease	A (importing country)	B (EC)	C (EC)	D (EC)	E (EC)	F (EC)
Taura syndrome	never occurred	never occurred	infection present (with no clinical disease)	restricted to certain zone(s) / region(s)	disease absent during the report period	demonstrated clinical disease
White spot disease	never occurred	never occurred	disease absent during the report period	restricted to certain zone(s) / region(s)	restricted to certain zone(s) / region(s)	never occurred
IHHN	demonstrated clinical disease	never occurred	never occurred	infection present (with no clinical disease)	infection present (with no clinical disease)	never occurred

Hazard ID - evaluation

Country Disease	A (importing country)	B	C	D	E	F
Taura syndrome	never occurred	never occurred	infection present (with no clinical disease)	restricted to certain zone(s) / region(s)	disease absent during the report period	demonstrated clinical disease
White spot disease	never occurred	never occurred	disease absent during the report period	restricted to certain zone(s) / region(s)	restricted to certain zone(s) / region(s)	never occurred
IHHN	demonstrated clinical disease	never occurred	never occurred	infection present (with no clinical disease)	infection present (with no clinical disease)	never occurred

Hazard ID – short list

Disease	Country A (importing country)	B	C	D	E	F
Taura syndrome	never occurred	Unlikely hazard (never occurred)	Probable hazard (infection present with no clinical signs)	Possible hazard (restricted to certain zone/region)	Possible hazard (disease absent during the report period)	Probable hazard (demonstrated clinical disease)
White spot disease	never occurred	Unlikely hazard (never occurred)	Possible hazard (disease absent during the report period)	Possible hazard (restricted to certain zone/region)	Possible hazard (restricted to certain zone/region)	Unlikely hazard (never occurred)

- Probable hazards
 - Diseases that occur in the exporting country but are absent from the importing country. They should therefore probably be considered as hazards in trade
- Possible hazards
 - Diseases for which there is no information available either in the exporting country, the importing country, or both. More information is required to determine whether these diseases may be considered as a hazard.
- Unlikely to be hazards
 - Diseases that are either absent from both countries, or present in the importing country, and are therefore unlikely to be trade hazards. However, some diseases may still be considered a hazard, particularly if there is a disease control program in place in the importing country.

Step 2: Identify the Aquatic Code recommendations on trade regarding TS and WSD

- Live *P. vannamei* are not listed as safe commodities in Article 3 of either disease chapter.
- For live *P. vannamei* imported for aquaculture purposes, both disease chapters recommend the following measures:

Importation of live aquatic animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free (Article 7)

... the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country attesting that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 4 or 5 (as applicable), the place of production of the commodity is a country, zone or compartment declared free.

- The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Ch 5.10.

Step 2: cont'd

Importation of live aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free (Article 8)

- ... the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, apply the following risk mitigation measures:
 - the direct delivery to and lifelong holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for continuous isolation from the local environment; and
 - the treatment of all effluent and waste materials in a manner that ensures inactivation of the virus.
- If the intention of the introduction is the establishment of a new stock, the Code of Practice on the Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES), should be followed.
- For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, the ICES Code may be summarised to the following main points:
 - identify stock of interest (cultured or wild) in its current location;
 - evaluate stock health/disease history;
 - take and test samples for the virus, pests and general health/disease status;
 - import and quarantine in a secure facility a founder (F-0) population;
 - produce F-1 generation from the F-0 stock in quarantine;
 - culture F-1 stock and at critical times in its development (life cycle) sample and test for the virus and perform general examinations for pests and general health/disease status;
 - if the virus is not detected, pests are not present, and the general health/disease status of the stock is considered to meet the basic biosecurity conditions of the importing country, zone or compartment, the F-1 stock may be defined as free or specific pathogen free (SPF) for the virus;
 - release SPF F-1 stock from quarantine for aquaculture or stocking purposes in the country, zone or compartment.

Step 3: Determine import health measures

Country Disease	A (importing country)	B	C	D	E	F
TS	never occurred	Unlikely hazard (never occurred)	Probable hazard (infection present with no clinical signs)	Possible hazard (restricted to certain zone(s) / region(s))	Possible hazard (disease absent during the report period)	Probable hazard (demonstrated clinical disease)
WSD	never occurred	Unlikely hazard (never occurred)	Possible hazard disease absent during the report period	Possible hazard (restricted to certain zone(s) / region(s))	Possible hazard (restricted to certain zone(s) / region(s))	Unlikely hazard (never occurred)
Consideration		Require only a health certificate	Could adopt OIE recommendations for TS, and gather more information for WSD.	If there are zones declared free from both diseases, requires only a health certificate	Gather more information for TS; if there are zones declared free from WSD, requires only a health certificate	Could adopt OIE recommendations for TS. Require only a health certificate for WSD

Step 4: Draw up an import health certificate

- Use the model health certificates presented in Chapter 5.10. of the Code as templates, with the contents of the certificate being adapted to the commodity as required.

Part 5: Conclusions

Finally....

- The role of WAHID is very useful in determining import health measures

WAHID Interface Animal Health Information
Information zoonitaire
Información Zoonitaria

- Obviously, the usefulness of WAHID depends entirely on the **accuracy and timeliness** of the data entered by OIE Members.
- If all OIE Members meet their reporting obligations to the OIE, and if more Members assist the OIE in further developing and improving the aquatic animal health standards, then the devising of import measures does not have to be a painful and resource-intensive exercise.



- Throughout all of this process, talk to the potential exporting country(ies)!

**Thank you very much for
your attention!**

World organisation for animal health
www.oie.int