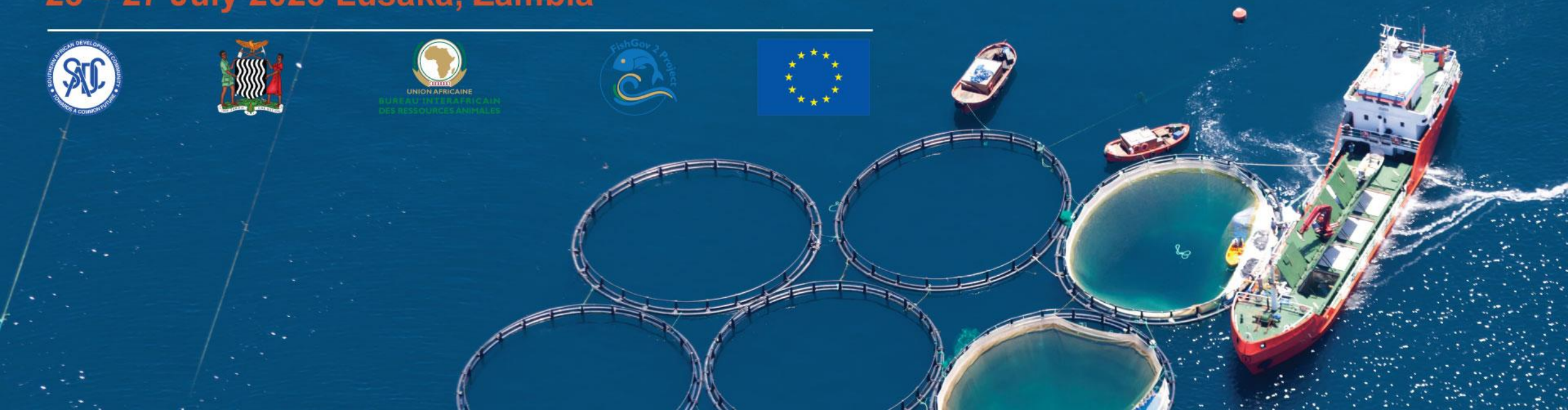
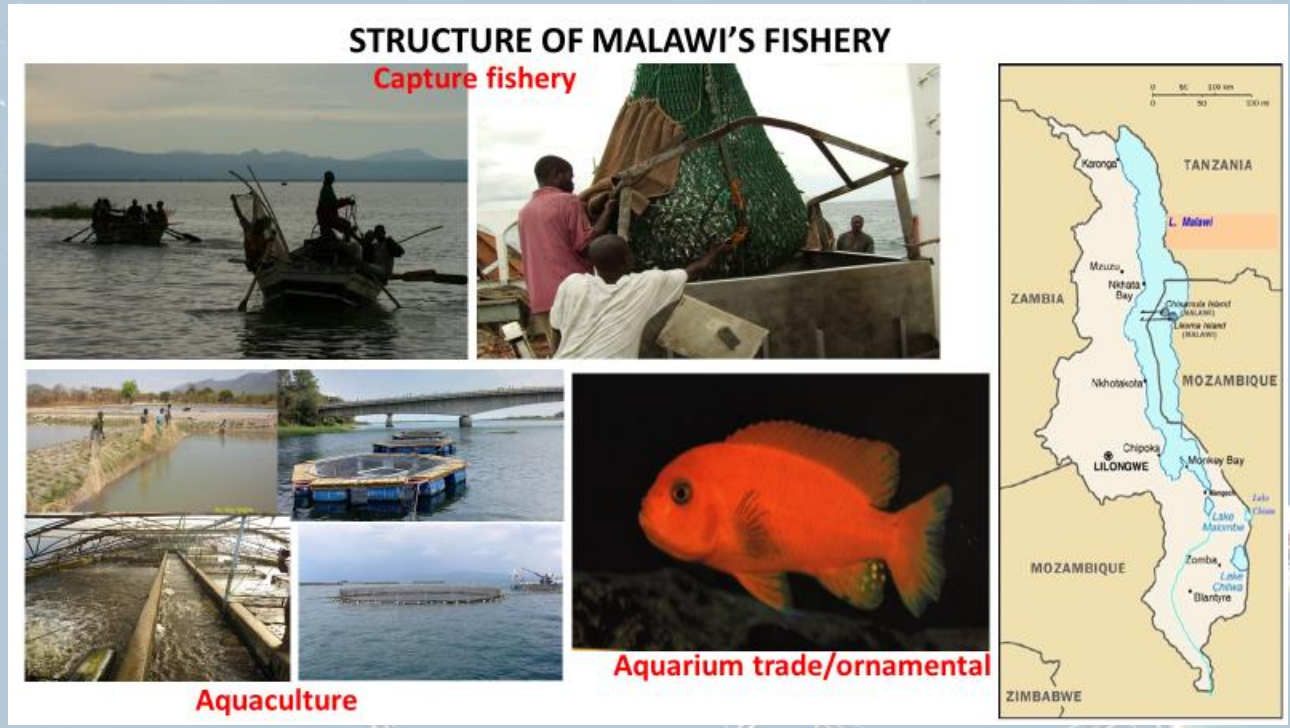
World Organisation for Animal Health

Launch of the Regional Aquatic Animal Health Network for Southern Africa (RAAHN-SA)

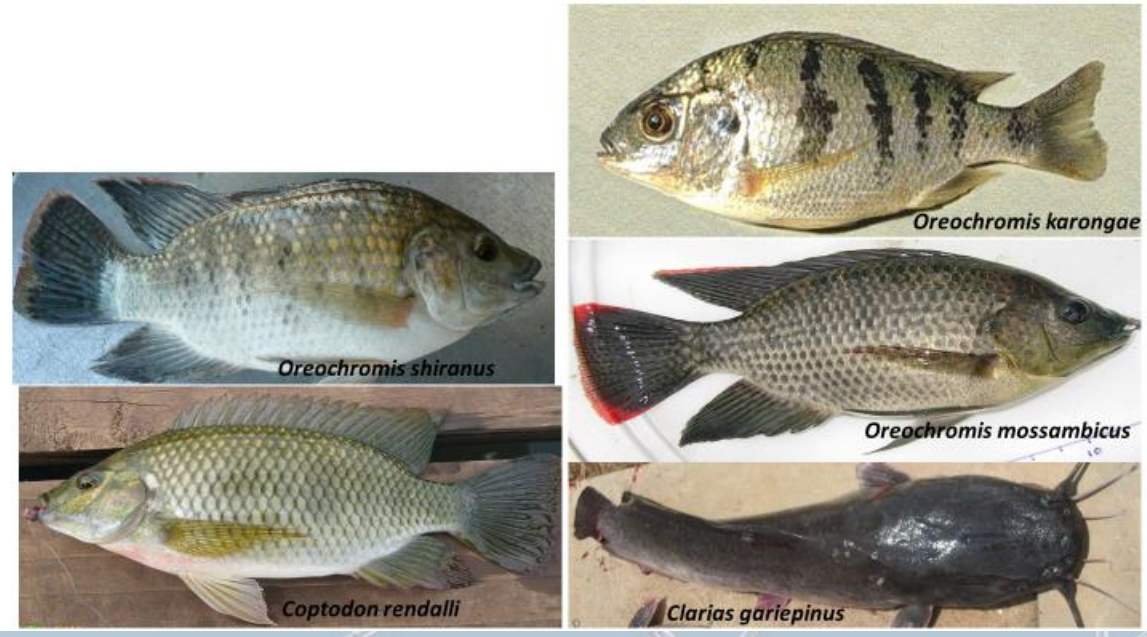
25 – 27 July 2023 Lusaka, Zambia



Malawi Presentation



FISH SPECIES FARMED IN MALAWI



INFECTIOUS DISEASE OCCURRENCE AND BIOSECURITY MEASURES

- Malawi experienced EUS outbreak in 2019 and has spread to many sites
  - Previously no serious disease reported
  - Best aquaculture practices are promoted
  - AMR poses a potential threat
    - Heavy usage of chicken manure where antibiotics are used
    - Application of agricultural pesticides
      - ✓There is a high chance of residual transfer into water bodies

INFECTIOUS DISEASE OCCURRENCE AND BIOSECURITY MEASURES

- Biosecurity measures
  - Certification of hatchery operators to supply seed
  - Application of best aquaculture practices through strengthened extension services
  - Policy and legislation prohibit use of exotic species
  - Recommend responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials
    - In aquaculture, no antimicrobials are used in Malawi

Surveillance activities

- National Promised Aquatic Disease Pathogen list is under development
- Surveillance activities for such diseases will be conducted using the FAO recommended 12-point surveillance plan
- However, risk based surveillance activities are being done for Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome (EUS) following its incursion into the country in 2020 using the referred FAO 12-point surveillance plan above.

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Requirements for the 12-point surveillance plan

1. Scenario setting: Status of EUS in the country:
2. Objectives: Surveillance objective(s)
3. Defining populations: Consideration is on high risk populations
4. Disease clustering: Consideration is on when is the disease likely going to occur
5. Case definition: Covers clinical, laboratory and epidemiological risk factors for disease occurrence
6. Diagnostic testing
7. Study design and sampling methodology
8. Data collection and management
9. Data analysis
10. Validation and quality assurance
11. Human and financial resources
12. Surveillance in a broader picture: Consideration is on the cost benefit analysis of the disease control program.

Monitoring and Reporting

- Monitoring is through active and passive surveillance activities
- Reporting is at three levels

✓ First is at the local level where disease incidence reports are sent to the district councils.

✓Secondly is at National level where the disease incidence reports are sent to the Director of Animal Health and Livestock Development who is the WOAH country delegate.

✓The last is at regional and international levels (SADC, AU-IBAR) and WOAH respectively.

✓The first and second reports are usually sent via emails whilst the third is via emails or WAHIS.

Opportunities

- Currently Malawi has 17,000 fish farmers employing 70,000 people and more than 2,000,000 people from various fish value chains are earning their livelihoods BUT there is a great potential for aquaculture growth.
  - About 10-20% of land is feasible for pond construction
  - Enormous potential in Lakes and river systems for cage culture
  - Great demand for fish
  - Conducive policy framework

CHALLENGES

- Unregulated nature of subsistence fisheries
- Climate change
- Lack of capacity on fish disease diagnostics
- NSAAH not in place
- Inadequate human capacity
- Transboundary movements

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Strong collaboration between fisheries and veterinary authorities
- Certification schemes
- Enabling environment for fisheries and aquaculture development
- Strengthening extension services
- Capacity building
- Development of NSAAH

- Thank you so much!