



World Organisation
for Animal Health



Launch of the Regional Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory Network for Africa (RAAHLN-AF)

5 – 7 December 2023 Pretoria, South Africa



GHANA

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Introduction

- Background
- Facilities
- Services
- Challenges



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Background

- The Fish Health Unit is a branch of the Veterinary Services Directorate in the Fisheries Commission. The mandate is to ensure production of safe fish and fishery products.
- In detail; the FHU is responsible for disease diagnoses and treatment, outbreak investigation in farmed and wild fish, certifications, fish health and welfare compliance monitoring etc.

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Facilities

There are 3 Laboratories

- The Northern Sector Fisheries Laboratory, Kumasi.
- The Koforidua Fisheries Laboratory.
- Fisheries Laboratory, Accra.

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Facilities and Services

Northern Sector Fisheries Laboratory

- Serves the middle and northern belt aquaculture industry (mostly catfish)

Services:

- Postmortem
- Basic Bacteriology: bacterial isolation and identification
- Histopathology: tissue processing and slide preparation
- **Molecular: Lab space prepared waiting for equipment**

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Facilities and Services

Koforidua Fisheries Laboratory

- Serves the Eastern Regional aquaculture industry, including Akosombo (tilapia and catfish)

Services:

- Postmortem
- Basic Bacteriology: bacterial isolation and identification

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Facilities and Services

Fisheries Laboratory, Accra

- **No Access... issues being sorted out**
- Serve the coastal aquaculture industry (tilapia, catfish, bivalves, shrimp).

Services

Postmortem

Bacteriology: isolation and identification

Molecular: In collaboration with UG and Noguchi labs.

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Challenges

- 1. Low awareness of fish health management.** Fish health is a fairly new concept in Ghana. Therefore few cases are reported and even fewer end up at the labs.
- 2. Poorly resourced labs.** Reagents and consumables needed to run labs are not forthcoming.
- 3. Inadequate Expertise.** 9 staff for whole country, 4 of which are general veterinary practitioners.

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Challenges

4. **Delayed case reportage.** Fish health cases not handled with urgency.
5. **High cost of lab services.** Costs of sending sample and running tests are high. Unwillingness to pay.
6. **Poor legislative support.**

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