OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code

-a trade facilitating standard
Outline

- **Aquatic Code** - overview
  - what is in 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

• they recommend health measures to be implemented by Veterinary Services or other Competent Authorities (AAHS)
  - to establish health regulations for the safe importation of animals and animal products
  - while avoiding unjustified trade restrictions

• include animal welfare and food safety

• they are reference manuals for international standards for safe trade in terrestrial and aquatic animals and their products

• they are not textbooks on terrestrial or aquatic animal diseases, nor on zoonoses
Aquatic Animal Health Code
What information is available in *Aquatic Code*?

- Zoning & compartmentalisation
- Criteria for disease freedom
- Surveillance for disease
- Procedures for aquatic animal waste disposal
- Import risk analysis
- Diseases listed by the OIE
- Disease notification obligations
- Model health certificates
- Disease specific chapters
- Welfare of farmed fish during transport
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
  - Handling, disposal and treatment of aquatic animal waste *(adopted May 2010)*
Aquatic Code

General Provisions (contd)

- Section 5: Trade measures, import/export procedures and health certification
  - General obligations for certification
  - 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
  - Control of hazards in aquatic animal feeds
  - Introduction to recommendations for controlling antimicrobial resistance

Section 7: Welfare of Farmed Fish
- Transport
- Stunning and killing for human consumption (adopted May 2010)
Disease specific chapters - aquatic animals
Aquatic Code

Disease specific chapters
OIE listed diseases

- **Section 8: Diseases of Amphibians**
  - 2 chapters on the OIE-listed amphibian diseases

- **Section 9: Diseases of Crustaceans**
  - 8 chapters on the OIE-listed crustacean diseases

- **Section 10: Diseases of Fish**
  - 9 chapters on the OIE-listed fish diseases

- **Section 11: Diseases of Molluscs**
  - 7 chapters on the OIE-listed mollusc diseases
Article 1.2.3.4 - diseases of amphibians

- Infection with Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis
- Infection with ranavirus
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)
Key aspects

• use *Code* as an **international standard** to evaluate and determine measures to ensure safe trade of aquatic animals and their products

• Note: if countries apply OIE standards they meet their WTO obligations under the SPS Agreement are met.
Key aspects

• use the Code Section 3 on the Quality of Competent Authorities as an essential baseline to evaluate a CA:
  - the OIE PVS Tool provides additional information and procedures for a formal evaluation of quality of CA

• use the Code to establish baseline arguments to establish equivalence for trade negotiations;

• use the Code 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
New work areas in the Aquatic Code

Trade in ‘safe’ aquatic animal products
Farmed fish welfare
Aquatic animal production food safety
Trade in ‘safe’ aquatic animal products
(‘commodities’)
Article X.X.3. in all Code disease chapters

e.g. Epizootic ulcerative syndrome

Article 10.1.3.

Importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for any purpose from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from epizootic ulcerative syndrome

1. Competent Authorities should not require any EUS related conditions, regardless of the EUS status of the exporting country, zone or compartment when authorising the importation or transit of the following aquatic animals and aquatic animal products from the species referred to in Article 10.2.2. intended for any purpose and complying with Article 5.3.1.:

- Commodities treated in a manner that inactivates the pathogenic agent. E.g. leather made from fish skin, pasteurised products and some ready-to-eat meals; and fish oil and fish meal intended for use in feed.
Importation of *aquatic animals* and *aquatic animal products* for retail trade for human consumption from a *country, zone or compartment* not declared free from EUS

1. Competent Authorities *should not require* any EUS related conditions, regardless of the EUS status of the *exporting country, zone or compartment* when authorising the importation or transit of the following *commodities* which have been *prepared and packaged for retail trade* and complying with Article 5.3.2.:

   a. eviscerated fish (chilled or frozen);
   b. fillets or cutlets (chilled or frozen);
   c. dried eviscerated fish (including air dried, flame dried and sun dried)
History

2008

• Aquatic Animals Commission convened the first meeting of the AHG on Safe commodities derived from aquatic animals;

Tasks:

• develop criteria to assess ‘safe’ aquatic animal products listed in all disease chapters;

• review ‘safe’ products listed in the Code disease specific chapters using these criteria.
Ch 5.3. Criteria to assess the safety of aquatic animal commodities

New Ch 5.3. adopted May 2009

Article 5.3.1.

Criteria to assess the safety of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from disease X

- eligible products can be traded for any purpose and may come from a country, zone or compartment not declared free of disease X;

- criteria are based on absence of the disease agent in the product OR inactivation of the disease agent by treatment or processing (e.g. canned products);

- criteria are used to assess products listed in all disease chapters, point 1 of Article X.X.3.
Ch 5.3. Criteria to assess the safety of aquatic animal commodities

New Ch 5.3. adopted May 2009

Article 5.3.2.

Criteria to assess the safety of aquatic animals products for retail trade for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from disease X.

- eligible products should be prepared and packaged for retail trade and may come from a country, zone or compartment not declared free of disease X;

- includes consideration of the form and presentation of the product (e.g. fish fillets), expected volume of waste tissues generated by the consumer and the likely presence of viable disease agent in the waste;

- criteria are used to assess products listed in all disease chapters, point 1 of Article X.X.11. (crustacean & mollusc)/ X.X.12. (amphibians & fish)
• Ch 5.3. Criteria where adopted in 2009

• the AHG applied these criteria to assess the products currently listed as ‘safe’ commodities in 3 disease chapters in the Aquatic Code:
  - Epizootic haematopoietic necrosis (EHN) (a fish disease)
  - Infection with *B. ostreae* (a mollusc infection)
  - Taura syndrome (crustacean disease)

• modified chapters were adopted in May 2010
  – amended Articles X.X.3, X.X.9. and X.X.11./12
  – amended products listed as ‘safe’.
Revised EHN Article 10.1.3.

**Article 10.1.3.**

Importation or transit of aquatic animal products for any purpose from an exporting country, zone or compartment **not declared free** from EHN

1. *Competent Authorities* should **not require** any EHN related conditions, regardless of the EHN status of the exporting country, zone or compartment when authorising the importation or transit of the following *aquatic animal products* from the species referred to in Article 10.1.2. intended for any purpose and complying with **Article 5.3.1**:  

i) heat sterilised hermetically sealed fish products (i.e. a heat treatment at 121° C for at least 3.6 minutes or equivalent);  
ii) pasteurised fish products that have been subjected to heat treatment at 90° C for 10 minutes or equivalent;  
iii) mechanically dried eviscerated fish (i.e. a heat treatment at 100° C for at least 30 minutes or equivalent);  
iv) fish skin leather;  
v) fish oil; and  
vi) fish meal.
Article 10.1.12.

Importation of aquatic animal products for retail trade for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from EHN

1. Competent Authorities should not require any EHN related conditions, regardless of the EHN status of the exporting country, zone or compartment when authorising the importation or transit of the following commodities which have been prepared and packaged for retail trade and complying with Article 5.3.2.:

i) fillets or steaks (chilled or frozen).
Revised Taura syndrome Article 9.4.3.

Article 9.4.3.
Importation or transit of aquatic animal products for any purpose from an exporting country, zone or compartment not declared free from TS.

1. Competent Authorities should not require any TS related conditions, regardless of the TS status of the exporting country, zone or compartment when authorising the importation or transit of the following aquatic animal products from the species referred to in Article 9.4.2. intended for any purpose and complying with Article 5.3.1:

i) heat sterilised hermetically sealed crustacean products (i.e. a heat treatment at 121°C for at least 3.6 minutes or equivalent);

ii) cooked crustacean products that have been subjected to heat treatment at 70°C for 30 minutes or equivalent;

iii) pasteurised crustacean products that have been subjected to heat treatment at 90°C for 10 minutes or equivalent;

iv) crustacean oil;

v) crustacean meal; and

vi) crustacean extracted chitin.
Article 9.4.11.

Importation of aquatic animal products for retail trade for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from TS

1. Competent Authorities should not require any TS related conditions, regardless of the TS status of the exporting country, zone or compartment when authorising the importation or transit of the following commodities which have been prepared and packaged for retail trade and complying with Article 5.3.2.:

i) frozen, peeled shrimp (shell off, head off)
Revised Infection with *Bonamia ostreae* Article 11.2.3.

**Article 11.2.3.**

Importation or transit of aquatic animal products for any purpose from an exporting country, zone or compartment **not declared free** from *B. ostreae*

1. *Competent Authorities* should **not require** any *B. ostreae* related conditions, regardless of the *B. ostreae* status of the exporting country, zone or compartment when authorising the importation or transit of the following aquatic animal products from the species referred to in Article 11.2.2. intended for any purpose and complying with Article 5.3.1:

   i) frozen oyster meat;
   ii) frozen half-shell oysters
Article 11.2.11.

Importation of aquatic animal products for retail trade for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *B. ostreae*.

1. Competent Authorities should not require any *B. ostreae* related conditions, regardless of the *B. ostreae* status of the exporting country, zone or compartment when authorising the importation or transit of the following commodities which have been prepared and packaged for retail trade and complying with Article 5.3.2.: 

   i) frozen, peeled shrimp (shell off, head off).
Trade in ‘safe’ commodities also requires:

- Certification;

AND

- Evaluation of the quality of the Competent Authority of the exporting country.
Future work

• AHG assessed all the aquatic products currently listed in the disease specific chapters in the *Aquatic Code*, against the criteria in chapter 5.3.;

• The revised ‘safe’ products listed in Articles X.X.3. and X.X.11./12. were reviewed by Aquatic Animals Commission at Oct 2010 meeting and circulated in their Oct. report for Member comment;

• Encourage Members to review the proposed *Code* texts and send comments to the OIE by 14th January 2011.
Aquatic animal welfare
History

In 2008:

• Welfare of farmed fish introduced into the Aquatic Code

• New Ch. 7.1. Introduction to recommendations for the welfare of farmed fish adopted.
Ch. 7.1. Introduction to recommendations for the welfare of farmed fish

- Adopted in 2008

- Chapters for farmed fish only (excluding ornamental fish)

- Includes:
  - guiding principles and
  - scientific basis for recommendations
Ch. 7.2. Welfare of farmed fish during transport

- Adopted in 2009
- Provides information to minimise the effect of transport on the welfare of farmed fish
- Applies to transport of fish by air, by sea or on land within a country and between countries
- Only considers the issues related to their welfare
- Recommendations for measures to control the aquatic animal health risks related to the transport of fish are included in Chapter 5.4. Control of aquatic animal health risks associated with transport of aquatic animals.
- Harmonised with Terrestrial Code chapter
Ch 7.3. Welfare aspects of stunning and killing of farmed fish for human consumption

• NEW - adopted in May 2010

• Recommendations apply to the stunning and killing of farmed fish species for human consumption

• Addresses the need to ensure the welfare of farmed fish during pre-slaughter and slaughter processes, until they are dead (i.e. including transport and holding immediately prior to stunning)

• Includes strong recommendations for stunning prior to killing

• Proposes stunning methods known to ensure rapid (immediate) loss of consciousness for some fish species

• Harmonised with *Terrestrial Code* chapter
Future work

Killing of farmed fish for disease control purposes (Ch 7.4.)

• Under development

• Includes specific measures applicable to emergency killing for disease control purposes not intended for human consumption;

• Aquatic Animals Commission circulated the draft chapter to Members for comment in their Oct. 2010 report;

• Encourage Members to review the proposed chapter and send comments to the OIE by 14th January 2011.
Aquatic animal production food safety
Expanded mandate

• Aquatic Animals Commission mandate expanded in 2009 to include:

Aquatic animal production food safety
OIE – Codex Coordination

- Primary production level
- Develop measures relating to animal health + food safety
  = for any events that can have an impact on the subsequent safety of food products

Production conditions & quality of products during and more especially after the primary processing stage.
Antibiotic resistance

First work in area of aquatic animal food safety:

**Chapter 6.1. Introduction to recommendations for controlling antibiotic resistance**

- adopted in May 2010
- outlines objectives for future work to address the issue of antimicrobial resistance relating to the use of antimicrobial products in aquatic animals

**New draft chapter 6.2. Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine**

- circulated for 2nd round of Member comments in Commission Oct. 2010 report;

- encourage Members to review the proposed chapter and send comments to the OIE by 14th January 2011.
Other newly adopted Aquatic Code chapters
May 2010
New disease chapters

- Infection with abalone herpes-like virus (Ch 11.1.)
  - disease listing adopted May 2009

- Necrotising hepatopancreatitis (Ch 9.4.)
  - disease listing adopted May 2010
Ch 4.6. Handling, disposal and treatment of aquatic animal waste

– 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 10.4.13.)
  • Infectious salmon anaemia (Article 10.5.13.)
  • Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (Article 10.9.13.)
REMEMBER

You can influence what is in the *Aquatic Code*!
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.
Aquatic Animal Health Programmes
their benefits for global food security
(Panamá), 28-30 June 2011

Latest information available at:
http://www.oie.int
Thank you for your attention