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OIE Regional training seminar for national OIE focal points for aquatic animals
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OIE Aquatic Animal Health *Code*

- a trade facilitating standard
- what to know and where to look?

Outline

- *Aquatic Code* - overview
 - what is it? / how to use it?
- Trade in safe commodities
- Aquatic animal welfare chapters
- Aquatic animal production food safety
- Other newly adopted chapters - May 2010

OIE's objectives

- ensure transparency in global animal health situation
- collect, analyse and disseminate scientific veterinary information
- provide expertise and encourage international solidarity in animal disease control
- **safeguard world trade by publishing animal health standards**
- improve national Veterinary Services
- animal welfare and animal production food safety

The “3 sisters”

International Standard Setting
Organisations

food safety
CODEX



*animal health and
zoonoses*
OIE



plant health
IPPC



WTO SPS Agreement recognises **OIE** as a reference organisation for international standards on **animal health** and **zoonoses**

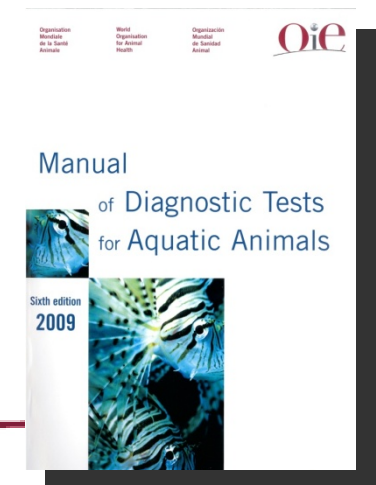
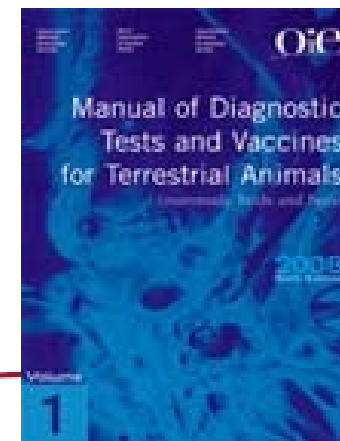
OIE international standards

Terrestrial Animal Health Code
mammals, birds and bees

Aquatic Animal Health Code
amphibians, crustaceans, fish and molluscs

Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals

Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals



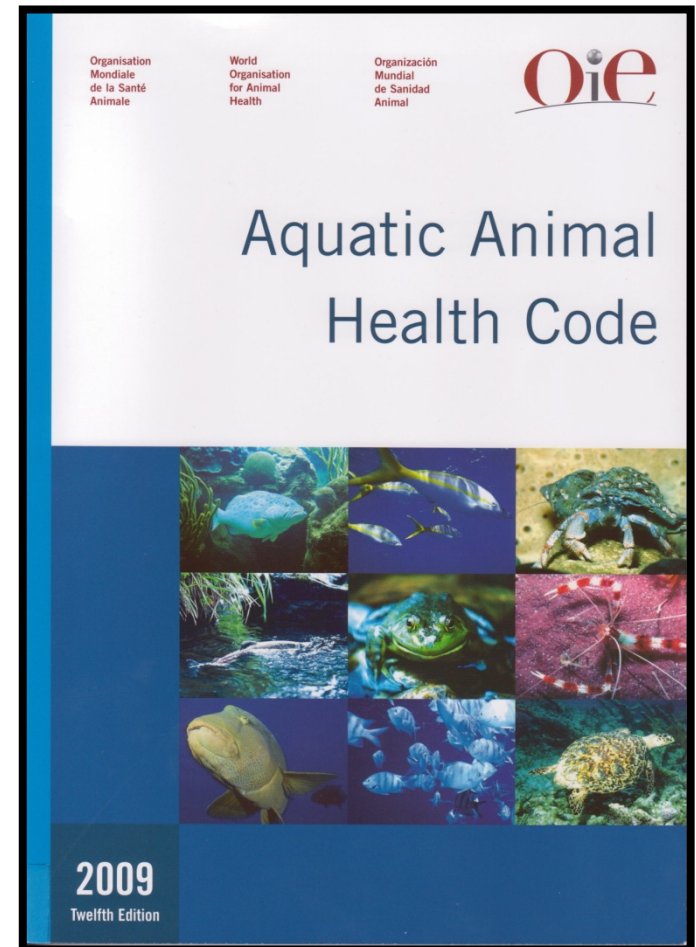
Purpose of OIE Codes

- the Codes are not textbooks on terrestrial or aquatic animal diseases, nor on zoonoses
- they are reference manuals for international standards for safe trade in terrestrial and aquatic animals and their products
- the Codes recommend health measures to be implemented by Veterinary Services (or other Competent Authorities)
 - to establish health regulations for the safe importation of animals and animal products
 - while avoiding unjustified trade restrictions
- include animal welfare and food safety

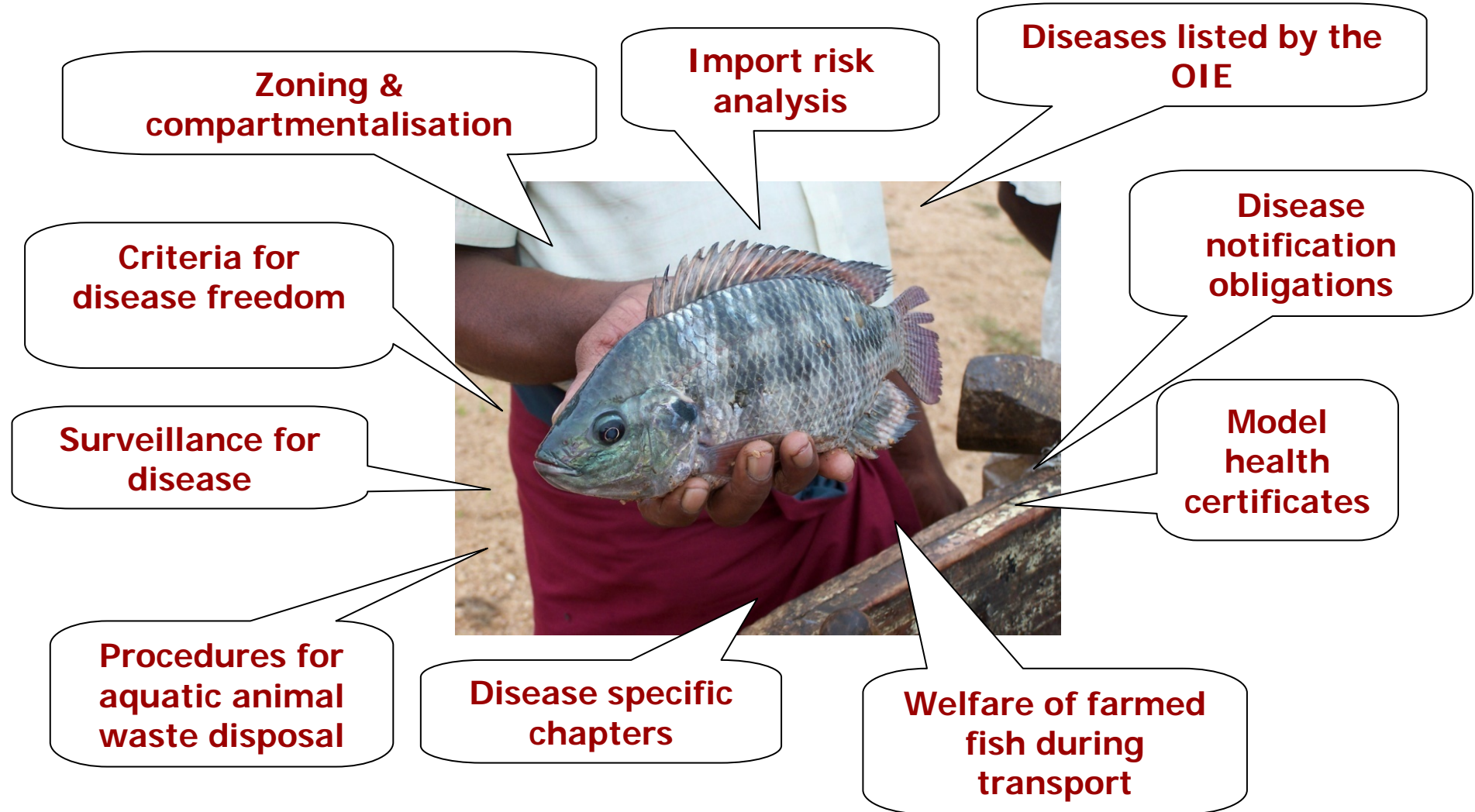
Principles in the Codes

- WTO obligations are met if countries apply OIE standards
 - Importing country assumed to be free of a specific disease or with an official control programme for that disease
 - *Code* measures take into account:
 - assessment of risk factors in real world situation
 - quality of Veterinary Services / Competent Authorities
 - zoning and compartmentalisation
 - disease surveillance and timely notification
- credible health certification for traded commodities

Aquatic Animal Health Code



What information is available in Aquatic Code?



Approach in Aquatic Code

General Provisions (Horizontal issues)

- **User's guide**
- **Glossary**
- **Section 1 : Animal disease diagnosis, surveillance and notification**
 - Notification of diseases and epidemiological information
 - Criteria for listing aquatic animal diseases
 - Diseases listed by the OIE
 - Aquatic animal health surveillance
- **Section 2 : Risk analysis**
- **Section 3 : Quality of Competent Authorities**
- **Section 4 : General recommendations : disease prevention and control**
 - Zoning/compartmentalisation
 - Recommendations on disinfection
 - Contingency planning
 - Fallowing in aquaculture
 - Control of aquatic animal health hazards in aquatic animal feed
 - Handling, disposal and treatment of aquatic animal waste (adopted May 2010)

Approach in Aquatic Code

General Provisions (contd)

- **Section 5 : Trade measures, import/export procedures and health certification**
 - General obligations
 - Certification procedures
 - Criteria to assess safety of aquatic animal commodities
 - Safe transport
 - Measures applicable before, during transit, on arrival of commodities
 - Border posts
 - Model health certificates for international trade
- **Section 6 : Veterinary Public Health**
 - Antimicrobials: prudent use/monitoring/ resistance (**under development**)
- **Section 7 : Welfare of Farmed Fish**
 - Transport
 - Stunning and killing (**adopted May 2010**)

Disease specific chapters - aquatic animals



Approach in Aquatic Code

Disease specific chapters

OIE listed diseases - of importance to international trade

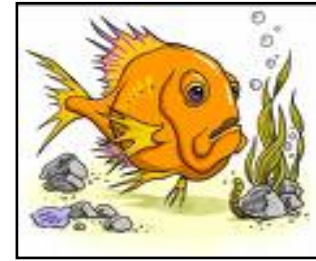
- Section 8 : Diseases of Amphibians
- Section 9 : Diseases of Crustaceans
- Section 10 : Diseases of Fish
- Section 11 : Diseases of Molluscs

OIE list of aquatic animal diseases (2010)

- 9 fish diseases
- 7 mollusc diseases
- 8 crustacean diseases
- 2 amphibian diseases

Diseases of fish

- Epizootic haematopoietic necrosis
- Infectious haematopoietic necrosis
- Spring viraemia of carp
- Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia
- Infectious salmon anaemia
- Epizootic ulcerative syndrome
- Gyrodactylosis (*Gyrodactylus salaris*)
- Red sea bream iridoviral disease
- Koi herpesvirus disease



Diseases of molluscs

- Infection with *Bonamia ostreae*
- Infection with *Bonamia exitiosa*
- Infection with *Marteilia refringens*
- Infection with *Perkinsus marinus*
- Infection with *Perkinsus olseni*
- Infection with *Xenohaliotis californiensis*
- Infection with abalone herpes-like virus



Diseases of crustaceans

- Taura syndrome
- White spot disease
- Yellowhead disease
- Infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis
- Crayfish plague (*Aphanomyces astaci*)
- Infectious myonecrosis
- White tail disease
- Necrotising hepatopancreatitis (adopted May 2010)





Diseases of amphibians

- Infection with *Bactrachochytrium dendrobatidis*
- Infection with ranavirus

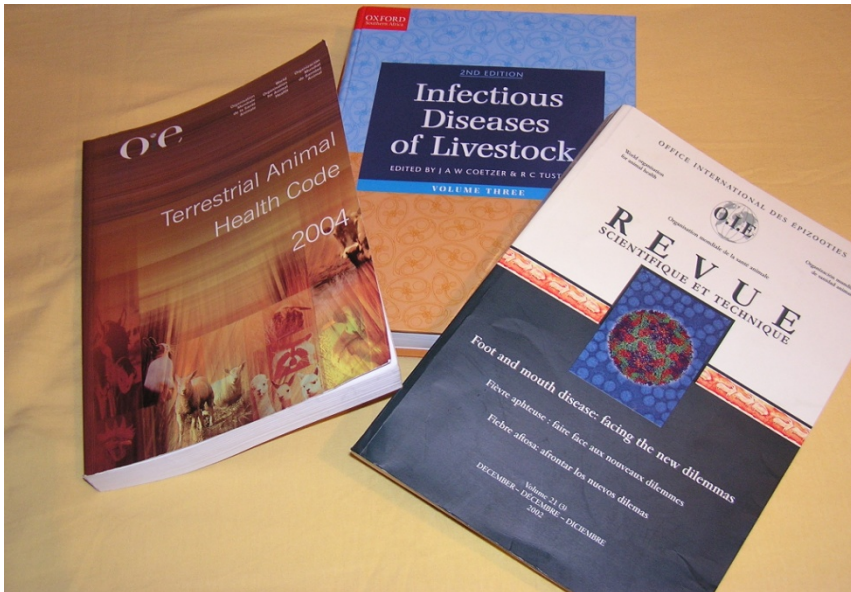
Both adopted in 2008!

Disease specific chapters

Each specific disease chapter includes:

- Recommendations to prevent the disease in question being introduced into the importing country
 - definition of the pathogen / disease;
 - list of host species that are susceptible to the disease and are internationally traded;
 - list of 'safe' commodities (irrespective of disease status);
 - how to determine the free status of a country, zone or compartment
 - recommendations for importations of aquatic animal commodities from a country, zone or compartment declared free
 - (taking into account the nature of the commodity (live or dead); intended purpose (e.g. aquaculture, aquatic animal feed))
 - recommendations for importations of aquatic animal commodities from a country, zone or compartment not declared free
 - (taking into account the nature of the commodity (live or dead); intended purpose (e.g. aquaculture, aquatic animal feed))

Using the Codes and Manuals



1. Use the *Codes* to establish health requirements for trade
2. Use the OIE *Manuals* to ensure the application of correct diagnostic tests
3. Use the OIE *Scientific and Technical Review* and other sources to obtain background information
4. Use textbooks on diseases to understand the scientific justification for OIE standards

Critical aspects

- do not use the *Codes* as textbooks on diseases
- use them as international standards to evaluate and determine measures to protect animal health in the trade of animals and animal products
- ensure that the application of the standards for national health measures are in accordance with obligations of WTO Members under the SPS Agreement

Critical aspects

- use the *Code* Section 3 on the Quality of Competent Authorities as an essential baseline:
 - the OIE PVS Tool provides additional information and procedures for a formal evaluation of quality of CA
- use the *Codes* to establish baseline arguments to establish equivalence for trade negotiations
- use the *Codes* to establish cost-effective risk mitigation measures for trade
- use the *Codes* and *Manuals* to challenge scientific unjustifiable sanitary measures of trading partners

Useful documents on OIE website

- *Codes and Manuals* on line
- ‘International trade: Rights and obligations of OIE Members’
- ‘Devising import health measures for animal commodities’
- ‘The OIE International Standards’

<http://www.oie.int>

A large school of fish, possibly tilapia, swimming in clear, shallow water. The fish are densely packed and moving in various directions. The water is bright and clear, with some reflections on the surface. The background is a light, hazy blue, suggesting an outdoor setting.

**Other newly adopted
Aquatic Code chapters
May 2010**

New disease chapters

- Infection with abalone herpes-like virus (Ch 11.X.)
 - disease listing adopted May 2009
- Necrotising hepatopancreatitis (Ch 9.X.)
 - disease listing adopted May 2010

Another new chapter

Handling, disposal and treatment of aquatic animal waste (Ch X.X.)

- Adopted in May 2010
- The objective of this chapter is to provide guidance on storage, transport, disposal and treatment of aquatic animal wastes so as to manage risks to aquatic animal health.

New Articles on disinfection of salmonid eggs

– Adopted in May 2010

– New Articles for chapters on:

- Infectious haematopoietic necrosis (Article 10.4.X.)
- Infectious salmon anaemia (Article 10.5.X.)
- Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (Article 10.9.X.)

REMEMBER

You can influence what is in the *Aquatic Code*!

Opportunities for OIE Members to influence international standard setting

=> **Members** are **primarily responsible** for setting and the adoption of international standards and should therefore always attempt to actively participate in the standard setting process



g4

Diapositive 54

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It is thus essential that delegates prepare themselves well in advance of the General Session of the OIE to actively participate in the debate and challenge the possible negative implications to trade of a proposed standard. Alternative solutions to assist the Specialist Commissions should be tabled other than just condemning a proposed standard.

gideonb; 04/05/2005

2nd OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health

“The Contribution of Aquatic Animal
Health to Global Food Security”

Panama, 27-29 June 2011



Thank you for your attention