



World Organisation
for Animal Health



Regional Workshop on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in Aquaculture - English-speaking Africa



13 - 15 August 2025
Harare, Zimbabwe



Funded by
UK Government



Setting the Standard: WOAH's Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission and Aquatic Animal Health Strategy

Dr. Kevin Christison (DFFE, RSA)
KChristison@dffe.gov.za

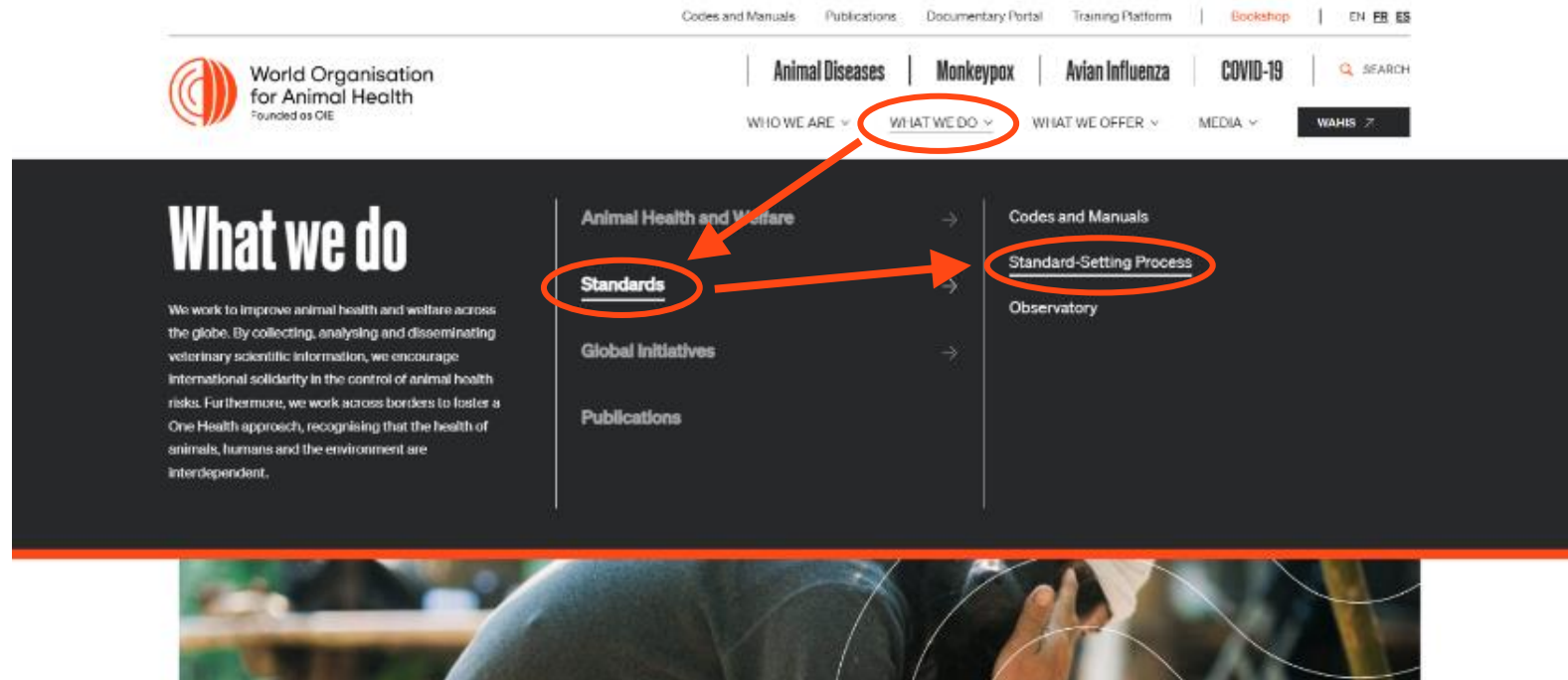


Activities of the AAHSC since the 2024 General Session

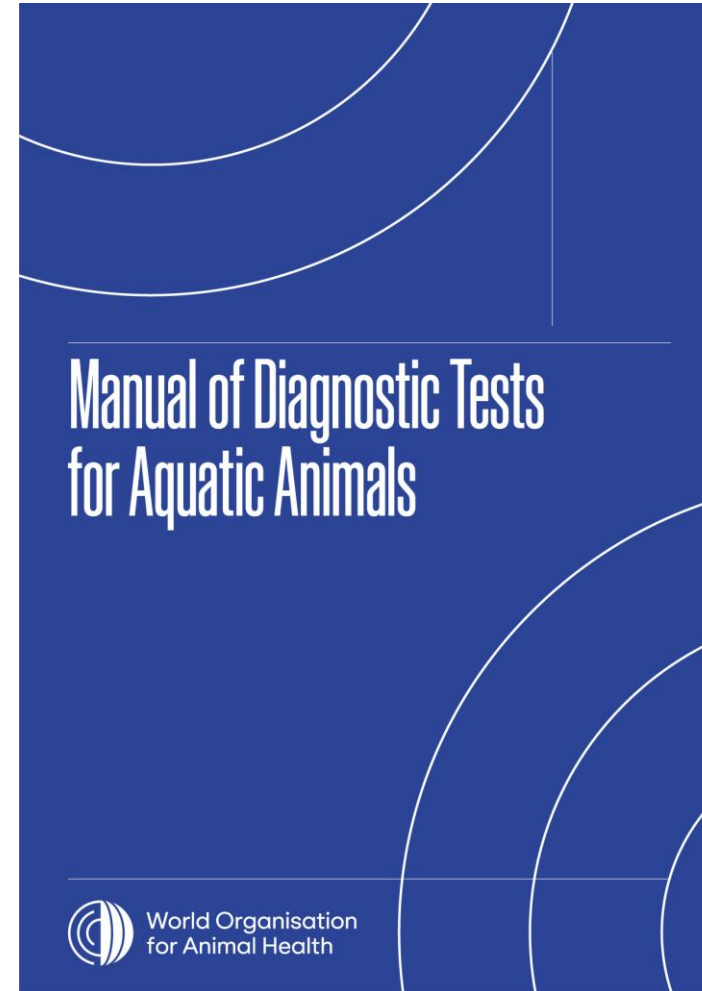
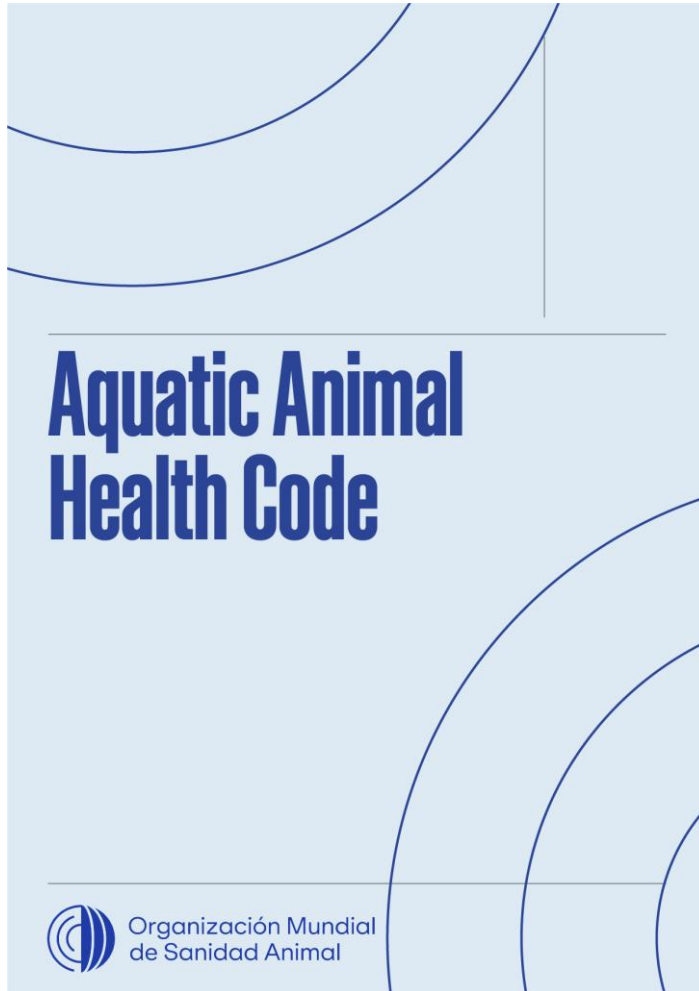
- Since May 2024, the Aquatic Animals Commission met twice
- Electronic exchanges between meetings with extensive inter-session work
- Participation in *ad hoc* Group meetings
 - Susceptibility of fish species to WOAHA listed diseases
 - Emergency management
- Participation at relevant regional and international meetings
- Information webinars
- Coordination with other Specialist Commissions
 - Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission
 - Biological Standards Commission
- Coordination with WOAHA Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance

Information on the work of the Aquatic Animals Commission

Information on the work of the Aquatic Animals Commission can be found on the WOAHP website.



Information on the work of the Aquatic Animals Commission



Where can I find complementary information?

- The Aquatic Animals Commission refers to topics discussed by other Specialist Commissions, Working Groups (WG) or *ad hoc* Groups (AHG).
- The full rationales are described in the relevant reports. Members should read the report of the specific Specialist Commission in conjunction with these other reports.
- All reports are available on the WOAHP Website.

Specialists Commissions

The relevant *Specialist Commission* consider requests to develop new standards or review existing standards received from a range of stakeholders including from Members, partner international organisations, and its scientific network. These requests are reviewed, prioritised and included on its respective work plans.

Calendar of the upcoming Specialist Commission meetings

Commissions*	September 2022	February 2023
Terrestrial Code Commission	13-22	7-16
Biological Standards Commission	5-9	6-10
Scientific Commission	19-23	13-17
Aquatic Animals Commission	14-21	15-22

*Projected dates of the next meetings of the four Specialist Commissions

Aquatic Animal Health
Standards Commission

Discover →

Biological Standards
Commission

Discover →

Scientific Commission for
Animal Diseases

Discover →

Terrestrial Animal Health
Standards Commission

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Ad hoc Groups and Working Groups

The *ad hoc* Groups and Working Groups may be requested to address specific topics to ensure that new or revised standards are based on the latest scientific evidence and knowledge. The views of the Members and partner international organisations are routinely sought through the circulation of draft and revised texts in the relevant Specialist Commission report.

AHG



WG



February 2025 Meeting Report

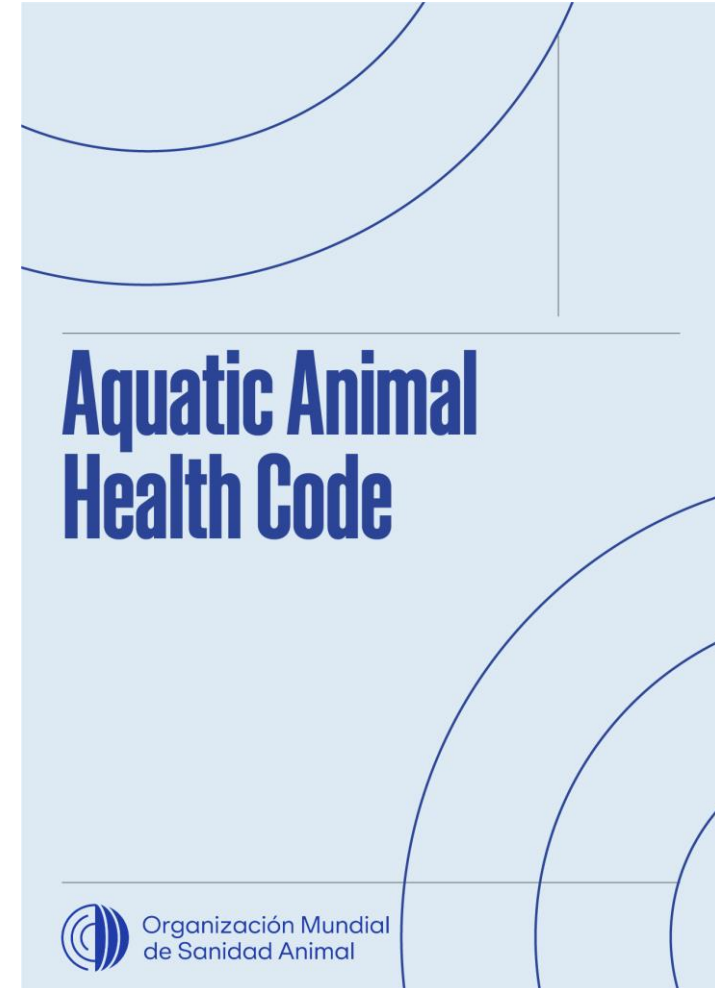
Includes

- Annexes presenting new and revised texts of the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* to be proposed for adoption in May 2025
- Annexes presenting new and revised texts of the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* circulated for comment
- Comments considered and the Commission's responses, and rationale for amendments
- The Commission's work programme
- Updates on Reference Centres
- Updates on other related activities



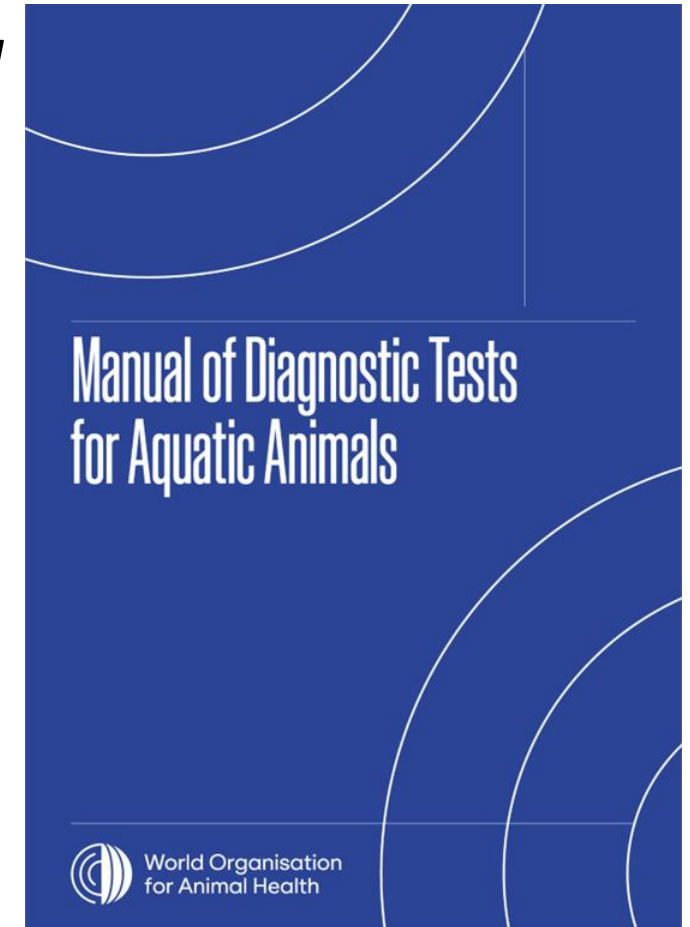
Aquatic Code – Texts proposed for adoption

- New Chapter 4.X. ‘Emergency disease preparedness’
- New Chapter 4.Y. ‘Disease outbreak management’
- New Chapter 4.Z. ‘Control of pathogenic agents in traded gametes and fertilised eggs of fish’ and related model articles
- New Chapter 5.X. ‘Movement of ornamental aquatic animals’
- Draft new Chapter 10.X. ‘Infection with *Megalocytivirus pagrus1*’



Aquatic Manual – Texts proposed for adoption

- Chapter 2.4.2. ‘Infection with *Bonamia exitiosa*’ (Annex 24)
- Chapter 2.4.3. ‘Infection with *Bonamia ostreae*’
- Changes to susceptible species lists for:
 - Infection with white spot syndrome virus
 - Infection with *Aphanomyces invadans*
 - Infection with *Perkinsus olseni*
 - Infection with *Xenohaliotis californiensis*



Work Programme Status

The Aquatic Animals Commission reviewed the status of existing work and prioritised work programme items after considering factors including:

- The expected improvement of the standards
- Benefit to Members
- Member comments
- WOAHA Aquatic Animal Health Strategy
- Capacity constraints,
- Headquarters' comments
- Progress on the previous Commission's work programme

Work Programme Status

- Work programme current includes 46 work items
- 34 items are ongoing (prioritisation 1 or 2)
- At the February 2025 meeting
 - 14 annexes for the *Aquatic Code* proposed for adoption in May 2025
 - 6 annexes for the *Aquatic Manual* proposed for adoption in May 2025
 - 5 annexes circulated for comments



Aquatic Code

- Complete the ongoing update and restructure of Section 4. 'Disease prevention and control'
- Consider the usability for trade purposes including Section 5. 'Trade measure, importation/exportation procedures and health certification'
- Application of Chapter 1.5. to each disease-specific chapter to determine susceptible host species.
- With support of AMR Working Group, revision of section 6 "Antimicrobial Use in Aquatic Animals"





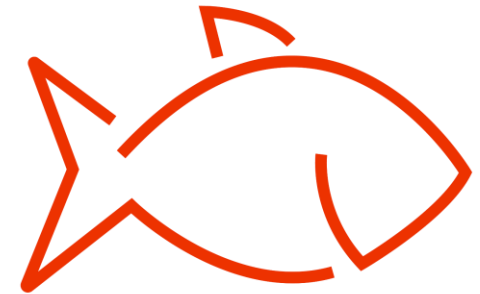
- *Aquatic Manual*

- Continuation of the process to progressively reformat and review each disease-specific chapter into a new template
- Application of Chapter 1.5. to each disease-specific chapter to determine susceptible host species



New WOAHA Reference Laboratory

- **WOAHA Reference Laboratory for Infection with *Aphanomyces invadans* (epizootic ulcerative syndrome)**
- Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory, Exotic & Aquatic Animal Health Division
- ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources
- INDIA
- Designated expert: Dr Pravata Kumar





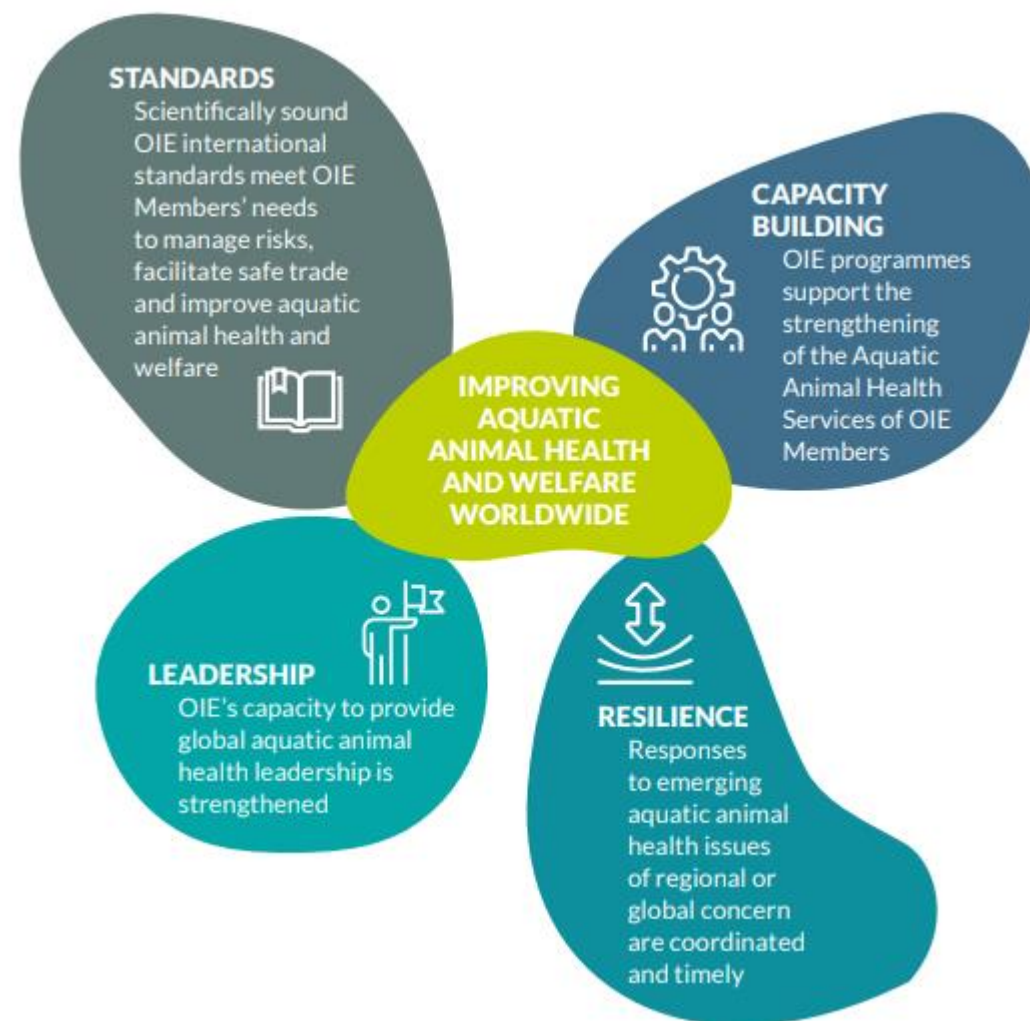
New WOA Reference Laboratory

- **WOAH Reference Laboratory for Infection with decapod iridescent virus 1**
- Division of Maricultural Organism Disease control and Molecular Pathology Yellow Sea Fisheries Research Institute (YSFRI)
- Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences
- CHINA (PEOPLE'S REP. OF)
- Designated expert: Dr Liang Qiu





OIE Aquatic Animal Health Strategy 2021-2025



The Aquatic Animals Commission completed activities under Objective 1 'Standards' :

- Activity 1.1. to develop new standards to support risk management
- Activity 1.2. to revise existing *Aquatic Code* standards with up-to-date recommendations
- Activity 1.3. to review the scientific basis of welfare standards for farmed fish
- Activity 1.4. to revise existing *Aquatic Manual* standards with new template
- Activity 1.5. to identify barriers to the implementation of standards

Activity 4.5 (Identify the Highest-Priority Research areas under Objective 4 'Leadership' :

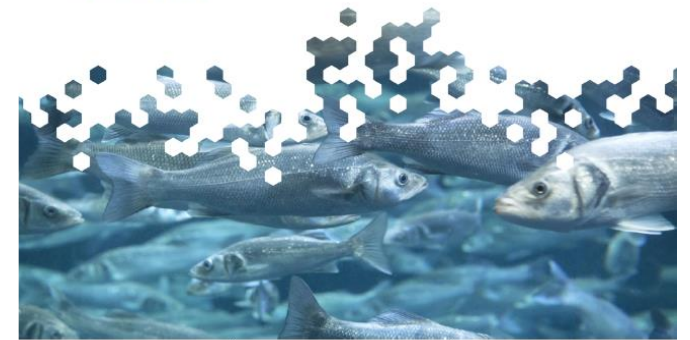
- Understanding and managing diseases better.
- Smarter, faster diagnostics.
- More effective vaccines
- Alternatives to antibiotics

Advancing Aquaculture Health Research

Workshop Report
20-21 February
2025

Report of the workshop to identify the highest-priority
research areas for finfish diseases

20-21 February 2025
WOAH HQ, Paris

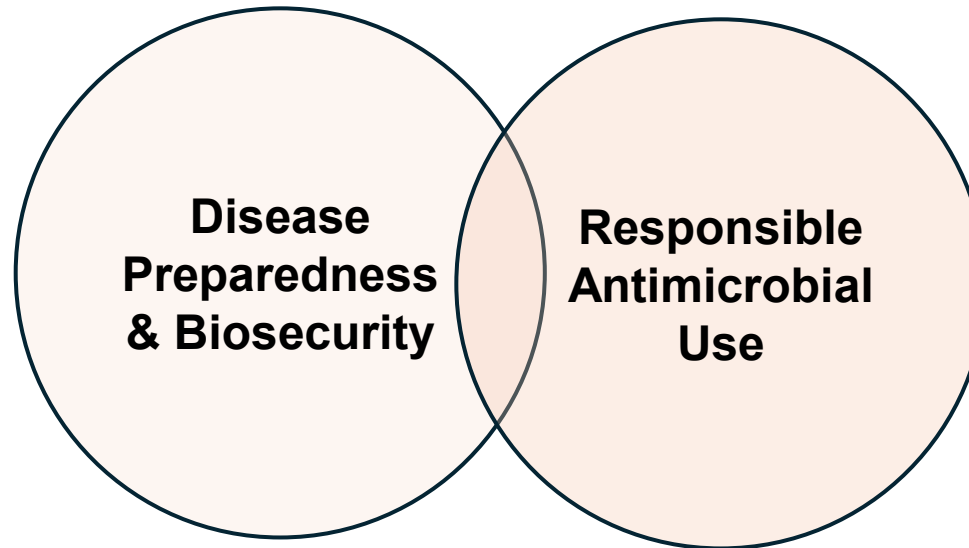


Why these updates matter for AMR & Sustainable Aquaculture

Disease Preparedness & Biosecurity

New chapters on emergency preparedness and outbreak management.

Stronger controls on movement of aquatic animals and gametes
Focused prevention reduces infection pressure



Healthy, Sustainable Aquaculture

Responsible Antimicrobial Use

Revised Section 6: updated AMR guidance for aquaculture.

Emphasis on alternatives: vaccines, better diagnostics, husbandry.

Reduced reliance on antimicrobials lowers AMR risk

Impact for Africa:

Better control = fewer treatments needed

Healthier stock = improved yields and market access

Aligned standards = fairer, safer trade



Thank you
Merci
Gracias

