AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH CODE
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The aim of the Aquatic Animal Health Code (hereafter referred to as the ‘Aquatic Code’) is to assure the sanitary safety of international trade in aquatic animals (amphibians, crustaceans, fish and molluscs) and their products. This is achieved through the detailing of health measures to be used by Competent Authorities of importing and exporting countries to avoid the transfer of agents pathogenic for animals or humans, while avoiding unjustified sanitary barriers.

The health measures in the Aquatic Code (in the form of standards and recommendations) have been formally adopted by the World Assembly of OIE Delegates which constitutes the organisation’s highest decision-making body. This 13th edition incorporates the modifications to the Aquatic Code agreed by the World Assembly during the 78th General Session in May 2010. These include revised chapters on the following subjects: glossary; diseases listed by the OIE; criteria to assess the safety of aquatic animal commodities; measures concerning international transport of aquatic animal disease agents and pathological material; import risk analysis; quality of Aquatic Animal Health Services; zoning and compartmentalisation; control of hazards in aquatic animal feeds; general obligations related to certification; certification procedures; control of aquatic animal health risks associated with the transport of aquatic animals; model international aquatic animal health certificates; welfare of farmed fish during transport; epizootic haematopoietic necrosis; Taura syndrome and infection with Bonamia ostreae. This edition includes four new chapters that address the application of compartmentalisation; welfare aspects of stunning and killing of farmed fish for human consumption; control of antimicrobial resistance; and handling, disposal and treatment of aquatic animal waste. It also includes two new chapters on infection with abalone herpes-like virus and necrotising hepatopancreatitis, and it provides new articles on the disinfection of salmonid eggs for infectious haematopoietic necrosis, infections salmon anaemia and viral haemorrhagic septicaemia.

The development of these standards and recommendations is the result of the continuous work of one of the OIE’s Specialist Commissions, the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (hereafter referred to as the ‘Aquatic Animals Commission’). This Commission, which comprises five elected members and two observers experienced in the fields of methods for surveillance, diagnosis, control and prevention of infectious aquatic animal diseases, meets twice yearly to address its work programme. The Commission also draws upon the expertise of internationally renowned specialists to prepare draft texts for new chapters of the Aquatic Code or revise existing chapters in light of advances in veterinary science. The views of the Delegates of Members are systematically sought through the circulation of draft and revised texts. As well, the Aquatic Animals Commission collaborates closely with the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission on issues needing a harmonised approach, and with the Biological Standards Commission and the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases to ensure the Aquatic Animals Commission is using the latest scientific information in its work.

The value of the Aquatic Code lies in the fact that measures published in it are the result of consensus among the Competent Authorities of OIE Members.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) conferred on the OIE new responsibilities under international law by specifying ‘the standards, guidelines and recommendations developed under the auspices of the OIE’ as the international standards for animal health and zoonoses. The SPS Agreement is aimed at establishing a multinational framework of rules and disciplines to guide the development, adoption and enforcement of sanitary measures in order to minimise their negative effects on international trade.
Essentially, two options are available to Members to provide a scientific justification for an import health measure. The first, and most encouraged by the WTO, is for Competent Authorities to base their import health measures on the OIE’s international standards, guidelines and recommendations. Where these do not exist, or in cases where a government chooses to apply stricter measures, the importing country must be able to show that its measure is based on a scientific assessment of the potential health risks. Guidelines for conducting risk analyses are described in the Aquatic Code. The Aquatic Code thus forms an integral part of the regulatory reference system established by the WTO.

The Aquatic Code is published annually in the three official OIE languages (English, French and Spanish). The contents of the Aquatic Code are available on the OIE Web site at http://www.oie.int.

The Users’ Guide, which follows the foreword, is designed to help Competent Authorities and other interested parties to use the various chapters of the Aquatic Code efficiently and effectively, and to promote equitable access by all developing and developed countries to the world market in animals and animal products, according to their animal health status.

We wish to thank the members of the Aquatic Animals Commission, Delegates and the experts participating in ad hoc Groups and other Commissions for their expert advice. Finally but not least, my thanks go to the staff of the OIE for their dedication in producing this 13th edition of the Aquatic Code.

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A. Introduction

1. The purpose of this guide is to assist the Veterinary Authority and/or other Competent Authorities of OIE Members to use the Aquatic Animal Health Code (hereafter referred to as the ‘Aquatic Code’) in developing their animal health measures applicable to imports and exports of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products.

2. The recommendations in each of the chapters in Sections 8 to 11 of the Aquatic Code are designed to prevent the disease in question being introduced into the importing country, taking into account the nature of the commodity and the aquatic animal health status of the exporting country. This means that, correctly applied, the recommendations ensure that the intended importation can take place with an optimal level of animal health security, incorporating the latest scientific findings and available techniques.

3. The recommendations in the Aquatic Code make reference only to the animal health situation in the exporting country, and assume that the disease is either not present in the importing country or is the subject of a control or eradication programme. Therefore, when determining its import measures, an importing country should do so in a way that is consistent with the principle of national treatment and the other provisions of the WTO SPS Agreement. An importing country is always free to authorise the importation of animals or animal products into its territory under conditions either more or less stringent than those recommended by the Aquatic Code, but this must be based on a scientific risk analysis and done in accordance with the country’s obligations under the SPS Agreement.

4. To avoid confusion, key terms and expressions used in the Aquatic Code are defined in the Glossary. When preparing model international aquatic animal health certificates, the importing country should endeavour to use these terms and expressions in accordance with the definitions given in the Aquatic Code.

5. At the head of each chapter relating to a specific disease (in Sections 8 to 11 of the Aquatic Code), there is an article clearly describing the scope of each chapter.

6. In many of the Aquatic Code chapters, the use of diagnostic tests is recommended. In each case, a reference in the first article of the chapter is made to the relevant section in the OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals (hereafter referred to as the ‘Aquatic Manual’).

7. Chapters 5.1. and 5.2. of the Aquatic Code deal with general obligations related to certification and certification procedures. Veterinary Authorities and/or other Competent Authorities should have a sufficient number of copies of the Aquatic Code to allow all veterinarians directly involved in such trade to familiarise themselves with the contents. In addition, diagnostic laboratories should be fully conversant with the technical recommendations in the Aquatic Manual.

8. When, in some parts of this Aquatic Code, the term ‘under study’ is applied to an Article or part of an Article, the meaning is that the text has not been adopted by the World Assembly of OIE Delegates and is not part of the Aquatic Code. Accordingly, that recommendation need not be applied by Members.
9. The complete text of the Aquatic Code has been made available on the OIE Web site (address: http://www.oie.int) to ensure wider access.

B. Disease Information, the Bulletin and World Animal Health

These three OIE publications inform Veterinary Authorities and/or other Competent Authorities on the animal health situation world-wide. Importing countries can thus have an overview of the animal health status, disease occurrence and control programmes in exporting countries. If it considers the data available at the international level to be insufficient, the importing country should contact the exporting country directly, or through OIE Headquarters, to obtain additional information.

C. International Health Certificates

1. An international aquatic animal health certificate is a document, drawn up by the exporting country in accordance with the terms of Chapter 5.1. and Chapter 5.2. of the Aquatic Code, describing the aquatic animal health requirements for the exported commodity. The assurance given to the importing country that diseases will not be introduced through the importation of aquatic animals or aquatic animal products depends on the quality of the exporting country’s aquatic animal health infrastructure and the rigour with which international aquatic animal health certificates are issued in the exporting country.

2. International veterinary certificates are intended to facilitate safe trade and should not be used to impede it by imposing unjustified health conditions. In all cases, the exporting country and the importing country should refer to the health conditions recommended in the Aquatic Code before agreeing on the terms of the certificate. They should also respect their rights and obligations under the SPS Agreement.

3. The steps to be followed when drafting international aquatic animal health certificates are as follows:

   a) list the diseases against which the importing country is justified in seeking protection;

   b) list the health requirements for each of these diseases, which can be determined by referring to the relevant articles in the Aquatic Code; the Aquatic Code provides for various levels of sanitary status in the case of many diseases: disease free country, zone, compartment or aquaculture establishment;

   c) use the model international aquatic animal health certificates presented in Chapter 5.10. of the Aquatic Code as a general framework, adapting the contents and form of the paragraphs as required, for example by devoting more space to details of the origin of the consignment.

4. As stated in Article 5.2.3. of the Aquatic Code, it is important that international aquatic animal health certificates be kept as simple as possible and be clearly worded, so as to avoid any misunderstanding of the requirements of importing countries. The same article gives advice on how to draft certificates so as to ensure the validity of their contents and prevent forgery.

D. Notes of Guidance for Importers and Exporters

In order to avoid any misunderstanding of the requirements, it is often advisable to prepare notes of guidance to assist importers and exporters. The notes should set out all the conditions concerning importation measures to be applied before and after importation, as well as during transport and unloading, legal obligations and operational procedures. The attention of exporters
should also be drawn to the relevant International Air Transport Association (IATA) rules for the carriage of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products by air.

The notes of guidance should also set out in detail the health certification requirements to be included in the documents accompanying the consignment to its destination.
GLOSSARY

For the purpose of the Aquatic Code:

Aquaculture

means the farming of aquatic animals with some sort of intervention in the rearing process to enhance production, such as regular stocking, feeding, protection from predators, etc.

Aquaculture establishment

means an establishment in which fish, molluscs or crustaceans for breeding, stocking or marketing are raised or kept.

Aquatic animal health status

means the status of a country, zone or compartment with respect to an aquatic animal disease, according to the criteria listed in the relevant chapter of the Aquatic Code dealing with the disease.

Aquatic Animal Health Services

means the governmental and non-governmental organisations that implement animal health and welfare measures and other standards and recommendations in the Aquatic Code in the territory. The Aquatic Animal Health Services are under the overall control and direction of the Competent Authority. Private sector organisations, veterinarians, aquatic animal health professionals or veterinary paraprofessionals are normally accredited or approved by the Competent Authority to deliver the delegated functions.

Aquatic animal products

means non-viable aquatic animals and products from aquatic animals.

Aquatic animals

means all life stages (including eggs and gametes) of fish, molluscs, crustaceans and amphibians originating from aquaculture establishments or removed from the wild, for farming purposes, for release into the environment, for human consumption or for ornamental purposes.

Aquatic Code

means the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code.

Aquatic Manual

means the OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals.

Basic biosecurity conditions

means a set of conditions applying to a particular disease, and a particular zone or country, required to ensure adequate disease security, such as:

a) the disease, including suspicion of the disease, is compulsorily notifiable to the Competent Authority; and
b) an early detection system is in place within the zone or country; and

c) import requirements to prevent the introduction of disease into the country or zone, as outlined in the Aquatic Code, are in place.

**Bias**

means a tendency of an estimate to differ in a non-random fashion from the true value of a population parameter.

**Biological products**

means:

a) biological reagents for use in the diagnosis of certain diseases;

b) sera for use in the prevention and treatment of certain diseases;

c) inactivated or modified vaccines for use in preventive vaccination against certain diseases;

d) genetic material of infectious agents;

e) endocrine tissues from fish or used in fish.

**Biosecurity plan**

means a plan that identifies significant potential pathways for the introduction and spread of disease in a zone or compartment, and describes the measures which are being, or will be, applied to mitigate the risks to introduce and spread disease, taking into consideration the recommendations in the Aquatic Code. The plan should also describe how these measures are audited, with respect to both their implementation and their targeting, to ensure that the risks are regularly re-assessed and the measures adjusted accordingly.

**Case**

means an individual aquatic animal infected by a pathogenic agent, with or without clinical signs.

**Case definition**

is a set of criteria used to distinguish a case animal or an epidemiological unit from a non-case.

**Certifying official**

means a person authorised by the Competent Authority to sign health certificates for aquatic animals.

**Commodity**

means aquatic animals, aquatic animal products, biological products and pathological material.

**Compartment**

means one or more aquaculture establishments under a common biosecurity management system containing an aquatic animal population with a distinct health status with respect to a specific disease or diseases for which required surveillance and control measures are applied and basic biosecurity conditions are met for the purpose of international trade. Such compartments must be clearly documented by the Competent Authority(ies).
**Competent Authority**

means the *Veterinary Authority* or other Governmental Authority of a Member having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of *aquatic animal* health and welfare measures, international health certification and other standards and recommendations in the *Aquatic Code* in the whole territory.

**Container**

means a transport appliance:

a) of a permanent type and sufficiently strong to enable repeated use;

b) specially constructed to facilitate transport of *aquatic animals* or *aquatic animal products* by one or several means of transport;

c) provided with fittings that make it easy to manipulate, particularly for trans-shipment from one kind of transport *vehicle* to another;

d) constructed in a watertight way, easy to load and unload and capable of being cleansed and disinfected;

e) ensuring safe and optimal transport of *aquatic animals*.

**Contingency plan**

means a documented work plan designed to ensure that all needed actions, requirements and resources are provided in order to eradicate or bring under control *outbreaks* of specified *diseases* of *aquatic animals*.

**Diagnosis**

means determination of the nature of a *disease*.

**Disease**

means clinical or non clinical *infection* with one or more of the aetiological agents of the *diseases* referred to in the *Aquatic Code*.

**Disinfectants**

means chemical compounds capable of destroying pathogenic microorganisms or inhibiting their growth or survival ability.

**Disinfection**

means the application, after thorough cleansing, of procedures intended to destroy the infectious or parasitic agents of *diseases* of *aquatic animals*, including *zoonoses*; this applies to *aquaculture establishments* (i.e. hatcheries, fish farms, oyster farms, shrimp farms, nurseries, etc.), *vehicles*, and different equipment/objects that may have been directly or indirectly contaminated.
Early detection system

means an efficient system for ensuring the rapid recognition of signs that are suspicious of a listed disease, or an emerging disease situation, or unexplained mortality, in aquatic animals in an aquaculture establishment or in the wild, and the rapid communication of the event to the Competent Authority, with the aim of activating diagnostic investigation by the Aquatic Animal Health Services with minimal delay. Such a system will include the following characteristics:

a) broad awareness, e.g. among the personnel employed at aquaculture establishments or involved in processing, of the characteristic signs of the listed diseases and emerging diseases;

b) veterinarians or aquatic animal health professionals trained in recognising and reporting suspicions of disease occurrence;

c) ability of the Aquatic Animal Health Services to undertake rapid and effective disease investigation based on a national chain of command;

d) access by the Aquatic Animal Health Services to laboratories with the facilities for diagnosing and differentiating listed diseases and emerging diseases;

e) the legal obligation of private veterinarians or aquatic animal health professionals to report suspicions of disease occurrence to the Competent Authority.

Egg

means a viable fertilised ovum of an aquatic animal. ‘Green eggs’ means newly fertilised ova of fish. ‘Eyed eggs’ means eggs of fish where the eyes of the embryo are visible and that the eggs may be transported.

Emerging disease

means a newly recognised infection resulting from the evolution or change of an existing pathogenic agent, a known infection spreading to a new geographic area or population, or a previously unrecognised pathogenic agent or a disease diagnosed for the first time and which has a significant impact on aquatic animal or public health.

Epidemiological unit

means a group of animals that share approximately the same risk of exposure to a pathogenic agent with a defined location. This may be because they share a common aquatic environment (e.g. fish in a pond, caged fish in a lake), or because management practices make it likely that a pathogenic agent in one group of animals would quickly spread to other animals (e.g. all the ponds on a farm, all the ponds in a village system).

Eviscerated fish

means fish from which internal organs, excluding the brain and gills, have been removed.

Exporting country

means a country from which aquatic animals or aquatic animal products, biological products or pathological material are sent to a destination in another country.

Fallowing

means, for disease management purposes, an operation where an aquaculture establishment is emptied of aquatic animals susceptible to a disease of concern or known to be capable of transferring the pathogenic agent, and, where feasible, of the carrying water. For aquatic animals
of unknown susceptibility and those agreed not to be capable of acting as carriers of a disease of concern, decisions on fallowing should be based on a risk assessment.

**Feed**

means any material (single or multiple), whether processed, semi-processed or raw that is intended to be fed directly to aquatic animals.

**Feed ingredient**

means a component, part or constituent of any combination or mixture making up a feed, including feed additives, whether or not it has a nutritional value in the animal’s diet. Ingredients may be of terrestrial or aquatic, plant or animal origin and may be organic or inorganic substances.

**Free compartment**

means a compartment that fulfils the requirements for self-declaration of freedom from disease with respect to the disease(s) under consideration, according to the relevant chapter(s) in the Aquatic Code.

**Free country**

means a country that fulfils the requirements for self-declaration of freedom from disease with respect to the disease(s) under consideration according to the relevant chapter(s) in the Aquatic Code.

**Free zone**

means a zone that fulfils the requirements for self-declaration of freedom from disease with respect to the disease(s) under consideration according to the relevant chapter(s) in the Aquatic Code.

**Frontier post**

means any international airport or any port, railway station or road post open to international trade.

**Gametes**

means the sperm or unfertilised eggs of aquatic animals that are held or transported separately prior to fertilisation.

**Hazard**

means a biological, chemical or physical agent in, or a condition of, an aquatic animal or aquatic animal product with the potential to cause an adverse effect on aquatic animal health or public health.

**Hazard identification**

means the process of identifying the pathogenic agent(s) that could potentially be introduced in the commodity considered for importation.

**Headquarters**

means the Permanent Secretariat of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), located at:
Importing country

means a country that is the final destination to which aquatic animals, aquatic animal products, biological products or pathological material are sent.

Incidence

means the number of new outbreaks of disease within a specified period of time in a defined aquatic animal population.

Infected zone

means a zone in which a disease has been diagnosed.

Infection

means the presence of a multiplying or otherwise developing or latent pathogenic agent in a host. This term is understood to include infestation where the pathogenic agent is a parasite in or on a host.

Infective period

means the longest period during which an affected aquatic animal can be a source of infection.

International aquatic animal health certificate

means a certificate, issued in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 5.10., describing the aquatic animal health and/or public health requirements that should be fulfilled prior to export of commodity.

International trade

means import, export or transit of aquatic animals, aquatic animal products, biological products and pathological material.

Live feed

means live farmed or wild caught animals and algae used as feed for aquatic animals. Live feed is often fed to aquatic animal species at an early life-stage and to aquatic animal species that have been cultured for a relatively short time.

Meal

means a product derived from an aquatic animal that has been ground and heat processed to reduce the moisture content to less than 10%.

Notification

means the procedure by which:

a) the Veterinary Authority informs the Headquarters,
b) the Headquarters inform Veterinary Authorities of Members
of the occurrence of a disease, according to the provisions of Section 1. of the Aquatic Code.

**OIE listed diseases**

means diseases that are referred to in Chapter 1.3. of the Aquatic Code. (Synonym: diseases listed by the OIE.)

**Outbreak**

means an occurrence of one or more cases in an epidemiological unit.

**Pathogenic agent**

means an organism that causes or contributes to the development of a disease referred to in the Aquatic Code.

**Pathological material**

means samples obtained from live or dead aquatic animals, containing or suspected of containing pathogenic agents, to be sent to a laboratory.

**Prevalence**

means the total number of infected aquatic animals expressed as a percentage of the total number of aquatic animals in a given aquatic animal population at one specific time.

**Probability sampling**

means a sampling strategy in which every unit has a known non-zero probability of inclusion in the sample.

**Protection zone**

means a zone established to protect the health status of aquatic animals in a free country or free zone, from those in a country or zone of a different aquatic animal health status, using measures based on the epidemiology of the disease under consideration to prevent spread of the pathogenic agent into a free country or free zone. These measures may include, but are not limited to, vaccination, movement control and an intensified degree of surveillance.

**Quarantine**

means maintaining a group of aquatic animals in isolation with no direct or indirect contact with other aquatic animals, in order to undergo observation for a specified length of time and, if appropriate, testing and treatment, including proper treatment of the effluent waters.

**Risk**

means the likelihood of the occurrence and the likely magnitude of the biological and economic consequences of an adverse event or effect to animal or human health.

**Risk analysis**

means the complete process composed of hazard identification, risk assessment, risk management and risk communication.

**Risk assessment**

means the evaluation of the likelihood and the biological and economic consequences of entry, establishment and spread of a hazard within the territory of an importing country.
Risk communication

is the interactive exchange of information and opinions throughout the risk analysis process concerning risk, risk-related factors and risk perceptions among risk assessors, risk managers, risk communicators, the general public and other interested parties.

Risk management

means the process of identifying, selecting and implementing measures that can be applied to reduce the level of risk.

Sanitary measure

means a measure, such as those described in various chapters of the Aquatic Code, destined to protect aquatic animal or human health or life within the territory of the OIE Member from risks arising from the entry, establishment and/or spread of a hazard.

Self-declaration of freedom from disease

means declaration by the Competent Authority of the country concerned that the country, zone or compartment is free from a listed disease based on implementation of the provisions of the Aquatic Code and the Aquatic Manual. The Veterinary Authority of the country may wish to transmit this information to the OIE Headquarters, which may publish the information.

Sensitivity

means the proportion of true positive tests given in a diagnostic test, i.e. the number of true positive results divided by the number of true positive and false negative results.

Specificity

means the probability that absence of infection will be correctly identified by a diagnostic test, i.e. the number of true negative results divided by the number of true negative and false positive results.

Stamping-out policy

means the carrying out under the authority of the Competent Authority, on confirmation of a disease, of preventive aquatic animal health measures, consisting of killing the aquatic animals that are affected, those suspected of being affected in the population and those in other populations that have been exposed to infection by direct or indirect contact of a kind likely to cause the transmission of the pathogenic agent. All these aquatic animals, vaccinated or unvaccinated, on an infected site should be killed and the carcasses destroyed by burning or burial, or by any other method that will eliminate the spread of infection through the carcasses or products of the aquatic animals destroyed.

This policy should be accompanied by cleansing and disinfection procedures as defined in the Aquatic Code. Follow up should be for an appropriate period determined by risk assessment.

Study population

means the population from which surveillance data are derived. This may be the same as the target population or a subset of it.

Subpopulation

means a distinct part of a population identifiable according to specific common aquatic animal health characteristics.
Surveillance

means a systematic series of investigations of a given population of aquatic animals to detect the occurrence of disease for control purposes, and which may involve testing samples of a population.

Susceptible species

means a species of aquatic animal in which infection has been demonstrated by natural cases or by experimental exposures to the pathogenic agent that mimics the natural pathways for infection. Each disease chapter in the Aquatic Code and the Aquatic Manual contains a list of currently known susceptible species.

Target population

means, for the purposes of demonstrating freedom from infection, the population of interest, usually made up of all aquatic animals of species susceptible to a specified pathogenic agent in a defined country, zone or aquaculture establishment.

Targeted surveillance

means surveillance targeted at a specific disease or infection.

Territory

means land and water under jurisdiction of a country.

Transit country

means a country through which aquatic animals, aquatic animal products, biological products or pathological material destined for an importing country, are transported or in which a stopover is made at a frontier post.

Unit

means individually identifiable elements. This is a generic concept used to describe, for example, the members of a population, or the elements selected when sampling. In these contexts, examples of units include individual animals, ponds, nets, cages, farms, villages, districts, etc.

Vehicle

means any method of transport by land, air or water.

Veterinarian

means a person registered or licensed by the relevant veterinary statutory body of a country to practise veterinary medicine/science in that country.

Veterinary Authority

means the Governmental Authority of an OIE Member, comprising veterinarians, other professionals and para-professionals, having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of aquatic animal health and welfare measures, international aquatic animal health certification and other standards and recommendations in the Aquatic Code in the whole territory.

Veterinary statutory body

means an autonomous authority regulating veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals.
**Water catchment**

means an area or basin of land bounded by natural features such as hills or mountains, into which all run-off water flows.

**Zone**

means a portion of one or more countries comprising:

a) an entire *water catchment* from the source of a waterway to the estuary or lake, or
b) more than one *water catchment*, or
c) part of a *water catchment* from the source of a waterway to a barrier that prevents the introduction of a specific *disease or diseases*, or
d) part of a coastal area with a precise geographical delimitation, or
e) an estuary with a precise geographical delimitation,

that consists of a contiguous hydrological system with a distinct health status with respect to a specific *disease or diseases*. The *zones* must be clearly documented (e.g. by a map or other precise locators such as GPS co-ordinates) by the *Competent Authority(ies)*.
SECTION 1.

AQUATIC ANIMAL DISEASE DIAGNOSIS, SURVEILLANCE AND NOTIFICATION

CHAPTER 1.1.

NOTIFICATION OF DISEASES AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Article 1.1.1.

For the purposes of the Aquatic Code and in terms of Articles 5, 9 and 10 of the Statutes, every Member of the OIE shall recognise the right of the Headquarters to communicate directly with the Veterinary Authority of its territory or territories.

All notifications and all information sent by the OIE to the Veterinary Authority shall be regarded as having been sent to the country concerned and all notifications and all information sent to the OIE by the Veterinary Authority shall be regarded as having been sent by the country concerned.

Article 1.1.2.

1. Countries shall make available to other countries, through the OIE, whatever information is necessary to minimise the spread of aquatic animal diseases and their aetiological agents and to assist in achieving better world-wide control of these diseases.

2. To achieve this, countries shall comply with the reporting requirements specified in Article 1.1.3.

3. To assist in the clear and concise exchange of information, reports shall conform as closely as possible to the current OIE disease reporting format.

4. Recognising that scientific knowledge concerning the relationship between pathogenic agents and diseases is constantly evolving and that the presence of an infectious agent does not necessarily imply the presence of a disease, countries shall ensure through their reports that they comply with the spirit and intention of paragraph 1 above. This means that the presence of an infectious agent, even in the absence of clinical disease, should be reported.

5. In addition to notifying findings in accordance with Article 1.1.3., countries shall also provide information on the measures taken to prevent the spread of diseases, including possible quarantine measures and restrictions on the movement of aquatic animals, aquatic animal products, biological products and other miscellaneous objects that could by their nature be responsible for transmission of disease. In the case of diseases transmitted by vectors, the measures taken against such vectors shall also be described.
Chapter 1.1. - Notification of diseases and epidemiological information

Article 1.1.3.

The Veterinary Authority shall send to the OIE:

1. Immediate notification (within 24 hours), by fax or electronically, of any of the following events:
   a) for diseases listed by the OIE, the first occurrence or re-occurrence of a disease in a country or zone or compartment of the country, if the country or zone or compartment of the country was previously considered to be free of that particular disease; or
   b) for diseases listed by the OIE, if the disease has occurred in a new host species; or
   c) for diseases listed by the OIE, if the disease has occurred with a new pathogen strain or in a new disease manifestation; or
   d) for diseases listed by the OIE, if the disease has a newly recognised zoonotic potential; or
   e) for diseases not listed by the OIE, if there is a case of an emerging disease or pathogenic agent should there be findings that are of epidemiological significance to other countries.

In deciding whether findings justify immediate notification (within 24 hours), countries must ensure that they comply with the obligations of Chapters 5.1. and 5.2. of the Aquatic Code (especially Article 5.1.1.), to report developments that may have implications for international trade.

2. Weekly reports by fax or electronically subsequent to a notification under paragraph 1 above, to provide further information on the evolution of an incident that justified immediate notification. These reports should continue until the disease has been eradicated or the situation has become sufficiently stable that six-monthly reporting under point 3 will satisfy the obligation of the country to the OIE; in each case, a final report on the incident should be submitted.

3. Six-monthly reports on the absence or presence and evolution of diseases listed by the OIE and findings of epidemiological significance to other countries with respect to diseases that are not listed.

4. An annual questionnaire concerning any other information of significance to other countries.

Article 1.1.4.

1. The Veterinary Authority of a country in which an infected zone or compartment was located shall inform the Headquarters when this zone or compartment is free from the disease.

2. An infected zone or compartment of a disease shall be considered as such until a period exceeding the known infective period for the disease in question has elapsed after the last reported outbreak and when full prophylactic and appropriate sanitary measures have been applied to prevent possible reappearance or spread of the disease. These measures will be found in detail in the various chapters of Section 8. to Section 11. of the Aquatic Code.

3. A country may again declare itself free (i.e. self-declaration of freedom from disease) from a specific disease when it complies with all the conditions given in the corresponding chapters of Section 8. to Section 11. of the Aquatic Code.

4. The Veterinary Authority of a country in which one or more free zones or compartments have been established may wish to inform the Headquarters, giving necessary particulars of the zones or compartments and describing their location (e.g. by a map or other precise locators such as GPS [Global Positioning System] co-ordinates). The Headquarters may publish this information.
Article 1.1.5.

1. The Headquarters shall send by fax or electronically to the Veterinary Authority concerned, all notifications received as provided in Articles 1.1.2.-1.1.4.

2. The Headquarters shall notify Members through Disease Information of any event of exceptional epidemiological significance reported by a Member.
### CHAPTER 1.2.

**CRITERIA FOR LISTING AQUATIC ANIMAL DISEASES**

Article 1.2.1.

Criteria for listing an aquatic animal disease

*Diseases* proposed for listing should meet all of the relevant parameters set for each of the criteria, namely A. Consequences, B. Spread and C. Diagnosis. Therefore, to be listed, a disease should have the following characteristics: 1 or 2 or 3; and 4 or 5; and 6; and 7; and 8. Such proposals should be accompanied by a *case definition* for the disease under consideration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Criteria (A-C)</th>
<th>Parameters that support a listing</th>
<th>Explanatory notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td></td>
<td>The disease has been shown to cause significant production losses at a national or multinational (zonal or regional) level.</td>
<td>There is a general pattern that the disease will lead to losses in susceptible species, and that morbidity or mortality are related primarily to the agent and not management or environmental factors. (Morbidity includes, for example, loss of production due to spawning failure.) The direct economic impact of the disease is linked to its morbidity, mortality and effect on product quality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Or</td>
<td>The disease has been shown to or scientific evidence indicates that it is likely to negatively affect wild aquatic animal populations that are an asset worth protecting for economic or ecological reasons.</td>
<td>Wild aquatic animal populations can be populations that are commercially harvested (wild fisheries) and hence an economic asset. However, the asset could be ecological or environmental in nature, for example, if the population consists of an endangered species of aquatic animal or an aquatic animal potentially endangered by the disease.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Or</td>
<td>The agent is of public health concern.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>And B. Spread</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Infectious aetiology of the disease is proven.</td>
<td>Infectious diseases of unknown aetiology can have equally high-risk implications as those diseases where the infectious aetiology is proven. Whilst disease occurrence data are gathered, research should be conducted to elucidate the aetiology of the disease and the results be made available within a reasonable period of time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Or</td>
<td>An infectious agent is strongly associated with the disease, but the aetiology is not yet known.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Article 1.2.2.

**Criteria for listing an emerging aquatic animal disease**

A newly recognised *disease* or a known *disease* behaving differently may be proposed for listing if it meets the criteria 1 or 2, and 3 or 4. Such proposals should be accompanied by a *case definition* for the *disease* under consideration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Criteria (A-C)</th>
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<th>Explanatory notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>And</td>
<td>Potential for international spread, including via live animals, their products or fomites.</td>
<td>International trade in aquatic animal species susceptible to the disease exists or is likely to develop and, under international trading practices, the entry and establishment of the disease is a likely risk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>And</td>
<td>Several countries or countries with zones may be declared free of the disease based on the general surveillance principles outlined in Chapter 1.4. of the <em>Aquatice Code</em>.</td>
<td>Free countries/zones could still be protected. Listing of diseases that are ubiquitous or extremely widespread would render notification unfeasible. However, individual countries that run a control programme on such a disease can propose its listing provided they have undertaken a scientific evaluation to support their request. Examples may be the protection of broodstock from widespread diseases, or the protection of the last remaining free zones from a widespread disease.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td></td>
<td>A repeatable and robust means of detection/diagnosis exists.</td>
<td>A diagnostic test should be widely available and preferably has undergone a formal standardisation and validation process using routine field samples (See <em>Aquatic Manual</em>.) or a robust case definition is available to clearly identify cases and allow them to be distinguished from other pathologies.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Chapter 1.2 - Criteria for listing aquatic animal diseases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Parameters that support a listing</th>
<th>Explanatory notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>An infectious agent is strongly associated with the disease, but the aetiology is not yet known.</td>
<td>Infectious diseases of unknown aetiology can have equally high-risk implications as those diseases where the infectious aetiology is proven. Whilst disease occurrence data are gathered, research should be conducted to elucidate the aetiology of the disease and the results be made available within a reasonable period of time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>The agent is of public health concern.</td>
<td>And</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Significant spread in naive populations of wild or cultured aquatic animals.</td>
<td>The disease has exhibited significant morbidity, mortality or production losses at a zone, compartment or country level. ‘Naive’ means animals previously unexposed either to a new disease or a new form of a known disease.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1 ‘Susceptible’ is not restricted to ‘susceptible to clinical disease’ but includes ‘susceptible to covert infections’.
CHAPTER 1.3.

DISEASES LISTED BY THE OIE

Preamble: The following diseases are listed by the OIE according to the criteria for listing an aquatic animal disease (see Article 1.2.1.) or criteria for listing an emerging aquatic animal disease (see Article 1.2.2.).

In case of modifications of this list of aquatic animal diseases adopted by the General Assembly, the new list comes into force on 1 January of the following year.

Article 1.3.1.

The following diseases of fish are listed by the OIE:
- Epizootic haematopoietic necrosis
- Epizootic ulcerative syndrome
- Gyrodactylosis (Gyrodactus salarii)
- Infectious haematopoietic necrosis
- Infectious salmon anaemia
- Koi herpesvirus disease
- Red sea bream iridoviral disease
- Spring viraemia of carp
- Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia.

Article 1.3.2.

The following diseases of molluscs are listed by the OIE:
- Infection with abalone herpes-like virus
- Infection with Bonamia ostreae
- Infection with Bonamia exitiala
- Infection with Marteilia refringens
- Infection with Perkinsus marinus
- Infection with Perkinsus olseni
- Infection with Xenohaliotis californiensis.

Article 1.3.3.

The following diseases of crustaceans are listed by the OIE:
- Crayfish plague (Aphanomyces astaci)
- Infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis
- Infectious myonecrosis
- Necrotising hepatopancreatitis
- Taura syndrome
- White spot disease
- White tail disease
- Yellow head disease.

Article 1.3.4.

The following diseases of amphibians are listed by the OIE:
- Infection with Batrachoerythrium dendrobatidis
- Infection with ranavirus.
CHAPTER 1.4.

AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE

Article 1.4.1.

Introduction and objectives

1. Surveillance activities may be performed to achieve any of the following objectives:
   a) demonstrating the absence of disease;
   b) identifying events requiring notification as listed in Article 1.1.3. of the Aquatic Code;
   c) determining the occurrence or distribution of endemic disease, including changes to their incidence or prevalence (or its contributing factors), in order to:
      i) provide information for domestic disease control programmes,
      ii) provide relevant disease occurrence information to be used by trading partners for qualitative and quantitative risk assessment.

The type of surveillance applied depends on the desired outputs needed to support decision-making. Surveillance data determine the quality of disease status reports and should satisfy information requirements for accurate risk analysis both for international trade as well as for national decision-making. Surveillance of endemic diseases provides valuable information for day-to-day health management and can act as the foundation for detecting outbreaks of exotic disease and demonstrating specific disease freedom.

Surveillance systems described in this chapter should also be used to generate information for decisions on prescribed disease prevention and control programmes. However, the actual strategies for prevention and control are beyond the scope of this chapter on surveillance recommendations.

Having a suitable management strategy to respond to surveillance data is of utmost importance for the successful implementation of surveillance systems.

2. Essential prerequisites to enable a Member to provide information for the evaluation of its animal health status are:
   a) that the particular Member complies with the provisions of Chapter 3.1. of the Aquatic Code on the quality of the Aquatic Animal Health Services,
   b) that, where possible, surveillance data be complemented by other sources of information (e.g. scientific publications, research data, documented field observations and other non-survey data);
   c) that transparency in the planning and execution of surveillance activities and the analysis and availability of data and information, be maintained at all times, in accordance with Chapter 1.1. of the Aquatic Code.

3. The following recommendations may be applied to all diseases, their agents, and susceptible species as listed in the Aquatic Manual, and are designed to assist with the development of surveillance methodologies. Where possible, the development of surveillance systems using these recommendations should be based on the relevant information in the individual disease chapters in the Aquatic Manual. These recommendations are also applicable to non OIE listed diseases that
may be of importance to a country or region, such as new or emerging diseases. There is sometimes a perception that surveillance can only be conducted using sophisticated methodologies. However, an effective surveillance system can also be developed by making use of gross observations and already available resources.

4. It would be impractical to try to develop a surveillance system for all the known aquatic animal diseases for which a country has susceptible species. Therefore prioritising the diseases to be included in a surveillance system should be conducted considering:
   a) the needs to provide assurance of disease status for trade purposes;
   b) the resources of the country;
   c) the financial impact or threat posed by the different diseases;
   d) the importance of an industry-wide disease control programme within a country or region.

5. More detailed information in each disease chapter (where it exists) of the Aquatic Manual may be used to further refine the general approaches described in this chapter. Where detailed disease specific information is not available, surveillance can also be conducted following the recommendations in this chapter. Access to epidemiological expertise would be invaluable for the design, implementation of the system and interpretation of results derived from a surveillance system.

Article 1.4.2.

Principles of surveillance

1. Surveillance may be based on many different data sources and can be classified in a number of ways, including:
   a) the means by which data are collected (targeted versus non-targeted);
   b) the disease focus (pathogen-specific versus general surveillance); and
   c) the way in which units for observation are selected (surveys versus non-random data sources).

2. Surveillance activities include:
   a) population-based surveys, such as:
      i) systematic sampling at slaughter;
      ii) random surveys;
   b) non-random surveillance activities, such as:
      i) disease reporting or notifications;
      ii) control programmes/health schemes;
      iii) targeted testing/screening;
      iv) post-mortem inspections;
      v) laboratory investigation records;
      vi) biological specimen banks;
      vii) sentinel units;
      viii) field observations;
      ix) farm production records.
3. In addition, *surveillance* data should be supported by related information, such as:
   a) data on the epidemiology of the *disease*, including environmental, and host and wild reservoir population distributions;
   b) data on farmed and wild animal movements and trading patterns for *aquatic animals* and *aquatic animal products*, including potential for exposure to populations of wild *aquatic animals*, water sources or other contacts;
   c) national animal health regulations, including information on compliance with them and their effectiveness;
   d) history of imports of potentially infected material; and
   e) biosecurity measures in place.
4. The sources of evidence should be fully described. A survey should include a description of the sampling strategy used for the selection of units for testing. For non-random data sources, a full description of the system is required including the source(s) of the data, when the data were collected, and a consideration of any *biases* that may be inherent in the system.

**Article 1.4.3.**

**Critical elements of surveillance**

In assessing the quality of a *surveillance* system, the following critical elements need to be addressed.

1. **Populations**
   *Surveillance* should be carried out in such a way as to take into account all animal species susceptible to the *disease* in a country, zone or compartment. The *surveillance* activity may cover all individuals in the population or part of them. Estimates of total population at risk for each species are required. When *surveillance* is conducted only on a subpopulation, care should be taken regarding the inferences made from the results.
   
   For *OIE listed diseases*, definitions of appropriate populations should be based on the specific recommendations of the *disease* chapters of the *Aquatic Manual*.

2. **Epidemiological unit**
   The relevant *epidemiological unit* for the *surveillance* system should be defined and documented to ensure that it is representative of the population or targeted *subpopulations* that would generate the most useful inferences about *disease* patterns. Therefore, it should be chosen taking into account factors such as carriers, reservoirs, vectors, immune status, genetic resistance and age, sex, and other host criteria.

3. **Clustering**
   *Disease* in a country, zone or compartment usually clusters rather than being uniformly or randomly distributed through a population. Clustering of *disease* may occur in space (e.g. tank, pond, farm, or compartment), time (e.g. season), or animal subgroups (e.g. age, physiological condition). Clustering should be taken into account in the design of *surveillance* activities and interpretation of *surveillance* data.

4. **Case and outbreak definitions**
   Clear and unambiguous *case definitions* and outbreak definitions should be developed and documented for each *disease* under *surveillance*, using, where they exist, the standards in this chapter and the *Aquatic Manual*. 

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5. **Analytical methodologies**

_Surveillance_ data should be analysed using appropriate methodologies, and at the appropriate organisational levels to facilitate effective decision-making, whether it be planning interventions or demonstrating status.

Methodologies for the analysis of _surveillance_ data should be flexible to deal with the complexity of real life situations. No single method is applicable in all cases. Different methodologies may be needed to accommodate the relevant pathogens, varying production and _surveillance_ systems, and types, quality, and amounts of data/information available.

The methodology used should be based on the best available information that is in accord with current scientific thinking. The methodology should be in accordance with this chapter and fully documented, and supported by reference to the scientific literature and other sources, including expert opinion. Sophisticated mathematical or statistical analyses should only be carried out when justified by the proper amount and quality of field data.

Consistency in the application of different methodologies should be encouraged and transparency is essential in order to ensure fairness and rationality, consistency in decision-making and ease of understanding. The uncertainties, assumptions made, and the effect of these on the final conclusions should be documented.

6. **Testing**

_Surveillance_ involves the detection of _disease_ by the use of appropriate _case definitions_ based on the results of one or more tests for evidence of _disease_ status. In this context, a test may range from detailed laboratory examinations to field observations and the analysis of production records. The performance of a test at the population level (including field observations) may be described in terms of its _sensitivity_ and _specificity_ and predictive values. Imperfect _sensitivity_ and/or _specificity_ will have an impact on the conclusions from _surveillance_. Therefore, these parameters should be taken into account in the design of _surveillance_ systems and analysis of _surveillance_ data as described in this chapter.

Although not determined for many _aquatic animal diseases_, _sensitivity_ and _specificity_ should be estimated as best as possible for a specific testing situation. Alternatively, where values for _sensitivity_ and/or _specificity_ for a particular test and testing situation are estimated in the _disease_ chapter in the _Aquatic Manual_, these values may be used as a guide.

Samples from a number of _aquatic animals_ or units may be pooled and subjected to a testing protocol. The results should be interpreted using _sensitivity_ and _specificity_ values that have been determined or estimated for that particular pool size and testing procedure.

7. **Quality assurance**

_Surveillance_ systems should incorporate the principles of quality assurance and be subjected to periodic auditing to ensure that all components of the system function and provide verifiable documentation of procedures and basic checks to detect significant deviations of procedures from those documented in the design.

8. **Validation**

Results from animal health _surveillance_ systems are subject to one or more potential _biases_. When assessing the results, care should be taken to identify potential _biases_ that can inadvertently lead to an over-estimate or an under-estimate of the parameters of interest.

9. **Data collection and management**

The success of a _surveillance_ system is dependent on a reliable process for data collection and management. The process may be based on paper records or computerised. Even where data are
collected for non-survey purposes (e.g. during disease control interventions, inspections for movement control or during disease eradication schemes), the consistency and quality of data collection and event reporting in a format that facilitates analysis, is critical. Factors influencing the quality of collected data include:

a) the distribution of, and communication between, those involved in generating and transferring data from the field to a centralised location;

b) motivation of the people involved in the surveillance system;

c) the ability of the data processing system to detect missing, inconsistent or inaccurate data, and to address these problems;

d) maintenance of disaggregated data rather than the compilation of summary data;

e) minimisation of transcription errors during data processing and communication.

Article 1.4.4.

Population-based surveys

In addition to the principles for surveillance discussed in Article 1.4.6., the following recommendations should be used when planning, implementing and analysing surveys.

1. Types of surveys

Surveys may be conducted on the entire target population (i.e. a census) or on a sample. Periodic or repeated surveys conducted in order to document disease freedom should be done using probability based sampling methods (simple random selection, cluster sampling, stratified sampling, systematic sampling) so that data from the study population can be extrapolated to the target population in a statistically valid manner. Non-probability based sampling methods (convenience, expert choice, quota) can also be used. Recognising the inherent impracticalities in sampling from some aquatic animal populations, non-probability based sampling could be used when biases are recognised and used to optimise detection.

The sources of information should be fully described and should include a detailed description of the sampling strategy used for the selection of units for testing. Also, consideration should be made of any biases that may be inherent in the survey design.

2. Survey design

The population of epidemiological units should first be clearly defined; hereafter sampling units appropriate for each stage, depending on the design of the survey, should be defined.

The design of the survey will depend on the size and structure of the population being studied, the epidemiology of the disease and the resources available.

3. Sampling

The objective of sampling from a population is to select a subset of units from the population that is representative of the population with respect to the object of the study such as the presence or absence of disease. Sampling should be carried out in such a way as to provide the best likelihood that the sample will be representative of the population, within the practical constraints imposed by different environments and production systems. In order to detect the presence of a disease in a population of unknown disease status, sampling methods that optimise the detection of disease can be used. In such cases, care should be taken regarding the inferences made from the results.
4. Sampling methods

When selecting epidemiological units from within a population the objectives of the surveillance system should be considered. In general, probability sampling (e.g. simple random selection) is preferable. When this is not possible, sampling should provide the best practical chance of generating optimal inferences about disease patterns in the target population.

In any case, the sampling method used at all stages should be fully documented and justified.

5. Sample size

In general, surveys are conducted either to demonstrate the presence or absence of a factor (e.g. disease) or to estimate a parameter (e.g. the prevalence of disease). The method used to calculate sample size for surveys depends on the purpose of the survey, the expected prevalence (also referred to as the threshold prevalence), the level of confidence desired of the survey results and the performance (e.g. sensitivity and specificity estimates) of the tests used.

Article 1.4.5.

Non-random data sources used in surveillance

Surveillance systems routinely use non-random data, either alone or in combination with surveys.

1. Common non-random surveillance data sources

A wide variety of non-random surveillance data sources may be available. These vary in their primary purpose and the type of surveillance information they are able to provide. Some surveillance systems are primarily established as early detection systems, but may also provide valuable information to demonstrate freedom from disease. Other systems provide cross-sectional information suitable for prevalence estimation, either once or repeatedly, while yet others provide continuous information, suitable for the estimate of incidence data (e.g. disease reporting systems, sentinel sites, testing schemes).

a) Disease reporting or notification system

Data derived from disease reporting systems can be used in combination with other data sources to substantiate claims of animal health status, to generate data for risk analysis, or for early detection. The first step of a disease reporting or notification system is often based on the observation of abnormalities (e.g. clinical signs, reduced growth, elevated mortality rates, behavioural changes, etc.), which can provide important information about the occurrence of endemic, exotic or new diseases. Effective laboratory support is, however, an important component of most reporting systems. Reporting systems relying on laboratory confirmation of suspect clinical cases should use tests that have a high specificity. Reports should be released by the laboratory in a timely manner, with the amount of time from disease detection to report generation minimised.
b) Control programmes/health schemes

Animal disease control programmes or health schemes, while focusing on the control or eradication of specific diseases, should be planned and structured in such a manner as to generate data that are scientifically verifiable and contribute to surveillance.

c) Targeted sampling

This may involve sampling targeted to selected sections of the population (subpopulations), in which disease is more likely to be introduced or found. Examples include selecting culled and dead animals for testing, animals exhibiting clinical signs, animals located in a defined geographical area and specific age or commodity group.

d) Post-harvest inspections

Inspections of aquatic animal slaughter premises or processing plants may provide valuable surveillance data provided diseased aquatic animals survive to slaughter. Post-harvest inspections are likely to provide good coverage only for particular age groups and geographical areas. Post-harvest surveillance data are subject to obvious biases in relation to target population and study population (e.g. only animals of a particular class and age may be slaughtered for human consumption in significant numbers). Such biases need to be recognised when analysing surveillance data.

Both for traceback in the event of detection of disease and for analysis of spatial and population-level coverage, there should be, if possible, an effective identification system that relates each animal in the slaughter premises/processing plant to its locality of origin.

e) Laboratory investigation records

Analysis of laboratory investigation records may provide useful surveillance information. The coverage of the system will be increased if analysis is able to incorporate records from national, accredited, university and private sector laboratories. Valid analysis of data from different laboratories depends on the existence of standardised diagnostic procedures and standardised methods for interpretation and data recording. If available, the method listed in the Aquatic Manual in relation to the purpose of testing should be used. As with post-harvest inspections, there needs to be a mechanism to relate specimens to the farm of origin. It should be recognised that laboratory submissions may not accurately reflect the disease situation on the farm.

f) Biological specimen banks

Specimen banks consist of stored specimens, gathered either through representative sampling or opportunistic collection or both. Specimen banks may contribute to retrospective studies, including providing support for claims of historical freedom from disease, and may allow certain studies to be conducted more quickly and at lower cost than alternative approaches.

g) Sentinel units

Sentinel units/sites involve the identification and regular testing of one or more of animals of known health/exposure status in a specified geographical location to detect the occurrence of disease. They are particularly useful for surveillance of diseases with a strong spatial component, such as vector-borne diseases. Sentinel units provide the opportunity to target surveillance depending on the likelihood of disease (related to vector habitats and host population distribution), cost and other practical constraints. Sentinel units may provide evidence of freedom from disease, or provide data on prevalence and incidence as well as the distribution of disease. Cohabitation of sentinel units (preferably of the most susceptible species and life stage) with a susceptible population should be considered for testing disease in populations of valuable animals, the lethal sampling of which may be unacceptable (e.g.
ornamental fish) or in animal subpopulations where sampling techniques are incapable of detecting the presence of disease or infection (e.g. where vaccination means that serological tests are inapplicable).

h) Field observations

Clinical observations of epidemiological units in the field are an important source of surveillance data. The sensitivity and/or specificity of field observations may be relatively low, but these can be more easily determined and controlled if a clear, unambiguous and easy to apply standardised case definition is applied. Education of potential field observers in application of the case definition and reporting is an important component. Ideally, both the number of positive observations and the total number of observations should be recorded.

i) Farm production records

Systematic analysis of farm production records may be used as an indicator of the presence or absence of disease at the population level. If production records are accurate and consistently maintained, the sensitivity of this approach may be quite high (depending on the disease), but the specificity is often quite low.

2. Critical elements for non-random data used in surveillance

There are a number of critical factors that should be taken into account when using non-random surveillance data such as coverage of the population, duplication of data, and sensitivity and specificity of tests that may give rise to difficulties in the interpretation of data. Surveillance data from non-random data sources may increase the level of confidence or be able to detect a lower level of prevalence with the same level of confidence compared to surveys.

3. Analytical methodologies

Different scientifically valid methodologies may be used for the analysis of non-random surveillance data. This most often requires information on parameters of importance to the surveillance system, such as sensitivity and specificity and prior probabilities of infection, i.e. apparent prevalences (e.g. for predictive value calculations). Where no such data are available, estimates based on expert opinions, gathered and combined using a formal, documented and scientifically valid methodology may be used.

4. Combination of multiple sources of data

The methodology used to combine the evidence from multiple or recurrent (e.g. time series) data sources should be scientifically valid, and fully documented including references to published material.

Surveillance information gathered from the same country, zone or compartment at different times (e.g. repeated annual surveys) may provide cumulative evidence of animal health status. Such evidence gathered over time may be combined to provide an overall level of confidence. However, a single larger survey, or the combination of data collected during the same time period from multiple random or non-random sources, may be able to achieve the same level of confidence in a shorter period of time.

Analysis of surveillance information gathered intermittently or continuously over time should, where possible, incorporate the time of collection of the information to take into account the decreased value of older information. The sensitivity, specificity and completeness of data from each source should also be taken into account for the final overall confidence level estimation.
Pathways to demonstrate freedom from disease

The different paths to declaration of freedom from disease are summarised in the diagram below.

1. Absence of susceptible species

Unless otherwise specified in the relevant disease chapter, a country, zone or compartment may be recognised as being free from disease without applying targeted surveillance if there are no susceptible species (as listed in the relevant chapter of this Aquatic Manual, or in the scientific literature) present in that country, zone or compartment.

2. Historically free

Unless otherwise specified in the relevant disease chapter, a country, zone or compartment may be declared free from disease without formally applying a pathogen-specific surveillance programme when:

a) there has never been a substantiated occurrence of disease reported officially or in the scientific literature (peer reviewed), or

b) disease has not occurred for at least 10 years, provided that the pathogenic agents are likely to produce identifiable clinical signs in observable susceptible animals, and for at least the past 10 years:

c) the basic biosecurity conditions are in place and effectively enforced;

d) no vaccination against the disease has been carried out unless otherwise allowed for in the Aquatic Code;

e) disease is not known to be established in wild aquatic animals within the country or zone intended to be declared free. (A country or zone cannot apply for historical freedom if there
is any evidence of disease in wild aquatic animals. However, specific surveillance in wild aquatic animals is not necessary.)

A country, zone or compartment that was self-declared free on the basis of the absence of susceptible species, but subsequently introduces any of the susceptible species as listed in the Aquatic Manual, may be considered historically free from the disease provided that:

f) the country, zone or compartment of origin was declared free of the disease at the time of introduction;

g) basic biosecurity conditions were introduced prior to the introduction;

h) no vaccination against the disease has been carried out unless otherwise allowed for in the disease-specific chapter of this Aquatic Code.

3. Last occurrence within the previous 10 years/Previously unknown status

Countries, zones or compartments that have achieved eradication (or in which the disease has ceased to occur) within the previous 10 years or where the disease status is unknown, should follow the pathogen-specific surveillance requirements in the Aquatic Manual if they exist. In the absence of disease-specific information to aid the development of a surveillance system, declaration of disease freedom should follow at least 2 surveys per year (for at least 2 consecutive years) to be conducted 3 or more months apart, on the appropriate species, at the appropriate life stage and at times of the year when temperature and season offer the best opportunity to detect the pathogen. Surveys should be designed to provide an overall 95% confidence or greater and with a design prevalence at the animal and higher levels of aggregation (i.e. pond, farm, village, etc.) of 2% or lower (this value may be different for different diseases and may be provided in the disease-specific chapter in the Aquatic Manual). Such surveys should not be based on voluntary submission and should be developed following the recommendations provided in the Aquatic Manual. Survey results will provide sufficient evidence of disease freedom provided that for at least the past 10 years these additional criteria are met:

a) the basic biosecurity conditions are in place and effectively enforced;

b) no vaccination against the disease has been carried out unless otherwise provided in the Aquatic Code;

c) disease is not known to be established in wild aquatic animals within the country or zone intended to be declared free. (A country or zone cannot apply for freedom if there is any evidence of disease in wild aquatic animals. Specific surveillance in wild aquatic animals of susceptible species is necessary to confirm absence.)

Article 1.4.7.

Maintenance of disease free status

A country or zone that has been declared free from disease following the provisions of the Aquatic Code may discontinue pathogen-specific surveillance while maintaining the disease free status provided that:

1. if present, the pathogen is likely to produce identifiable clinical signs in observable susceptible species;

2. the basic biosecurity conditions are in place and effectively enforced;

3. no vaccination against the disease has been carried out unless otherwise provided in the Aquatic Code;
4. where applicable, surveillance has previously demonstrated that disease is not present in populations of wild aquatic animal of susceptible species.

A special case can be made for a disease free compartment in a country or zone not declared disease free, surveillance should be maintained at a level commensurate with the degree of risk and exposure to potential sources of disease is prevented.

Article 1.4.8.

Design of surveillance programmes to demonstrate freedom from disease

A surveillance programme to demonstrate freedom from disease should meet the following requirements in addition to the general requirements for surveillance outlined in this chapter.

Freedom from disease implies the absence of the pathogenic agent in the country, zone or compartment. Scientific methods cannot provide absolute certainty of the absence of disease. Demonstrating freedom from disease involves providing sufficient evidence to demonstrate (to a level of confidence acceptable to Members) that disease with a specified pathogen is not present in a population. In practice, it is not possible to prove (i.e. be 100% confident) that a population is free from disease. Instead, the aim is to provide adequate evidence (to an acceptable level of confidence), that disease, if present, is present in less than a specified proportion of the population (i.e. threshold prevalence).

However, apparent disease at any level in the target population automatically invalidates any freedom from disease claim unless the positive test results are accepted as false positives based on specificity values described in the relevant disease chapter.

The provisions of this Article are based on the principles described above and the following premises:

- in the absence of disease and vaccination, the farmed and wild animal populations would become susceptible over a period of time;
- the pathogenic agents to which these provisions apply are likely to produce identifiable clinical signs in observable susceptible animals;
- to increase the probability of detecting the specific pathogenic agent, the susceptibility of the aquatic animal and the timing of sampling should be under appropriate conditions;
- the Aquatic Animal Health Services will be able to investigate, diagnose and report disease, if present;
- the appropriate diagnostic method as described in the Aquatic Manual be used;
- any claim for the absence of disease over a long period of time in a susceptible population can be substantiated by effective disease investigation and reporting by a Member.

1. Objectives

The objective of this kind of surveillance system is to contribute on an on-going basis evidence to demonstrate freedom from disease in a particular country, zone or compartment with a known confidence and reference to a predetermined design prevalence and diagnostic test characteristics. The level of confidence and the design prevalence will depend on the testing situation, disease and host population characteristics and on the resources available.

A single such survey can contribute evidence adding to an on-going collection of health data. However, single surveys in isolation rarely, if ever, provide sufficient evidence that an aquatic animal disease is absent and should be augmented with on-going targeted evidence collection (e.g.
ongoing *disease* sampling or passive detection capabilities) to substantiate claims of freedom from *disease*.

2. **Population**

The population of *epidemiological units* should be clearly defined. The *target population* consists of all individuals of all *susceptible species* to the *disease* in a country, *zone* or *compartment* to which the *surveillance* results apply. Sometimes components of the *target population* are at higher risk of being the point of introduction for an exotic disease. In these cases, it is advisable to focus *surveillance* efforts on this part of the population, such as farms on a geographical border.

The design of the survey will depend on the size and structure of the population being studied. If the population is relatively small and can be considered to be homogenous with regards to *risk of infection*, a single-stage survey can be used. If different *subpopulations* of the same *aquaculture establishment* do not share water, they may be considered as epidemiologically separate populations.

In larger populations where a sampling frame is not available, or when there is a likelihood of clustering of *disease*, multi-stage sampling is required. In two-stage sampling, at the first stage of sampling, groups of animals (e.g. ponds, farms or villages) are selected. At the second stage, animals are selected for testing from each of the selected groups.

In the case of a complex (e.g. multi-level) population structure, multi-level sampling may be used and the data analysed accordingly.

3. **Sources of evidence**

*Surveillance* data may originate from a number of different sources, including:

a) population-based surveys using one or more tests to detect the aetiological agent or evidence of *infection*;

b) other non-random sources of data, such as:
   i) sentinel sites;
   ii) *disease notifications* and laboratory investigation records;
   iii) academic and other scientific studies;

c) a knowledge of the biology of the agent, including environmental, host population distribution, known geographical distribution, vector distribution and climatic information;

d) history of imports of potentially infected material;

e) biosecurity measures in place;

f) any other sources of information that provide contributory evidence regarding *disease* in the country, *zone* or *compartment*.

The sources of evidence should be fully described. A survey should include a description of the sampling strategy used for the selection of units for testing. For complex *surveillance* systems, a full description of the system is required including consideration of any *biases* that may be inherent in the system. Evidence to support claims of freedom from *disease* can use non-random sources of information provided that, overall, any *biases* introduced subsequently favour the detection.

4. **Statistical methodology**

Analysis of test results from a survey shall be in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and consider the following factors:

a) the survey design;
b) the sensitivity and specificity of the test, or test system;

c) the design prevalence (or prevalences where a multi-stage design is used);

d) the results of the survey.

Analysis of data for evidence of freedom from infection involves estimating the probability (alpha) that the evidence observed (the results of surveillance) could have been produced under the null hypothesis that infection is present in the population at a specified prevalence(s) (the design prevalences). The confidence in (or, equivalently, the sensitivity of) the surveillance system that produced the evidence is equal to 1–alpha. If the confidence level exceeds a pre-set threshold, the evidence is deemed adequate to demonstrate freedom from infection.

The required level of confidence in the surveillance system (probability that the system would detect infection if infection were present at the specified level) should be greater than or equal to 95%.

The power (probability that the system would report that no infection is present if infection is truly not present) may be set to any value. By convention, this is often set to 80%, but may be adjusted according to the country's or zone's requirements.

Different statistical methodologies for the calculation of the probability alpha, including both quantitative and qualitative approaches, are acceptable as long as they are based on accepted scientific principles.

The methodology used to calculate the confidence in the surveillance system should be scientifically based and clearly documented, including references to published work describing the methodology.

Statistical analysis of surveillance data often requires assumptions about population parameters or test characteristics. These are usually based on expert opinion, previous studies on the same or different populations, expected biology of the agent, and so on. The uncertainty around these assumptions should be quantified and considered in the analysis (e.g. in the form of prior probability distributions in a Bayesian setting).

For surveillance systems used to demonstrate freedom from specific diseases, calculation of the confidence of a surveillance system is based on the null hypothesis that infection is present in the population. The level of infection is specified by the design prevalence. In the simplest case, this is the prevalence of infection in a homogenous population. More commonly, in the presence of a complex (e.g. multi-level) population structure more than one design prevalence value is required, for instance, the animal-level prevalence (proportion of infected animals in an infected farm) and the group-level prevalence (proportion of infected farms in the country, zone or compartment). Further levels of clustering may be considered, requiring further design prevalence values.

The values for design prevalence used in calculations should be those specified in the relevant disease chapter (if present) of the Aquatic Manual. If not specified for the particular disease, justification for the selection of design prevalence values should be provided, and should be based on the following recommendations:

- At the individual animal level, the design prevalence is based on the biology of the infection in the population. It is equal to the minimum expected prevalence of infection in the study population, if the infection had become established in that population. It is dependent on the dynamics of infection in the population and the definition of the study population (which may be defined to maximise the expected prevalence in the presence of infection).
A suitable design prevalence value at the animal level (e.g. prevalence of infected animals in a cage) may be:

- between 1% and 5% for infections that are present in a small part of the population e.g. are transmitted slowly or are at the early stages of an outbreak of disease, etc.;
- over 5% for highly transmissible infections.

If reliable information, including expert opinion, on the expected prevalence in an infected population is not available, a value of 2% should be used for the design prevalence.

At higher levels (e.g. cage, pond, farm, village, etc.) the design prevalence usually reflects the prevalence of infection that is practically and reasonably able to be detected by a surveillance system. Detection of infection at the lowest limit (a single infected unit in the population) is rarely feasible in large populations. The expected behaviour of the infection may also play a role. Infections that have the ability to spread rapidly between farms may have a higher farm-level design prevalence than slow-moving infections.

A suitable design prevalence value for the first level of clustering (e.g. proportion of infected farms in a zone) is normally not greater than 2%. If a higher design prevalence is selected, it should be justified.

When surveillance data are used to estimate incidence and prevalence measures for the purpose of describing disease occurrence in terms of animal unit, time and place, these measures can be calculated for an entire population and specific time period, or for subsets defined by host characteristics (e.g. age-specific incidence). Incidence estimation requires on-going surveillance to detect new cases while prevalence is the estimated proportion of infected individuals in a population at a given time point. The estimation process should consider test sensitivity and specificity.

5. Clustering of infection

Infection in a country, zone or compartment usually clusters rather than being uniformly distributed through a population. Clustering may occur at a number of different levels (e.g. a cluster of moribund fish in a pond, a cluster of ponds in a farm, or a cluster of farms in a zone). Except when dealing with demonstrably homogenous populations, surveillance should take this clustering into account in the design and the statistical analysis of the data, at least at what is judged to be the most significant level of clustering for the particular animal population and infection.

6. Test characteristics

All surveillance involves performing one or more tests for evidence of the presence of current or past infection, ranging from detailed laboratory examinations to farmer observations. The performance level of a test at the population level is described in terms of its sensitivity and specificity. Imperfect sensitivity and/or specificity impact on the interpretation of surveillance results and should be taken into account in the analysis of surveillance data. For example, in the case of a test with imperfect specificity, if the population is free of disease or has a very low prevalence of infection, all or a large proportion of positive tests will be false. Subsequently, samples that test positive can be confirmed or refuted using a highly specific test. Where more than one test is used in a surveillance system (sometimes called using tests in series or parallel), the sensitivity and specificity of the test combination should be calculated.

All calculations should take the performance level (sensitivity and specificity) of any tests used into account. The values of sensitivity and specificity used for calculations should be specified, and the method used to determine or estimate these values should be documented. Test sensitivity and specificity can be different when applied to different populations and testing scenarios. For example, test sensitivity may be lower when testing carrier animals with low level infections.
compared to moribund animals with clinical disease. Alternatively, specificity depends on the presence of cross-reacting agents, the distribution of which may be different under different conditions or regions. Ideally, test performance should be assessed under the conditions of use otherwise increased uncertainty exists regarding their performance. In the absence of local assessment of tests, values for sensitivity and/or specificity for a particular test that are specified in the Aquatic Manual may be used but the increased uncertainty associated with these estimates should be incorporated into the analysis of results.

Pooled testing involves the pooling of specimens from multiple individuals and performing a single test on the pool. Pooled testing is an acceptable approach in many situations. Where pooled testing is used, the results of testing should be interpreted using sensitivity and specificity values that have been determined or estimated for that particular pooled testing procedure and for the applicable pool sizes being used. Analysis of the results of pooled testing should, where possible, be performed using accepted, statistically based methodologies, which should be fully documented, including published references.

When applied to a surveillance system, the probabilities of correct assessment of the health status of the epidemiological unit is affected by the entire sampling process, including sample selection, collection, handling and processing, as well as the actual laboratory test performance.

7. Multiple sources of information

Where multiple different data sources providing evidence of freedom from infection exist, each of these data sources may be analysed accordingly. The resulting estimates of the confidence in each data source may be combined to provide an overall level of confidence for the combined data sources.

The methodology used to combine the estimates from multiple data sources:

a) should be scientifically valid, and fully documented, including references to published material; and

b) should, where possible, take into account any lack of statistical independence between different data sources.

Surveillance information gathered from the same country, zone or compartment at different times (e.g. repeated annual surveys) may provide cumulative evidence of animal health status. Such evidence gathered over time may be combined to provide an overall level of confidence. However, a single larger survey, or the combination of data collected during the same time period from multiple random or non-random sources, may be able to achieve the same level of confidence in a shorter period of time.

Analysis of surveillance information gathered intermittently or continuously over time should, where possible, incorporate the time of collection of the information to take into account the decreased value of older information. The sensitivity, specificity and completeness of data from each source should also be taken into account for the final overall confidence level estimation.

8. Sampling

The objective of sampling from a population is to select a subset of units from the population that is representative of the population with respect to the characteristic of interest (in this case, the presence or absence of infection). The survey design may involve sampling at several levels. For sampling at the level of the epidemiological units or higher units, a formal probability sampling (e.g. simple random sampling) method should be used. Sampling should be carried out in such a way as to provide the best likelihood that the sample will be representative of the population, within the practical constraints imposed by different environments and production systems.
When sampling below the level of the epidemiological unit (e.g. individual animal), the sampling method used should provide the best practical chance of generating a sample that is representative of the population of the chosen epidemiological unit. Collecting a truly representative sample of individual animals (whether from a pond, cage or fishery) is often very difficult. To maximise the chance of finding infection, the aim should be to bias the sampling towards infected animals, e.g. selecting moribund animals, life stages with a greater chance of active infection, etc.

Biased sampling in this context involves sampling from a defined study population that has a different probability of infection than the target population of which it is a subpopulation. Once the study population has been identified, the objective is still to select a representative sample from this subpopulation.

The sampling method used at all levels should be fully documented and justified.

9. Sample size

The number of units to be sampled from a population should be calculated using a statistically valid technique that takes at least the following factors into account:

- the sensitivity and specificity of the diagnostic test, or test system;
- the design prevalence (or prevalences where a multi-stage design is used);
- the level of confidence that is desired of the survey results.

Additionally, other factors may be considered in sample size calculations, including (but not limited to):

- the size of the population (but it is acceptable to assume that the population is infinitely large);
- the desired power of the survey;
- uncertainty about sensitivity and specificity.

The specific sampling requirements will need to be tailor-made for each individual disease, taking into account its characteristics and the specificity and sensitivity of the accepted testing methods for detecting the pathogenic agent in host populations.

FreeCalc\(^1\) is a suitable software for the calculation of sample sizes at varying parameter values. The table below provides examples of sample sizes generated by the software for a type I and type II error of 5% (i.e. 95% confidence and 95% statistical power). However, this does not mean that a type 1 and type 2 error of 0.05 should always be used. For example, using a test with sensitivity and specificity of 99%, 528 units should be sampled. If 9 or less of those units test positive, the population can still be considered free of the disease at a design prevalence of 2% provided that all efforts are made to ensure that all presumed false positives are indeed false. This means that there is a 95% confidence that the prevalence is 2% or lower.

In the case in which the values of Se and Sp are not known (e.g. no information is available in the disease-specific chapter in the Aquatic Manual), they should not automatically be assumed to be 100%. All positive results should be included and discussed in any report regarding that particular survey and all efforts should be made to ensure that all presumed false positives are indeed false.

10. Quality assurance

Surveys should include a documented quality assurance system, to ensure that field and other procedures conform to the specified survey design. Acceptable systems may be quite simple, as long as they provide verifiable documentation of procedures and basic checks to detect significant deviations of procedures from those documented in the survey design.
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<th>Specificity (%)</th>
<th>Sample size</th>
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### Article 1.4.9.

**Specific requirements for complex non-survey data sources for freedom from disease**

Data sources that provide evidence of freedom from infection, but are not based on structured population-based surveys may also be used to demonstrate freedom, either alone or in combination with other data sources. Different methodologies may be used for the analysis of such data sources, but the methodology should comply with the provisions of this chapter. The approach used should, where possible, also take into account any lack of statistical independence between observations.

Analytical methodologies based on the use of step-wise probability estimates to describe the surveillance system may determine the probability of each step either by:

1. the analysis of available data, using a scientifically valid methodology; or where no data are available,

2. the use of estimates based on expert opinion, gathered and combined using a formal, documented and scientifically valid methodology.

Where there is significant uncertainty and/or variability in estimates used in the analysis, stochastic modelling or other equivalent techniques should be used to assess the impact of this uncertainty and/or variability on the final estimate of confidence.

### Article 1.4.10.

**Surveillance for distribution and occurrence of disease**

*Surveillance* to determine distribution and occurrence of disease or of other relevant health related events is widely used to assess the prevalence and incidence of selected disease as an aid to decision-making, for example implementation of control and eradication programmes. It also has relevance for the international movement of animals and products when movement occurs among infected countries.
In contrast to surveillance to demonstrate freedom from disease, surveillance for the distribution and occurrence of disease is usually designed to collect data about a number of variables of animal health relevance, for example:

- prevalence or incidence of disease in wild or cultured animals;
- morbidity and mortality rates;
- frequency of disease risk factors and their quantification;
- frequency distribution of variables in epidemiological units;
- frequency distribution of the number of days elapsing between suspicion of disease and laboratory confirmation of the diagnosis and/or to the adoption of control measures;
- farm production records, etc.

This article describes surveillance to estimate parameters of disease occurrence.

1. Objectives

The objective of this kind of surveillance system is to contribute on an ongoing basis evidence to assess the occurrence and distribution of disease or infection in a particular country, zone or compartment. This will provide information for domestic disease control programmes and relevant disease occurrence information to be used by trading partners for qualitative and quantitative risk assessment.

A single such survey can contribute evidence adding to an ongoing collection of health data.

2. Population

The population of epidemiological units should be clearly defined. The target population consists of all individuals of all species susceptible to the disease in a country, zone or compartment to which the surveillance results apply. Some local areas within a region may be known to be free of the disease of concern, allowing resources to be concentrated on known positive areas for greater precision of prevalence estimates and only verification of expected 0 prevalence areas.

The design of the survey will depend on the size and structure of the population being studied. If the population is relatively small and can be considered to be homogenous with regards to risk of infection, a single-stage survey can be used.

In larger populations where a sampling frame is not available, or when there is a likelihood of clustering of disease, multi-stage sampling is required. For example, a multi-stage sampling process may involve sampling of farms or villages followed by sampling of fish from selected ponds within the sampled farms/villages.

In the case of a complex (e.g. multi-level) population structure, multi-level sampling may be used and the data analysed accordingly.

3. Sources of evidence

Surveillance data may originate from a number of different sources, including:

a) population-based surveys using one or more tests to detect the agent;

b) other non-random sources of data, such as:

i) sentinel sites;

ii) disease notifications and laboratory investigation records;

iii) academic and other scientific studies;
c) a knowledge of the biology of the agent, including environmental, host population
distribution, known geographical distribution, vector distribution and climatic information;

d) history of imports of potentially infected material;

e) biosecurity measures in place;

f) any other sources of information that provide contributory evidence regarding disease or
infection in the country, zone or compartment.

The sources of evidence should be fully described. In the case of a structured survey, this
should include a description of the sampling strategy used for the selection of units for testing.
For complex surveillance systems, a full description of the system is required including
consideration of any bias that may be inherent in the system. Evidence to support changes in
prevalence/incidence of endemic disease should be based on valid, reliable methods to generate
precise estimates with known error.

4. Statistical methodology

Analysis of survey data should be in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and should
consider the following factors:

a) the survey design;

b) the sensitivity and specificity of the test, or test system;

c) the results of the survey.

For surveillance systems used to describe disease patterns, the purpose is to estimate prevalence
or incidence with confidence intervals or probability intervals. The magnitude of these intervals
expresses the precision of the estimates and is related to sample size. Narrow intervals are desirable
but will require larger sample sizes and more dedication of resources. The precision of the
estimates and the power to detect differences in prevalence between populations or between time
points depends not only on sample size, but also on the actual value of the prevalence in the
population or the actual difference. For this reason, when designing the surveillance system, a
prior estimate/assumption of expected prevalence or expected difference in prevalence should be
made.

For the purpose of describing disease occurrence, measures of animal unit, time and place can be
calculated for an entire population and specific time period, or for subsets defined by host
characteristics (e.g. age-specific incidence). Incidence estimation requires on-going surveillance to
detect new cases in a specified time period while prevalence is the estimated proportion of
infected individuals in a population at a given time point. The estimation process should consider
test sensitivity and specificity.

Statistical analysis of surveillance data often requires assumptions about population parameters or
test characteristics. These are usually based on expert opinion, previous studies on the same or
different populations, expected biology of the agent, information contained in the disease-specific
chapter of the Aquatic Manual, and so on. The uncertainty around these assumptions should be
quantified and considered in the analysis (e.g. in the form of prior probability distributions in a
Bayesian setting).

When surveillance objectives are to estimate prevalence/incidence or changes in disease patterns,
statistical analysis should account for sampling error. Analytic methods should be thoroughly
considered and consultation with biostatistician/quantitative epidemiologist consulted beginning
in the planning stages and continued throughout the programme.
5. Clustering of infection

Infection in a country, zone or compartment usually clusters rather than being uniformly distributed through a population. Clustering may occur at a number of different levels (e.g. a cluster of moribund fish in a pond, a cluster of ponds in a farm, or a cluster of farms in a zone). Except when dealing with demonstrably homogenous populations, surveillance should take this clustering into account in the design and the statistical analysis of the data, at least at what is judged to be the most significant level of clustering for the particular animal population and infection. For endemic diseases, it is important to identify characteristics of the population which contribute to clustering and thus provide efficiency in disease investigation and control.

6. Test characteristics

All surveillance involves performing one or more tests for evidence of the presence of current or past infection, ranging from detailed laboratory examinations to farmer observations. The performance level of a test at the population level is described in terms of its sensitivity and specificity. Imperfect sensitivity and/or specificity impact on the interpretation of surveillance results and should be taken into account in the analysis of surveillance data. For example, in populations with low prevalence of infection, a large proportion of positive tests may be false unless the tests used have perfect specificity. To ensure detection in such instances, a highly sensitive test is frequently used for initial screening and then confirmed with highly specific tests.

All calculations should take the performance level (sensitivity and specificity) of any tests used into account. The values of sensitivity and specificity used for calculations should be specified, and the method used to determine or estimate these values should be documented. Test sensitivity and specificity can be different when applied to different populations and testing scenarios. For example, test sensitivity may be lower when testing carrier animals with low level infections compared to moribund animals with clinical disease. Alternatively, specificity depends on the presence of cross-reacting agents, the distribution of which may be different under different conditions or regions. Ideally, test performance should be assessed under the conditions of use otherwise increased uncertainty exists regarding their performance. In the absence of local assessment of tests, values for sensitivity and/or specificity for a particular test that are specified in the Aquatic Manual may be used but the increased uncertainty associated with these estimates should be incorporated into the analysis of results.

Pooled testing involves the pooling of specimens from multiple individuals and performing a single test on the pool. Pooled testing is an acceptable approach in many situations. Where pooled testing is used, the results of testing should be interpreted using sensitivity and specificity values that have been determined or estimated for that particular pooled testing procedure and for the applicable pool sizes being used. Analysis of the results of pooled testing should, where possible, be performed using accepted, statistically based methodologies, which should be fully documented, including published references.

Test results from surveillance for endemic disease will provide estimates of apparent prevalence (AP). Using diagnostic sensitivity (DSe) and diagnostic specificity (DSP), true prevalence (TP) should be calculated with the following formula:

\[ TP = \frac{(AP + DSP - 1)}{(DSe + DSP - 1)} \]

In addition, it should be remembered that different laboratories may obtain conflicting results for various tests, host, or procedure-related reasons. Therefore, sensitivity and specificity parameters should be validated for the particular laboratory and process.

7. Multiple sources of information

Where multiple different data sources providing information on infection or disease are generated, each of these data sources may be analysed and presented separately.
Surveillance information gathered from the same country, zone or compartment at different times and similar methodology (e.g. repeated annual surveys) may provide cumulative evidence of animal health status and changes. Such evidence gathered over time may be combined (e.g. using Bayesian methodology) to provide more precise estimates and details of disease distribution within a population.

Apparent changes in disease occurrence of endemic diseases may be real or due to other factors influencing detection proficiency.

8. Sampling

The objective of sampling from a population is to select a subset of units from the population that is representative of the population with respect to the characteristic of interest (in this case, the presence or absence of infection). The survey design may involve sampling at several levels. For sampling at the level of the epidemiological units or higher units, a formal probability sampling (e.g. simple random sampling) method should be used. Sampling should be carried out in such a way as to provide the best likelihood that the sample will be representative of the population, within the practical constraints imposed by different environments and production systems.

When sampling below the level of the epidemiological unit (e.g. individual animal), the method used should be probability-based sampling. Collecting a true probability-based sample is often very difficult and care should therefore be taken in the analysis and interpretation of results obtained using any other method, the danger being that inferences could not be made about the sampled population.

The sampling method used at all levels should be fully documented and justified.

9. Sample size

The number of units to be sampled from a population should be calculated using a statistically valid technique that takes at least the following factors into account:

- the sensitivity and specificity of the diagnostic test (single or in combination);
- expected prevalence or incidence in the population (or prevalences/incidences where a multi-stage design is used);
- the level of confidence that is desired of the survey results;
- the precision desired (i.e. the width of the confidence or probability intervals).

Additionally, other factors may be considered in sample size calculations, including (but not limited to):

- the size of the population (but it is acceptable to assume that the population is infinitely large);
- uncertainty about sensitivity and specificity.

The specific sampling requirements will need to be tailor-made for each individual disease, taking into account its characteristics and the specificity and sensitivity of the accepted testing methods for detecting the pathogenic agent in host populations.

A number of software packages, e.g. Survey Tool Box (www.aciar.gov.au; www.ausvet.com.au), WinPEPI (www.sagebrushpress.com/pepibook.html) can be used for the calculation of sample sizes.

In the case in which the values of Se and Sp are not known (e.g. no information is available in the disease-specific chapter in the Aquatic Manual), they should not automatically be assumed to be 100%. Assumed values should be produced in consultation with subject-matter experts.
10. Quality assurance

Surveys should include a documented quality assurance system, to ensure that field and other procedures conform to the specified survey design. Acceptable systems may be quite simple, as long as they provide verifiable documentation of procedures and basic checks to detect significant deviations of procedures from those documented in the survey design.

Article 1.4.11.

Examples of surveillance programmes

The following examples describe surveillance systems and approaches to the analysis of evidence for demonstrating freedom from disease. The purpose of these examples is:

- to illustrate the range of approaches that may be acceptable;
- to provide practical guidance and models that may be used for the design of specific surveillance systems; and
- to provide references to available resources that are useful in the development and analysis of surveillance systems.

While these examples demonstrate ways in which freedom from disease may be successfully demonstrated, they are not intended to be prescriptive. Countries are free to use different approaches, as long as they meet the requirements of this chapter.

The examples deal with the use of surveys and are designed to illustrate different survey designs, sampling schemes, the calculation of sample size, and analysis of results. It is important to note that alternative approaches to demonstrating freedom using complex non-survey-based data sources are also currently being developed and may soon be published.

1. Example 1. – One-stage structured survey (farm certification)

a) Context

A freshwater aquaculture industry raising fish in tanks has established a farm certification scheme. This involves demonstrating farm-level freedom from a particular (hypothetical) disease (Disease X). The disease does not spread very quickly, and is most common during the winter months, with adult fish at the end of the production cycle being most severely affected. Farms consist of a number of grow-out tanks, ranging from 2 to 20, and each tank holds between 1,000 and 5,000 fish.

b) Objective

The objective is to implement surveillance that is capable of providing evidence that an individual farm is free from Disease X. (The issue of national or zone freedom, as opposed to farm freedom, is considered in the next example.)

c) Approach

The accreditation scheme establishes a set of standard operating procedures and requirements for declaration of freedom, based on the recommendations given in this chapter. These require farms to undertake a survey capable of producing 95% confidence that the disease would be detected if it were present. Once farms have been surveyed without detecting disease, they are recognised as free, as long as they maintain a set of minimum biosecurity standards. These standards are designed to prevent the introduction of Disease X into the farm (through the implementation of controls specific to the method of spread of that disease) and to ensure that the disease would be detected rapidly if it were to enter the farm.
Based on evidence of adequate health record keeping and the prompt investigation of unusual disease events. The effective implementation of these biosecurity measures is evaluated with annual on-farm audits conducted by independent auditors.

d) Survey standards

Based on the recommendations given in this chapter, a set of standards are established for the conduct of surveys to demonstrate freedom from infection with causative agent of Disease X. These standards include:

i) The level of confidence required of the survey is 95% (i.e. Type I error = 5%).

ii) The power of the survey is arbitrarily set at 95% (i.e. Type II error = 5%, which means that there is a 5% chance of concluding that a non-diseased farm is infected).

iii) The target population is all the fish on the farm. Due to the patterns of disease in this production system, in which only fish in the final stages of grow-out, and only in winter are affected, the study population is defined as grow-out fish during the winter months.

iv) The issue of clustering is considered. As fish are grouped into tanks, this is the logical level at which to consider clustering. However, when a farm is infected, the disease often occurs in multiple tanks, so there is little evidence of strong clustering. Also, the small number of tanks on a single farm means that it is difficult to define a design prevalence at the tank level (i.e. the proportion of infected tanks that the survey should be able to detect on the farm). For these reasons, it is decided to treat the entire grow-out population of each farm as a single homogenous population.

v) Stratification is also considered. In order to ensure full representation, it is decided to stratify the sample size by tank, proportional to the population of each tank.

vi) The design prevalence at the animal level is determined based on the epidemiology of the disease. The disease does not spread quickly; however, in the defined target population, it has been reported to affect at least 10% of fish if the population is infected. In order to take the most conservative approach, an arbitrarily low design prevalence of 2% is used. A prevalence of 10% may have been used (and would result in a much smaller sample size), but the authorities were not convinced by the thought that the population could still be infected at a level of say 5%, and disease still not be detected.

vii) The test used involves destructive sampling of the fish, and is based on an antigen-detection enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA). Disease X is present in some parts of the country (hence the need for a farm-level accreditation programme). This has provided the opportunity for the sensitivity and the specificity of the ELISA to be evaluated in similar populations to those on farms. A recent study (using a combination of histology and culture as a gold standard) estimated the sensitivity of the ELISA to be 98% (95% confidence interval 96.7–99.2%), and the specificity to be 99.4% (99.2–99.6%). Due to the relatively narrow confidence intervals, it was decided to use the point estimates of the sensitivity and specificity rather than complicate calculations by taking the uncertainty in those estimates into account.

e) Sample size

The sample size required to meet the objectives of the survey is calculated to take the population size, the test performance, the confidence required and the design prevalence into account. As the population of each farm is relatively large, differences in the total population of each farm have little effect on the calculated sample size. The other parameters for sample size calculation are fixed across all farms. Therefore, a standard sample size (based on the use of this particular ELISA, in this population) is calculated. The sample size calculations are
performed using the FreeCalc software. Based on the parameters listed above, the sample size required is calculated to be 410 fish per farm. In addition, the programme calculates that, given the imperfect specificity, it is still possible for the test to produce up to five false-positive reactors from an uninfected population using this sample size. The authorities are not comfortable with dealing with false-positive reactors, so it is decided to change the test system to include a confirmatory test for any positive reactors. Culture is selected as the most appropriate test, as it has a specificity that is considered to be 100%. However, its sensitivity is only 90% due to the difficulty of growing the organism.

As two tests are now being used, the performance of the test system should be calculated, and the sample size recalculated based on the test system performance.

Using this combination of tests (in which a sample is considered positive only if it tests positive to both tests), the specificity of the combined two tests can be calculated by the formula:

$$Sp_{combined} = Sp_1 \times Sp_2 - (Sp_1 \times Sp_2)$$

which produces a combined specificity of $1 + 0.994 - (1 \times 0.994) = 100\%$.

The sensitivity may be calculated by the formula:

$$Spe_{combined} = Se_1 \times Se_2$$

which produces a combined sensitivity of $0.9 \times 0.98 = 88.2\%$.

These new values are used to calculate the survey sample size yielding a result of 169 fish. It is worth noting that attempts to improve the performance of a test (in this case increase specificity) generally result in a decrease in the performance of the other aspect of the test performance (sensitivity in this example). However, in this case, the loss of sensitivity is more than compensated for by the decreased sample size due to the improved specificity.

It is also worth noting that, when using a test system with 100% specificity, the effective power of the survey will always be 100%, regardless of the figure used in the design. This is because it is not possible to make a Type II error, and conclude that the farm is infected when it is not.

A check of the impact of population size on the calculated sample size is worthwhile. The calculated sample size is based on an infinitely large population. If the population size is smaller, the impact on sample size is shown in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population size</th>
<th>Sample size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on these calculations, it is clear that, for the population sizes under consideration, there is little effect on the sample size. For the sake of simplicity, a standard sample size of 169 is used, regardless of the number of grow-out fish on the farm.

f) Sampling

The selection of individual fish to include in the sample should be done in such a manner as to give the best chance of the sample being representative of the study population. A fuller
description of how this may be achieved under different circumstances is provided in Survey Toolbox. An example of a single farm will be used to illustrate some of the issues.

One farm has a total of eight tanks, four of which are used for grow-out. At the time of the survey (during winter), the four grow-out tanks have 1,850, 4,250, 4,270 and 4,880 fish, respectively, giving a total population of 15,250 grow-out fish.

Simple random sampling from this entire population is likely to produce sample sizes from each tank roughly in proportion to the number of fish in each tank. However, proportional stratified sampling will guarantee that each tank is represented in proportion. This simply involves dividing the sample size between tanks in proportion to their population. The first tank has 1,850 fish out of a total of 15,250, representing 12.13%. Therefore 12.13% of the sample (21 fish) should be taken from the first tank. Using a similar approach the sample size for the other three tanks is 47, 47 and 54 fish, respectively.

Once the sample for each tank is determined, the problem remains as to how to select 21 fish from a tank of 1,850 so that they are representative of the population. Several options exist.

i) If the fish can be handled individually, random systematic sampling may be used. For example, samples can be collected at harvest or during routine management activities involving handling the fish (such as grading or vaccination).

ii) If fish are handled, systematic sampling simply involves selecting a fish at regular intervals. For instance, to select 21 from 1,850, the sampling interval should be 1,850/21 = 88. This means that every 88th fish from the tank should be sampled. To ensure randomness, it is good practice to use a random number between 1 and 88 (in this case) to select the first fish (e.g. using a random number table), and then select every 88th fish after that.

iii) If fish cannot be handled individually (by far the most common, and more difficult, circumstance) then the fish to be sampled should be captured from the tanks. Fish should be captured in the most efficient and practical way possible; however, every effort should be made to try to ensure that the sample is representative. In this example, a dip net is the normal method used for capturing fish. Using a dip net, convenience sampling would involve capturing 21 fish by repeatedly dipping at one spot and capturing the easiest fish (perhaps the smaller ones). This approach is strongly discouraged. One method of increasing the representativeness is to sample at different locations in the tank – some at one end, some at either side, some at the other end, some in the middle, some close to the edge. Additionally, if there are differences among the fish, an attempt should be made to capture fish in such a way as to give different groups of fish a chance of being caught (i.e. do not just try to catch the small ones, but include big ones as well).

This method of collecting a sample is far from the ideal of random sampling, but due to the practical difficulties of implementing random sampling of individual fish, this approach is acceptable, as long as the efforts made to increase the representativeness of the sample are both genuine and fully documented.

g) Testing

Specimens are collected, processed and tested according to standardised procedures developed under the certification programme and designed to meet the requirements of the Aquatic Manual. The testing protocol dictates that any specimens that test positive to ELISA be submitted for culture, and that any positive culture results indicate a true positive specimen (i.e. that the farm is not free from disease). It is important that this protocol be adhered to exactly. If a positive culture is found, then it is not acceptable to retest it, unless further
testing is specified in the original testing protocol, and the impact of such testing accounted for in the test system sensitivity and specificity estimates (and therefore the sample size).

h) Analysis

If the calculated sample size of 169 is used, and no positive reactors are found, then the survey will have a confidence of 95%. This can be confirmed by analysing the results using the FreeCalc software mentioned above (which reports a confidence level of 95.06%).

It may happen in some cases that the survey is not conducted exactly as planned, and the actual sample size is less than the target sample size. However, the size of the farm may also be smaller. In these cases, it is advisable to analyse the farm data on a farm-by-farm basis. For example, if only 165 specimens were collected from a farm with only 2,520 fish, the resulting confidence would still be 95%. If only 160 fish were collected, the confidence is only 94.5%. If a rigid target of 95% confidence is used, then this survey would fail to meet that target and more evidence would be required.

2. Example 2 – Two-stages structured survey (national freedom)

a) Context

A country aims to declare freedom from Disease Y of crustaceans. The industry in this country is based largely on small-holder ponds, grouped closely together in and around villages. The disease is reasonably highly contagious, and causes mass mortality mid to late in the production cycle, with affected animals becoming moribund and dying in a matter of days. Affected animals show few characteristic signs, but an infected pond will almost invariably break down with mass mortality unless harvested beforehand. It is more common in late summer, but can occur at any time of year. It also occurs occasionally early in the production cycle. In this country, there are some limitations to the availability of laboratory facilities and the transport infrastructure. However, there is a relatively large government structure, and a comprehensive network of fisheries officers.

b) Objective

The objective is to establish national freedom from Disease Y. The surveillance system should meet the requirements of this chapter, but should also be able to be practically implemented in this small-holder production system.

c) Approach

The aquaculture authorities decide to use a survey to gather evidence of freedom, using a two-stage survey design (sampling villages at the first level, and ponds at the second). Laboratory testing of specimens from a large number of farms is not considered feasible, so a combined test system is developed to minimise the need for expensive laboratory tests.

The unit of observation and analysis is, in this case, the pond, rather than the individual animal. This means that the diagnosis is being made at the pond level (an infected pond or a non-infected pond) rather than at the animal level.

The survey is therefore a survey to demonstrate that no villages are infected (using a random sample of villages and making a village-level diagnosis). The test used to make a village-level diagnosis is, in fact, another survey, this time to demonstrate that no ponds in the village are affected. A test is then performed at the pond level (farmer observation followed, if necessary, by further laboratory testing).
d) Survey standards

i) The confidence to be achieved by the survey is 95%. The power is set at 95% (but is likely to be virtually 100% if the test system used achieves nearly 100% specificity, as demonstrated in the previous example).

ii) The target population is all ponds stocked with shrimp in the country during the study period. The study population is the same, except that those remote areas to which access is not possible are excluded. As outbreaks can occur at any time of year, and at any stage of the production cycle, it is decided not to further refine the definition of the population to target a particular time or age.

iii) Three tests are used. The first is farmer observation, to determine if mass mortality is occurring in a particular pond. If a pond is positive to the first test (i.e. mass mortality is detected), a second test is applied. The second test used is polymerase chain reaction (PCR). Cases positive to PCR are further tested using transmission experiments.

iv) Farmer observation can be treated as a test just like any other. In this case, the observation of mass mortality is being used as a test for the presence of Disease Y. As there are a variety of other diseases that are capable of causing mass mortality, the test is not very specific. On the other hand, it is quite unusual for Disease Y to be present, and not result in mass mortality, so the test is quite sensitive. A standard case definition is established for mass mortality (for instance, greater than 20% of the pond’s population of shrimp observed dead in the space of less than one week). Based on this definition, farmers are able to ‘diagnose’ each pond as having mass mortality. Some farmers may be over-sensitive and decide that mass mortality is occurring when only a small proportion of shrimp are found dead (false positives, leading to a decrease in specificity) while a small number of others fail to recognise the mortalities, decreasing sensitivity.

In order to quantify the sensitivity and specificity of farmer observation of mass mortalities, as a test for Disease Y, a separate study is carried out. This involves both a retrospective study of the number of mass mortality events in a population that is thought to be free from disease, as well as a study of farmers presented with a series of mortality scenarios, to assess their ability to accurately identify a pond with mass mortality. By combining these results, it is estimated that the sensitivity of farmer-reported mass mortalities as a test for Disease Y is 87% while the specificity is 68%.

v) When a farmer detects a pond with mass mortality, specimens are collected from moribund shrimp following a prescribed protocol. Tissue samples from 20 shrimp are collected, and pooled for PCR testing. In the laboratory, the ability of pooled PCR to identify a single infected animal in a pool of 20 has been studied, and the sensitivity of the procedure is 98.6%. A similar study of negative specimens has shown that positive results have occasionally occurred, probably due to laboratory contamination, but maybe also because of the presence of non-viable genetic material from another source (shrimp-based feed stuffs are suspected). The specificity is therefore estimated at 99%.

vi) Published studies in other countries have shown that the sensitivity of transmission tests, the third type of test to be used, is 95%, partly due to variability in the load of the agent in inoculated material. The specificity is agreed to be 100%.

vii) Based on these figures, the combined test system sensitivity and specificity are calculated using the formulae presented in Example 1, first with the first two tests, and then with the combined effect of the first two tests and the third test. The result is a sensitivity of 81.5% and a specificity of 100%.
viii) The design prevalence should be calculated at two levels. First, the pond-level design prevalence (the proportion of ponds in a village that would be infected if disease were present) is determined. In neighbouring infected countries, experience has shown that ponds in close contact with each other are quickly infected. It is unusual to observe an infected village with fewer than 20% of ponds infected. Conservatively, a design prevalence of 5% is used. The second value for design prevalence applies at the village level, or the proportion of infected villages that could be identified by the survey. As it is conceivable that the infection may persist in a local area without rapid spread to other parts of the country, a value of 1% is used. This is considered to be the lowest design prevalence value for which a survey can be practically designed.

ix) The population of villages in the country is 65,302, according to official government records. Those with shrimp ponds number 12,890, based on records maintained by the aquaculture authorities. These are generated through a five-yearly agricultural census, and updated annually based on reports of fisheries officers. There are no records available of the number of ponds in each of these villages.

e) Sample size

Sample size is calculated for the two levels of sampling, first the number of villages to be sampled and then the number of ponds to be sampled. The number of villages to be sampled depends on the sensitivity and the specificity of the test used to classify villages as infected or not infected. As the ‘test’ used in each village is really just another survey, the sensitivity is equal to the confidence and the specificity is equal to the power of the village-level survey. It is possible to adjust both confidence and power by changing the sample size in the village survey (number of ponds examined), which means that we can determine, within certain limits, what sensitivity and specificity we achieve.

This allows a flexible approach to sample size calculation. If a smaller first-stage sample size is desired (a small number of villages), a high sensitivity and specificity are needed, which means that the number of ponds in each village that need to be examined is larger. A smaller number of ponds will result in lower sensitivity and specificity, requiring a larger number of villages. The approach to determining the optimal (least cost) combination of first- and second-stage sample sizes is described in Survey Toolbox.

A further complication is presented by the fact that each village has a different number of ponds. In order to achieve the same (or similar) confidence and power (sensitivity and specificity) for each village, a different sample size may be required. The authorities choose to produce a table of sample sizes for the number of ponds to sample in each village, based on the total ponds in each village.

An example of one possible approach to determining the sample size follows:

The target sensitivity (confidence) achieved by each village-level survey is 95%. The target specificity is 100%. Using the FreeCalc software, with a design prevalence of 1% (the survey is able to detect disease if 1% or more villages are infected), the first-stage sample size is calculated as 314 villages. Within each village, the test used is the combined test system described above with a sensitivity of 81.5% and a specificity of 100%. Based on these figures the following table is developed, listing the number of ponds that need to be sampled in order to achieve 95% sensitivity.
f) Sampling

First-stage sampling (selection of villages) is done using random numbers and a sampling frame based on the fisheries authorities list of villages with shrimp ponds. The villages are listed on a spreadsheet with each village numbered from 1 to 12,890. A random number table (such as that included in Survey Toolbox) or software designed for the generation of random numbers (such as EpiCalc) is used.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Sample size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>39</td>
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<tr>
<td>60</td>
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<td>500</td>
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</tr>
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<td>1,000</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The second stage of sampling involves random selection of ponds within each village. This requires a sampling frame, or list of each pond in the village. The fisheries authorities use trained local fisheries officers to coordinate the survey. For each selected village, the officer visits the village and convenes a meeting of all shrimp farmers. At the meeting, they are asked how many ponds they have and a list of farmers’ names and the number of ponds is
compiled. A simple random sample of the appropriate number of ponds (between 29 and 70, from the table above, depending on the number of ponds in the village) is selected from this list. This is done either using software (such as Survey Toolbox’s Random Animal Programme), or manually with a random number table or decimal dice for random number selection. Details of this process are described in Survey Toolbox. This selection process identifies a particular pond in terms of the name of the owner, and the sequence number amongst the ponds owned (e.g. Mr Smith’s 3rd pond). Identification of the actual pond is based on the owners own numbering system for the ponds.

g) Testing

Once ponds have been identified, the actual survey consists of ‘testing those ponds’. In practice, this involves the farmers observing the ponds during one complete production cycle. The local fisheries officer makes weekly visits to each farmer to check if any of the selected ponds have suffered mass mortality. If any are observed (i.e. the first test is positive), 20 moribund shrimp are collected for laboratory examination (first PCR, and then, if positive, transmission experiments).

h) Analysis

Analysis is performed in two stages. First, the results from each village are analysed to ensure that they meet the required level of confidence. If the target sample size is achieved (and only negative results obtained), the confidence should be 95% or greater in each village. At the second stage, the results from each village are analysed to provide a country level of confidence. Again, if the target sample size (number of villages) is achieved, this should exceed 95%.

3. Example 3. – Spatial sampling and the use of tests with imperfect specificity

a) Context

A country has an oyster culture industry, based primarily on rack culture of oysters in 23 estuaries distributed along the coastline. In similar regions in other countries, Disease Z causes mortalities in late summer/early autumn. During an outbreak a high proportion of oysters are affected; however, it is suspected that the agent may be present at relatively low prevalence in the absence of disease outbreaks.

b) Objective

The national authorities wish to demonstrate national freedom from Disease Z. If the disease should be detected, a secondary objective of the survey is to collect adequate evidence to support zoning at the estuary level.

c) Approach

The authorities conclude that clinical surveillance for disease outbreaks is inadequate because of the possibility of low level subclinical infections. It is therefore decided to base surveillance on a two-stage survey, in which sampled oysters are subjected to laboratory testing. The first stage of the survey is the selection of estuaries. However, due to the objective of providing evidence for zoning (should disease be found in any of the estuaries), it is decided to use a census approach and sample every estuary. In essence this means that there will be 23 separate surveys, one for each estuary. A range of options for sampling oysters are considered, including sampling at harvest or marketing, or using farms (oyster leases) as a level of sampling or stratification. However, the peak time of activity of the agent does not correspond to the harvest period, and the use of farms would exclude the significant numbers of wild oysters present in the estuaries. It is therefore decided to attempt to simulate simple random sampling from the entire oyster population in the estuary, using a spatial sampling approach.
d) Survey standards

i) The target population is all of the oysters in each of the estuaries. The study population is the oysters present during the peak disease-risk period in late summer early autumn. Wild and cultured oysters are both susceptible to disease, and may have associated with them different (but unknown) risks of infection. They are therefore both included in the study population. As will be described below, sampling is based on mapping. Therefore the study population can more accurately be described as that population falling within those mapped areas identified as oyster habitats.

ii) A design prevalence value is only required at the oyster level (as a census is being used at the estuary level). While the disease is often recognised with a very high prevalence during outbreaks, a low value is used to account for the possibility of persistence of the agent in the absence of clinical signs. A value of 2% is selected.

iii) The test used is histopathology with immuno-staining techniques. This test is known to produce occasional false-positive results due to nonspecific staining, but is very sensitive. Published studies indicate values of 99.1% for sensitivity and 98.2% for specificity. No other practical tests are available. This means that it is not possible to definitively differentiate false positives from true positives, and that in a survey of any size, a few false positives are expected (i.e. 1.8%).

iv) The confidence is set at 95% and the power at 80%. In the previous examples, due to the assumed 100% specificity achieved by use of multiple tests, the effective power was 100%. In this case, with imperfect specificity, there will be a risk of falsely concluding that a healthy estuary is infected, so the power is not 100%. The choice of a relatively low figure (80%) means that there is a 1 in 5 chance of falsely calling an estuary infected when it is not infected, but it also dramatically decreases the survey costs, through a lower sample size.

e) Sample size

Based on the assumption that the sampling procedure will mimic simple random sampling, the sample size (number of oysters to sample per estuary) can be calculated with FreeCalc. The population size (number of oysters per estuary) is assumed to be very large. The calculated sample size, using the sensitivity, specificity and design prevalence figures given above, is 450. FreeCalc also reports that, based on this sample size and the specificity of the test, it is possible to get 10 or fewer false-positive test results, and still conclude that the population is free from disease. This is because, if the population were infected at 2% or greater, the anticipated number of positive reactors from a sample of 450 would be greater than 10. In fact, we would expect 9 true positives (450 \times 2\% \times 99.1\%) and 8 false positives (450 \times 98\% \times 1.8\%) or a total of 17 positives if the population were infected at a prevalence of 2%.

This illustrates how probability theory and adequate sample size can help differentiate between true- and false-positive results when there is no alternative but to use a test with imperfect specificity.

f) Sampling

The aim is to collect a sample of 450 oysters that represent an entire estuary. Simple random sampling depends on creating a sampling frame listing every oyster (not possible) and systematic sampling depends on being able to (at least conceptually) line up all the oysters (again, not possible). The authorities decide to use spatial sampling to approximate simple random sampling. Spatial sampling involves selecting random points (defined by coordinates), and then selecting oysters near the selected points. In order to avoid selecting many points with no oysters nearby, the estuary is first mapped (the fisheries authorities already have
digital maps defining oyster leases available). To these maps areas with significant concentrations of wild oysters are also added, based on local expertise. Pairs of random numbers are generated such that the defined point falls within the defined oyster areas. Other schemes are considered (including using a rope marked at regular intervals, laid out on a lease to define a transect, and collecting an oyster adjacent to each mark on the rope) but the random coordinate approach is adopted.

Survey then visit each point by boat (using a GPS Global Positioning System unit to pinpoint the location). A range of approaches is available for selecting which oyster to select from a densely populated area, but it should involve some effort at randomness. Survey staff opt for a simple approach: when the GPS receiver indicates that the site has been reached, a pebble is tossed in the air and the oyster closest to the point where it lands is selected. Where oysters are arranged vertically (e.g. wild oysters growing up a post), a systematic approach is used to determine the depth of the oyster to select. First, an oyster at the surface, next, an oyster halfway down, and thirdly, an oyster as deep as can be reached from the boat.

This approach runs the risk of bias towards lightly populated areas, so an estimate of the relative density of oysters at each sampling point is used to weight the results (see Survey Toolbox for more details).

g) Testing

Specimens are collected, processed, and analysed following a standardised procedure. The results are classified as definitively positive (showing strong staining in a highly characteristic pattern, possibly with associated signs of tissue damage), probably positive (on the balance of probabilities, but less characteristic staining), and negative.

h) Analysis

The interpretation of the results when using a test with imperfect specificity is based on the assumption that, in order to conclude that the population is free from infection, any positive result identified is really a false positive. With a sample size of 450, up to 10 false positives may be expected while still concluding that the population is free from disease. However, if there is reasonable evidence that there is even a single true positive, then the population cannot be considered free. This is the reason for the classification of positive results into definitive and probable positives. If there are any definitive positives at all, the population in that estuary should be considered infected. The probable positives are consistent with false positives, and therefore up to 10 may be accepted. Using FreeCalc the actual confidence achieved based on the number of (presumed) false positives detected can be calculated. For instance, if 8 ‘probably positive’ results were detected from an estuary, the confidence level for the survey would be 98.76%. On the other hand, if 15 ‘probably positive’ results were detected, the confidence is only 61.9%, indicating that the estuary is likely to be infected.
i) Discussion

Normally, it may be safely assumed that a surveillance system aimed at demonstrating freedom from disease is 100% specific. This is because any suspected occurrence of disease is investigated until a definitive decision can be made. If the conclusion is that the case is truly a case of disease, then there is no issue of declaring freedom – the disease is known to be present. This example presents a different situation where, due to lack of suitable tests, it is not possible for the surveillance system to be 100% specific. This may represent an unusual situation in practice, but illustrates that methods exist for dealing with this sort of problem. In practice, a conclusion that a country (or estuary) is free from infection, in the face of a small (but statistically acceptable) number of positive results, will usually be backed up by further evidence (such as the absence of clinical disease).

1 FreeCalc – Cameron, AR. Software for the calculation of sample size and analysis of surveys to demonstrate freedom from disease. Available for free download from http://www.ausvet.com.au


4 http://www.myatt.demon.co.uk/epicalc.htm
SECTION 2.

RISK ANALYSIS

CHAPTER 2.1.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Article 2.1.1.

Introduction

The importation of aquatic animals and animal products, whether of aquatic or terrestrial origin, involves a degree of disease risk to the importing country. This risk, which may be to humans or animals, may be represented by one or several diseases not present in the importing country.

The principal aim of import risk analysis is to provide importing countries with an objective and defensible method of assessing the disease risks associated with the importation of animals, animal products, animal genetic material, feedstuffs, biological products and pathological material. The principles and methods are the same whether the commodities are derived from aquatic and/or terrestrial animal sources. The analysis should be transparent. This is necessary so that the exporting country is provided with clear reasons for the imposition of import conditions or refusal to import.

Transparency is also essential because data are often uncertain or incomplete and, without full documentation, the distinction between facts and the analyst’s value judgements may blur.

This chapter outlines the role of the OIE with respect to the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the so-called SPS Agreement) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and describes the OIE procedure for settlement of disputes.

Chapter 2.2. provides recommendations and principles for conducting transparent, objective and defensible risk analyses for international trade. However, it cannot provide details on the means by which a risk analysis is carried out as the purpose of the Aquatic Code is simply to outline the necessary basic steps. The components of risk analysis described in Chapter 2.2. are hazard identification, risk assessment, risk management and risk communication (Figure 1).
The *risk assessment* is the component of the analysis that estimates the likelihood and consequences associated with a *hazard*. *Risk assessments* may be qualitative or quantitative. For many *diseases*, particularly those referred to in the *Aquatic Code* where there are well developed internationally agreed standards, there is broad agreement concerning the likely *risks*, although the status of some *diseases* may differ between countries or even between the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. In many cases it is likely that a qualitative assessment is all that is required. Qualitative assessment does not require mathematical modelling skills to carry out and so is often the type of assessment used for routine decision-making. No single method of import *risk assessment* has proven applicable in all situations, and different methods may be appropriate in different circumstances.

The process of import *risk analysis on aquatic animals and aquatic animal products* usually needs to take into consideration the results of an evaluation of the *Aquatic Animal Health Services*, zoning and regionalisation, and *surveillance* systems that are in place for monitoring *aquatic animal health* in the *exporting country*. These are described in separate chapters in the *Aquatic Code*.

### Article 2.1.2.

The Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and role and responsibility of the OIE

The SPS Agreement encourages WTO Members to base their *sanitary measures* on international standards, guidelines and recommendations, where they exist. Members may choose to adopt a higher level of protection than that provided by international texts if there is a scientific justification or if the level of protection provided by the relevant international texts is considered to be inappropriate. In such circumstances, Members are subject to obligations relating to *risk assessment* and to a consistent approach to *risk management*.

The SPS Agreement encourages Governments to make a wider use of *risk analysis*. WTO Members shall undertake an assessment as appropriate to the circumstances of the actual *risk* involved.

The SPS Agreement recognises the OIE as the relevant international organisation responsible for the development and promotion of international animal health standards, guidelines, and recommendations affecting trade in live animals and animal products, whether aquatic or terrestrial in origin.
Article 2.1.3.

The OIE in-house procedure for settlement of disputes

The OIE shall maintain its existing voluntary in-house mechanisms for assisting Members to resolve differences. In-house procedures that will apply are that:

1. Both parties agree to give the OIE a mandate to assist them in resolving their differences.
2. If considered appropriate, the Director General of the OIE recommends an expert, or experts, and a chairman, as requested, agreed by both parties.
3. Both parties agree on the terms of reference and working programme, and to meet all expenses incurred by the OIE.
4. The expert or experts are entitled to seek clarification of any of the information and data provided by either country in the assessment or consultation processes, or to request additional information or data from either country.
5. The expert or experts should submit a confidential report to the Director General, who will transmit it to both parties.
CHAPTER 2.2.

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS

Article 2.2.1.

Introduction

An import risk analysis begins with a description of the commodity proposed for import and the likely annual quantity of trade. It should be recognised that whilst an accurate estimate of the anticipated quantity of trade is desirable to incorporate into the risk estimate, it may not be readily available, particularly where such trade is new.

Hazard identification is an essential step that should be conducted before the risk assessment.

The risk assessment process consists of four interrelated steps. These steps clarify the stages of the risk assessment, describing them in terms of the events necessary for the identified potential risk(s) to occur, and facilitate understanding and evaluation of the conclusions (or ‘outputs’). The product is the risk assessment report, which is used in risk communication and risk management.

The relationships between risk assessment and risk management processes are outlined in Figure 1.

Fig. 1. The relationship between risk assessment and risk management processes
Article 2.2.2.

Hazard identification

Hazard identification involves identifying the pathogenic agents that could potentially produce adverse consequences associated with the importation of a commodity.

The hazards identified would be those appropriate to the species being imported, or from which the commodity is derived, and which may be present in the exporting country. It is then necessary to identify whether each hazard is already present in the importing country, and whether it is an OIE listed disease or is subject to control or eradication in that country and to ensure that import measures are not more trade restrictive than those applied within the country.

Hazard identification is a categorisation step, identifying biological agents dichotomously as hazards or not hazards. The risk assessment should be concluded if hazard identification fails to identify hazards associated with the importation.

The evaluation of the Aquatic Animal Health Services, surveillance and control programmes, and zoning and regionalisation systems are important inputs for assessing the likelihood of hazards being present in the aquatic animal population of the exporting country.

An importing country may decide to permit the importation using the appropriate sanitary standards recommended in the Aquatic Code, thus eliminating the need for a risk assessment.

Article 2.2.3.

Principles of risk assessment

1. Risk assessment should be flexible in order to deal with the complexity of real-life situations. No single method is applicable in all cases. Risk assessment should be able to accommodate the variety of animal commodities, the multiple hazards that may be identified with an importation and the specificity of each disease, detection and surveillance systems, exposure scenarios and types and amounts of data and information.

2. Both qualitative and quantitative risk assessment methods are valid.

3. The risk assessment should be based on the best available information that is in accord with current scientific thinking. The assessment should be well documented and supported with references to the scientific literature and other sources, including expert opinion.

4. Consistency in risk assessment methods should be encouraged and transparency is essential in order to ensure fairness and rationality, consistency in decision-making and ease of understanding by all the interested parties.

5. Risk assessments should document the uncertainties, the assumptions made, and the effect of these on the final risk estimate.

6. Risk increases with increasing volume of commodity imported.

7. The risk assessment should be amenable to updating when additional information becomes available.
Article 2.2.4.

Risk assessment steps

1. Release assessment

Release assessment consists of describing the biological pathway(s) necessary for an importation activity to ‘release’ (that is, introduce) a hazard into a particular environment, and estimating the likelihood of that complete process occurring. The release assessment describes the likelihood of the ‘release’ of each of the hazards under each specified set of conditions with respect to amounts and timing, and how these might change as a result of various actions, events or measures. Examples of the kind of inputs that may be required in the release assessment are:

a) Biological factors
   - Species, strain or genotype, and age of aquatic animal
   - Strain of agent
   - Tissue sites of infection and/or contamination
   - Vaccination, testing, treatment and quarantine.

b) Country factors
   - Incidence/prevalence
   - Evaluation of Aquatic Animal Health Services, surveillance and control programmes, and zoning systems of the exporting country.

c) Commodity factors
   - Whether the commodity is alive or dead
   - Quantity of commodity to be imported
   - Ease of contamination
   - Effect of the various processing methods on the pathogenic agent in the commodity
   - Effect of storage and transport on the pathogenic agent in the commodity.

If the release assessment demonstrates no significant risk, the risk assessment does not need to continue.

2. Exposure assessment

Exposure assessment consists of describing the biological pathway(s) necessary for exposure of humans and aquatic and terrestrial animals in the importing country to the hazards and estimating the likelihood of these exposure(s) occurring.

The likelihood of exposure to the hazards is estimated for specified exposure conditions with respect to amounts, timing, frequency, duration of exposure, routes of exposure, and the number, species and other characteristics of the human, aquatic animal or terrestrial animal populations exposed. Examples of the kind of inputs that may be required in the exposure assessment are:

a) Biological factors
   - Presence of potential vectors or intermediate hosts
   - Genotype of host
   - Properties of the agent (e.g. virulence, pathogenicity and survival parameters).
b) Country factors
- *Aquatic animal* demographics (e.g. presence of known susceptible and carrier species, distribution)
- Human and terrestrial animal demographics (e.g. possibility of scavengers, presence of piscivorous birds)
- Customs and cultural practices
- Geographical and environmental characteristics (e.g. hydrographic data, temperature ranges, water courses).

c) Commodity factors
- Whether the *commodity* is alive or dead
- Quantity of *commodity* to be imported
- Intended use of the imported *aquatic animals or products* (e.g. domestic consumption, restocking, incorporation in or as *aquaculture feed* or bait)
- Waste disposal practices.

If the exposure assessment demonstrates no significant *risk*, the *risk assessment* should conclude at this step.

3. Consequence assessment

Consequence assessment consists of identifying the potential biological, environmental and economic consequences. A causal process should exist by which exposures to a *hazard* result in adverse health, environmental or socio-economic consequences. Examples of consequences include:

a) Direct consequences
- *Aquatic animal infection, disease*, production losses and facility closures
- Adverse, and possibly irreversible, consequences to the environment
- Public health consequences.

b) Indirect consequences
- *Surveillance* and control costs
- Compensation costs
- Potential trade losses
- Adverse consumer reaction.

4. Risk estimation

*Risk estimation* consists of integrating the results of the release assessment, exposure assessment, and consequence assessment to produce overall measures of *risks* associated with the *hazards* identified at the outset. Thus risk estimation takes into account the whole of the *risk pathway* from *hazard* identified to unwanted outcome.

For a quantitative assessment, the final outputs may include:
- The various populations of *aquatic animals* and/or estimated numbers of *aquaculture establishments* or people likely to experience health impacts of various degrees of severity over time
- Probability distributions, confidence intervals, and other means for expressing the uncertainties in these estimates.
- Portrayal of the variance of all model inputs
- A sensitivity analysis to rank the inputs as to their contribution to the variance of the risk estimation output
- Analysis of the dependence and correlation between model inputs.

**Article 2.2.5.**

**Principles of risk management**

1. *Risk management* is the process of deciding upon and implementing measures to achieve the Member's appropriate level of protection, whilst at the same time ensuring that negative effects on trade are minimised. The objective is to manage risk appropriately to ensure that a balance is achieved between a country's desire to minimise the likelihood or frequency of disease incursions and their consequences and its desire to import commodities and fulfil its obligations under international trade agreements.

2. The international standards of the OIE are the preferred choice of sanitary measures for risk management. The application of these sanitary measures should be in accordance with the intentions of the standards or other recommendations of the SPS Agreement.

**Article 2.2.6.**

**Risk management components**

1. *Risk evaluation* - the process of comparing the risk estimated in the risk assessment with the Member's appropriate level of protection.

2. Option evaluation - the process of identifying, evaluating the efficacy and feasibility of, and selecting measures to reduce the risk associated with an importation in line with the Member's appropriate level of protection. The efficacy is the degree to which an option reduces the likelihood and/or magnitude of adverse health and economic consequences. Evaluating the efficacy of the options selected is an iterative process that involves their incorporation into the risk assessment and then comparing the resulting level of risk with that considered acceptable. The evaluation for feasibility normally focuses on technical, operational and economic factors affecting the implementation of the risk management options.

3. Implementation - the process of following through with the risk management decision and ensuring that the risk management measures are in place.

4. Monitoring and review - the ongoing process by which the risk management measures are continuously audited to ensure that they are achieving the results intended.

**Article 2.2.7.**

**Principles of risk communication**

1. *Risk communication* is the process by which information and opinions regarding hazards and risks are gathered from potentially affected and interested parties during a risk analysis, and by which the results of the risk assessment and proposed risk management measures are communicated to the decision makers and interested parties in the importing and exporting
Countries. It is a multidimensional and iterative process and should ideally begin at the start of the risk analysis process and continue throughout.

2. A risk communication strategy should be put in place at the start of each risk analysis.

3. The communication of risk should be an open, interactive, iterative and transparent exchange of information that may continue after the decision on importation.

4. The principal participants in risk communication include the authorities in the exporting country and other stakeholders such as domestic aquaculturists, recreational and commercial fishermen, conservation and wildlife groups, consumer groups, and domestic and foreign industry groups.

5. The assumptions and uncertainty in the model, model inputs and the risk estimates of the risk assessment should be communicated.

6. Peer review of risk analyses is an essential component of risk communication for obtaining a scientific critique aimed at ensuring that the data, information, methods and assumptions are the best available.
SECTION 3.

QUALITY OF AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH SERVICES

CHAPTER 3.1.

QUALITY OF AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH SERVICES

Article 3.1.1.

*Aquatic Animal Health Services* of OIE Members need to embody the fundamental principles of an ethical, organisational, legislative, regulatory and technical nature.

Compliance with these fundamental principles by a Member’s *Aquatic Animal Health Service* is important in the establishment and maintenance of confidence in its *aquatic animal health status* and international health certificates.

These fundamental principles are presented in Article 3.1.2. Other factors to consider when evaluating *Aquatic Animal Health Services* are described in the *Aquatic Code* (notification, principles of certification, etc.).

The ability of *Aquatic Animal Health Services* to deliver appropriate services, monitor and control *aquatic animal diseases* based on Members’ *aquatic animal* health legislation and regulations, can be measured through an evaluation or audit whose general principles are described in Articles 3.1.3. and 3.1.4.

A procedure for evaluating *Aquatic Animal Health Services* by OIE experts, on a voluntary basis, is described in Article 3.1.5.

Article 3.1.2.

Fundamental principles of quality

*Aquatic Animal Health Services* should comply with the following principles to ensure the quality of their activities:

1. **Professional judgement**

   *Aquatic Animal Health Services* should ensure that personnel have the relevant qualifications, scientific expertise and experience to give them the competence to make sound professional judgements.

2. **Independence**

   Care should be taken to ensure that the *Aquatic Animal Health Service* personnel are free from any commercial, financial, hierarchical, political or other pressures which may inappropriately influence their judgement or decisions.
3. Impartiality

Aquatic Animal Health Services should be impartial. In particular, all the parties affected by their activities have a right to expect their services to be delivered under reasonable and non-discriminatory conditions.

4. Integrity

Aquatic Animal Health Services are responsible for ensuring that the work of each of their personnel is of a consistently high level of integrity. Any fraud, corruption or falsification should be identified, documented and corrected.

5. Objectivity

Aquatic Animal Health Services should conduct themselves, in an objective, transparent and non-discriminatory manner.

6. Aquatic animal health legislation and regulations

Aquatic animal health legislation and regulations are a fundamental element that supports good governance and provides the legal framework for all key activities of the Aquatic Animal Health Service.

Legislation and regulations should be suitably flexible to allow for judgements of equivalence and efficient responses to changing situations. In particular, they should define and document the responsibilities and structure of the organisations in charge of traceability and control of aquatic animal movements, aquatic animal disease control and reporting systems, epidemiological surveillance and communication of epidemiological information.

7. General organisation

Aquatic Animal Health Services should be able to demonstrate by means of an appropriate legislation and regulations, sufficient financial resources and effective organisation that they are in a position to have control of the establishment and application of aquatic animal health measures, and of international aquatic animal health certification activities.

Aquatic Animal Health Services should have at their disposal effective systems for aquatic animal disease surveillance, diagnosis and notification of disease problems that may occur in the national territory, in accordance with the provisions of the Aquatic Code. They should at all times endeavour to improve their performance in terms of aquatic animal health information systems and aquatic animal disease control.

Aquatic Animal Health Services should define and document the responsibilities and structure of the organisation (in particular the chain of command) in charge of issuing international aquatic animal health certificates.

Each position within the Aquatic Animal Health Services that has an impact on their quality should be described.

These job descriptions should include the requirements for education, training, technical knowledge and experience.

8. Quality policy

Aquatic Animal Health Services should define and document their policy and objectives for, and commitment to, quality, and should ensure that this policy is understood, implemented and maintained at all levels in the organisation. Where conditions allow, they may implement a quality system corresponding to their areas of activity and appropriate for the type, range and volume of work that they have to perform. The recommendations provided in this chapter describe a suitable reference system, which should be used if a Member chooses to adopt a quality system.
9. Procedures and standards

Aquatic Animal Health Services should develop and document appropriate procedures and standards for all providers of relevant activities and associated facilities. These procedures and standards may for example relate to:

a) programming and management of activities, including international aquatic animal health certification activities;

b) prevention, control and notification of disease outbreaks;

c) risk analysis, epidemiological surveillance and zoning;

d) inspection and sampling techniques;

e) diagnostic tests for aquatic animal diseases;

f) preparation, production, registration and control of biological products for use in the diagnosis or prevention of diseases;

g) border controls and import regulations;

h) disinfection;

i) treatments intended to inactivate pathogens in aquatic animal products.

Where there are standards in the Aquatic Code or in the Aquatic Manual, Aquatic Animal Health Services should comply with these standards when applying aquatic animal health measures and when issuing international aquatic animal health certificates.

10. Information, complaints and appeals

Aquatic Animal Health Services should undertake to reply to requests from Aquatic Animal Health Services of other Members or any other authority, in particular ensuring that any requests for information, complaints or appeals that are presented are dealt with in a timely manner.

A record should be maintained of all complaints and appeals and of the relevant action taken by Aquatic Animal Health Services.

11. Documentation

Aquatic Animal Health Services should have at their disposal a reliable and up-to-date documentation system suited to their activities.

12. Self-evaluation

Aquatic Animal Health Services should undertake periodical self-evaluation especially by documenting achievements against goals, and demonstrating the effectiveness of their organisational components and resource adequacy.

A procedure for evaluating Aquatic Animal Health Services by OIE experts, on a voluntary basis, is described in Article 3.1.5.

13. Communication

Aquatic Animal Health Services should have effective internal and external systems of communication covering administrative and technical staff and parties affected by their activities.

14. Human and financial resources

Responsible authorities should ensure that adequate resources are made available to implement effectively the above activities.
Article 3.1.3.

For the purposes of the *Aquatic Code*, every Member should recognise the right of another Member to undertake, or request it to undertake, an evaluation of its *Aquatic Animal Health Services* where the initiating Member is an actual or a prospective importer of *aquatic animal commodities* and/or where the evaluation is to be a component of a *risk analysis* process that is to be used to determine or review *sanitary measures* which apply to such trade.

A Member has the right to expect that the evaluation of its *Aquatic Animal Health Services* will be conducted in an objective and transparent manner. A Member undertaking an evaluation should be able to justify any measure taken as a consequence of its evaluation.

Article 3.1.4.

A Member which intends to conduct an evaluation of another Member's *Aquatic Animal Health Services* should provide notice in writing, and allow sufficient time for the other Member to comply with the request. This notice should define the purpose of the evaluation and details of the information required.

On receipt of a formal request for information to enable an evaluation of its *Aquatic Animal Health Services* by another Member, and following bilateral agreement of the evaluation process and criteria, a Member should expeditiously provide the Member requesting the evaluation with meaningful and accurate information of the type requested.

The evaluation process should take into account the fundamental principles and other factors of quality laid down in Article 3.1.1. and in Article 3.1.2. It should also take into consideration the specific circumstances regarding quality, as described in Article 3.1.1., prevailing in the countries concerned.

The outcome of an evaluation conducted by a Member should be provided in writing as soon as possible, and in any case within 4 months of receipt of the relevant information, to the Member which has undergone the evaluation. The evaluation report should detail any findings that affect trade prospects. The Member which conducts the evaluation should clarify in detail any points of the evaluation on request.

In the event of a dispute between two Members over the conduct or the conclusions of the evaluation of *Aquatic Animal Health Services*, the matter should be dealt with having regard to the procedures set out in Article 3.1.3.

Article 3.1.5.

**Evaluation facilitated by OIE experts under the auspices of the OIE**

The OIE has established procedures for the evaluation of *Aquatic Animal Health Services* of Members. Members can make a request to the OIE for an evaluation of their *Aquatic Animal Health Services*.

The World Assembly of OIE Delegates may endorse a list of approved experts to facilitate the evaluation process.

Under these procedures, the Director General of the OIE recommends an expert(s) from that list. The expert(s) facilitate(s) the evaluation of the *Aquatic Animal Health Services* of the Member using the OIE PVS Tool: Application to *Aquatic Animal Health Services* applied as appropriate to the context of the evaluation.
The expert(s) produce(s) a report in consultation with the Aquatic Animal Health Services of the Member.

The report is submitted to the Director General of the OIE and, with the consent of the Member, published by the OIE.
SECTION 4.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS: DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

CHAPTER 4.1.

ZONING AND COMPARTMENTALISATION

Article 4.1.1.

Introduction

Given the difficulty of establishing and maintaining freedom from a particular disease for an entire country especially for diseases whose entry is difficult to control, there may be benefits to one or more Members in establishing and maintaining a subpopulation with a distinct aquatic animal health status. Subpopulations may be separated by natural or artificial geographical barriers or, in certain situations, by the application of appropriate management practices.

Zoning and compartmentalisation are procedures implemented by a country under the provisions of this chapter to define subpopulations of distinct aquatic animal health status for the purpose of disease control or international trade. Compartmentalisation applies to a subpopulation when management practices related to biosecurity are the defining factors, while zoning applies when a subpopulation is defined on a geographical basis. In practice, spatial considerations and good management play important roles in the application of both concepts.

This chapter is to assist OIE Members wishing to establish and maintain different subpopulations, using the principles of compartmentalisation and zoning. These principles should be applied in accordance with the measures recommended in the relevant disease chapter(s). This chapter also outlines a process through which trading partners may recognise such subpopulations. This process is best implemented by trading partners through establishing parameters and gaining agreement on the necessary measures prior to outbreaks of disease.

Before trade in aquatic animals or aquatic animal products may occur, an importing country needs to be satisfied that its aquatic animal health status will be appropriately protected. In most cases, the import regulations developed will rely in part on judgements made about the effectiveness of sanitary procedures undertaken by the exporting country, both at its borders and within its territory.

In addition to contributing to the safety of international trade, zoning and compartmentalisation may assist disease control or eradication within Members. Zoning may encourage the more efficient use of resources, and compartmentalisation may allow the functional separation of a subpopulation from other domestic or wild aquatic animals through biosecurity measures, which a zone (through geographical separation) would not achieve. Following an outbreak of disease, compartmentalisation may allow a Member be able to take advantage of epidemiological links among subpopulations or...
common practices relating to biosecurity, despite diverse geographical locations, to facilitate disease control and/or the resumption of trade.

Zoning and compartmentalisation may not be applicable to all diseases, but separate requirements will be developed for each disease for which the application of zoning or compartmentalisation is considered appropriate.

To regain the status of a free zone or free compartment following an outbreak of disease, Members should follow the recommendations in the relevant disease chapter in the Aquatic Code.

Article 4.1.2.

General considerations

The Competent Authority of an exporting country that is establishing a zone or compartment for international trade purposes should clearly define the subpopulation in accordance with the recommendations in the relevant chapters in the Aquatic Code, including those on surveillance, and the identification and traceability of aquatic animals. The Competent Authority of an exporting country should be able to explain to the Competent Authority of an importing country the basis for its claim of a distinct aquatic animal health status for the zone or compartment in such terms.

The procedures used to establish and maintain the distinct aquatic animal health status of a zone or compartment should be appropriate to the particular circumstances and will depend on the epidemiology of the disease, environmental factors, risk of introduction and establishment of disease, and applicable biosecurity measures. The exporting country should be able to demonstrate, through detailed documentation supplied to the importing country, published through official channels, that it has implemented the recommendations in the Aquatic Code for establishing and maintaining such a zone or compartment.

An importing country should recognise the existence of this zone or compartment when the appropriate measures recommended in the Aquatic Code are applied, and the Competent Authority of the exporting country certifies that this is the case. Note that an importing country may adopt a higher level of protection where it is scientifically justified and the obligations referred to in Article 2.1.2. are met. Article 4.1.4. is also relevant.

Where countries share a zone or compartment, the Competent Authority of each country should collaborate to define and fulfil their respective responsibilities.

The exporting country should conduct an assessment of the resources needed and available to establish and maintain a zone or compartment for international trade purposes. These include the human and financial resources and the technical capability of the Aquatic Animal Health Service (and of the relevant industry, in the case of a compartment) including disease surveillance and diagnosis.

Article 4.1.3.

Principles for defining a zone or compartment, including protection zones

In conjunction with the above considerations and the definitions of zone and compartment, the following principles should apply when Members define a zone or compartment:

1. The extent of a zone should be established by the Aquatic Animal Health Service on the basis of the definition of zone and made public through official channels.

2. A protection zone may be established to preserve the health status of aquatic animals in a free country or free zone, from adjacent countries or zones of different aquatic animal health status.
Measures should be implemented based on the epidemiology of the disease under consideration to prevent introduction of the pathogenic agent. These measures should include intensified movement control and surveillance and may include vaccination, raised awareness or other measures.

The application of these measures can be in the entire free zone or in a defined area within and/or outside the free zone.

3. The factors defining a compartment should be established by the Aquatic Animal Health Service on the basis of relevant criteria such as management and husbandry practices related to biosecurity, and made public through official channels.

4. Aquatic animals belonging to such subpopulations need to be recognizable as such through a clear epidemiological separation from other aquatic animals and all things presenting a disease risk.

5. For a zone or compartment, the Aquatic Animal Health Service should document in detail the measures taken to ensure the identification of the subpopulation, for example by means of registration of all the aquaculture establishments located in such a zone or compartment and the establishment and maintenance of its aquatic animal health status through a biosecurity plan. The measures used to establish and maintain the distinct aquatic animal health status of a zone or compartment should be appropriate to the particular circumstances and will depend on the epidemiology of the disease, environmental factors, the aquatic animal health status in adjacent areas, applicable biosecurity measures (including movement controls, use of natural and artificial boundaries, the spatial separation of aquatic animals, and commercial management and husbandry practices), and surveillance.

6. For a compartment, the biosecurity plan should describe the partnership between the relevant enterprise/industry and the Aquatic Animal Health Service, and their respective responsibilities, including the procedures for oversight of the operation of the compartment by the Aquatic Animal Health Service.

7. For a compartment, the biosecurity plan should also describe the routine operating procedures to provide clear evidence that the surveillance conducted and the management practices are adequate to meet the definition of the compartment. In addition to information on aquatic animal movements, the biosecurity plan should include production and stock records, feed sources, traceability, surveillance results, visitor logbook, morbidity and mortality history, medications, vaccinations, water supply and effluent treatments, documentation of training and any other criteria necessary for evaluation of risk mitigation. The information required may vary according to the aquatic animal species and disease(s) under consideration. The biosecurity plan should also describe how the measures will be audited to ensure that the risks are regularly re-assessed and the measures adjusted accordingly.

8. Thus defined, the zones and compartments constitute the relevant subpopulations for the application of the recommendations in Section 8. to Section 11. of the Aquatic Code.
Article 4.1.4.

Sequence of steps to be taken in establishing a zone having it recognised for international trade purposes

There is no single sequence of steps which should be followed in establishing a zone. The steps that the Competent Authority of the importing country and the exporting country choose and implement will generally depend on the circumstances existing within the countries and at their borders, and their trading history. The recommended steps are:

1. For zoning
   a) The exporting country identifies a geographical area, which it considers to contain an aquatic animal subpopulation with a distinct aquatic animal health status with respect to a specific disease/specific diseases, based on surveillance.
   b) The exporting country describes in the biosecurity plan for the zone the measures which are being, or will be, applied to distinguish such an area epidemiologically from other parts of its territory, in accordance with the recommendations in the Aquatic Code.
   c) The exporting country provides the above information to the importing country, with an explanation of why the area can be treated as an epidemiologically separated zone for international trade purposes.
   d) The importing country determines whether it accepts such an area as a zone for the importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products, taking into account:
      i) an evaluation of the exporting country’s Aquatic Animal Health Service;
      ii) the result of a risk assessment based on the information provided by the exporting country and its own research;
      iii) its own aquatic animal health situation with respect to the disease(s) concerned; and
      iv) other relevant OIE standards.
   e) The importing country notifies the exporting country of the result of its determination and the underlying reasons, within a reasonable period of time, being either:
      i) recognition of the zone;
      ii) request for further information; or
      iii) rejection of the area as a zone for international trade purposes.
   f) An attempt should be made to resolve any differences over the recognition of the zone, either in the interim or finally, by using an agreed mechanism to reach consensus (such as the OIE dispute settlement mechanism).
   g) The importing country and the exporting country should enter into a formal agreement recognising the zone.

2. For compartmentalisation

Refer to Chapter 4.2.
CHAPTER 4.2.

APPLICATION OF COMPARTMENTALISATION

Article 4.2.1.

Introduction and objectives

The recommendations in this chapter provide a structured framework for the application and recognition of compartments within countries or zones, based on the provisions of Chapter 4.1, with the objective to facilitate trade in aquatic animals and products of aquatic animal origin and as a tool for disease management.

Establishing and maintaining a disease-free status throughout the country should be the ultimate goal for OIE Members. However, establishing and maintaining a disease-free status for an entire country may be difficult, especially in the case of diseases that exist in wild aquatic animal species or can easily cross international boundaries. For many diseases, OIE Members have traditionally applied the concept of zoning to establish and maintain an animal subpopulation with a different animal health status within national boundaries.

The essential difference between zoning and compartmentalisation is that the recognition of zones is based on geographical boundaries whereas the recognition of compartments is based on management and biosecurity practices. However, spatial considerations and good management practices play a role in the application of both concepts.

The fundamental requirement for compartmentalisation is the implementation and documentation of management and biosecurity measures to create a functional separation of subpopulations.

For example, an aquaculture establishment in an infected country or infected zone might have biosecurity measures and management practices that result in negligible risk from diseases or agents. The concept of a compartment extends the application of a ‘risk boundary’ beyond that of a geographical interface and considers all epidemiological factors that can help to create an effective disease-specific separation between subpopulations.

In disease-free countries or free zones, it is preferable that compartments are defined prior to the occurrence of a disease outbreak. In the event of an outbreak or in infected countries or infected zones, compartmentalisation may be used to facilitate trade.

For the purpose of international trade, compartments should be under the responsibility of the Competent Authority in the country. For the purposes of this chapter, compliance by the Members with Chapters 1.1. and 3.1. is an essential prerequisite.

Article 4.2.2.

Principles for defining a compartment

A compartment may be established with respect to a specific disease or diseases. A compartment should be clearly defined. This should indicate, inter alia, the location of all its components including establishments, as well as related functional units (such as brood stock facilities, hatcheries, nurseries, grow-out facilities, slaughterhouses, processing plants, etc.). It should also describe their interrelationships and their contribution to an epidemiological separation between the aquatic animals in a compartment and subpopulations elsewhere with a different health status. The definition of
A compartment should encompass disease-specific epidemiological factors, the aquatic animal species in the compartment, production systems, biosecurity practices, infrastructural factors and surveillance.

Article 4.2.3.

Separation of a compartment from potential sources of infection

The management of a compartment should provide to the Aquatic Animal Health Service documented evidence on the following:

1. Physical or spatial factors that affect the status of biosecurity in a compartment

   While a compartment is primarily based on management and biosecurity measures, a review of geographical factors is needed to ensure that the functional boundary provides adequate separation of a compartment from adjacent animal populations with a different health status. The following factors should be taken into consideration in conjunction with biosecurity measures and, in some instances, may alter the degree of confidence achieved by general biosecurity and surveillance measures:

   a) disease status in adjacent areas and in areas epidemiologically linked to the compartment;
   b) location, disease status and biosecurity of the nearest epidemiological units or other epidemiologically relevant premises. Consideration should be given to the distance and physical separation from:
      i) aquatic animal populations with a different health status in close proximity to the compartment, including wildlife and their migratory routes;
      ii) slaughterhouses or processing plants;
      iii) exhibitions, ‘put and take’ fisheries, fish markets, restaurants with live fish and other points of aquatic animal concentration.

2. Infrastructure factors

   Structural aspects of an establishment or establishments within a compartment contribute to the effectiveness of its biosecurity. Consideration should be given to:

   a) water supply;
   b) effective means of physical separation;
   c) facilities for people entry including access control;
   d) vehicle and vessel access including washing and disinfection procedures;
   e) unloading and loading facilities;
   f) isolation facilities for introduced aquatic animals;
   g) facilities for the introduction of material and equipment;
   h) infrastructure to store feed and veterinary products;
   i) disposal of aquatic animal waste;
   j) measures to prevent exposure to fomites, mechanical or biological vectors;
   k) feed supply/source.
3. Biosecurity plan

The integrity of the compartment relies on effective biosecurity. The management of the compartment should develop, implement and monitor a comprehensive biosecurity plan.

The biosecurity plan should describe in detail:

a) potential pathways for introduction and spread into the compartment of the agents for which the compartment was defined, including aquatic animal movements, wild aquatic animals, potential vectors, vehicles, people, biological products, equipment, fomites, feed, waterways, drainage or other means. Consideration should also be given to the survivability of the agent in the environment;

b) the critical control points for each pathway;

c) measures to mitigate exposure for each critical control point;

d) standard operating procedures including:

   i) implementation, maintenance, monitoring of compliance with the risk mitigation measures,

   ii) application of corrective actions,

   iii) verification of the process,

   iv) record keeping;

e) contingency plan in the event of a change in the level of exposure;

f) reporting procedures to the Competent Authority;

g) the programme for educating and training workers to ensure that all persons involved are knowledgeable and informed on biosecurity principles and practices;

h) the surveillance programme in place.

In any case, sufficient evidence should be submitted to assess the efficacy of the biosecurity plan in accordance with the level of risk for each identified pathway. This evidence should be structured in line with the principles of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP). The biosecurity risk of all operations of the compartment should be re-assessed and documented at least on a yearly basis. Based on the outcome of the assessment, concrete and documented mitigation steps should be taken to reduce the likelihood of introduction of the pathogenic agent into the compartment.

4. Traceability system

A prerequisite for assessing the integrity of a compartment is the existence of a valid traceability system. Although individual identification of aquatic animals may not be feasible, the Competent Authority should provide sufficient assurance of traceability in such a way that their history and movements can be documented and audited.

All aquatic animal movements into and out of the compartment should be recorded at the compartment level, and when needed, based on a risk assessment, approved by the Competent Authority. Movements within the compartment need not be certified but should be recorded and documented at the compartment level.
Article 4.2.4.

Documentation

Documentation should provide clear evidence that the biosecurity, surveillance, traceability and management practices defined for a compartment are effectively and consistently applied. In addition to animal movement information, the necessary documentation should include production unit records (e.g. cage, pond), feed sources, laboratory tests, mortality records, visitor logbook, morbidity history, water supply and effluent treatments, medication and vaccination records, biosecurity plans, training documentation and any other criteria necessary for the evaluation of disease exclusion.

The historical status of a compartment for the disease(s) for which it was defined should be documented and demonstrate compliance with the requirements for freedom in the relevant chapter of the Aquatic Code.

In addition, a compartment seeking recognition should submit to the Competent Authority a baseline aquatic animal health report indicating the presence or absence of OIE listed diseases. This report should be regularly updated to reflect the current aquatic animal health status of the compartment.

Vaccination records including the aquatic animal groups vaccinated, type of vaccine and frequency of administration should be available to enable interpretation of surveillance data.

The time period for which all records should be kept may vary according to the species and disease(s) for which the compartment was defined.

All relevant information should be recorded in a transparent manner and be easily accessible so as to be auditable by the Competent Authority.

Article 4.2.5.

Surveillance for the pathogenic agent or disease

The surveillance system should comply with Chapter 1.4. on Surveillance and the specific recommendations for surveillance for the disease(s) for which the compartment was defined, if available.

If there is an increased risk of exposure to the agent for which the compartment has been defined, the sensitivity of the internal and external surveillance system should be reviewed, documented and, where necessary, increased. At the same time, biosecurity measures in place should be reassessed and increased if necessary.

1. Internal surveillance

Surveillance should involve the collection and analysis of disease/infection data so that the Competent Authority can certify that the animal subpopulation contained in all the establishments comply with the defined status of that compartment. A surveillance system that is able to ensure early detection in the event that the agent enters a subpopulation is essential. Depending on the disease(s) for which the compartment was defined, different surveillance strategies may be applied to achieve the desired confidence in disease freedom.

2. External surveillance

The biosecurity measures applied in a compartment should be appropriate to the level of exposure of the compartment. External surveillance will help identify a significant change in the level of exposure for the identified pathways for disease introduction into the compartment.
An appropriate combination of targeted and passive surveillance is necessary to achieve the goals described above. Based on the recommendations of Chapter 1.4., targeted surveillance based on an assessment of risk factors may be the most efficient surveillance approach. Targeted surveillance should in particular include epidemiological units in close proximity to the compartment or those that have a potential epidemiological link with it.

Article 4.2.6.

Diagnostic capabilities and procedures

Officially-designated laboratory facilities should be available for sample testing. All laboratory tests and procedures should comply with the recommendations of the Aquatic Manual for the specific disease. Each laboratory that conducts testing should have systematic procedures in place for rapid reporting of disease results to the Competent Authority. Where appropriate, results should be confirmed by an OIE Reference Laboratory.

Article 4.2.7.

Emergency response and notification

Early detection, diagnosis, notification of disease and rapid response are critical to minimise the consequences of outbreaks.

In the event of suspicion of occurrence of the disease for which the compartment was defined, the free status of the compartment should be immediately suspended. If confirmed, the status of the compartment should be immediately revoked and importing countries should be notified following the provisions of Chapter 1.1.

In case of the detection of any disease not present according to the baseline animal health report of the compartment referred to in Article 4.2.4., the management of the compartment should notify the Competent Authority, and initiate a review to determine whether there has been a breach in the biosecurity measures and notify the Competent Authority. If a significant breach in biosecurity, even in the absence of outbreak, is detected, export certification as a free compartment should be suspended. Disease-free status of the compartment may only be reinstated after the compartment has adopted the necessary measures to re-establish the original biosecurity level and the Competent Authority re-approves the status of the compartment.

In the event of a compartment being at risk from a change, in the surrounding area, in the disease situation for which the compartment was defined, the Competent Authority should re-evaluate without delay the status of the compartment and consider whether any additional biosecurity measures are needed to ensure that the integrity of the compartment is maintained.

Article 4.2.8.

Supervision and control of a compartment

The authority, organisation, and infrastructure of the Aquatic Animal Health Services, including laboratories, should be clearly documented in accordance with the Chapter on the Quality of Aquatic Animal Health Services of the Aquatic Code, to provide confidence in the integrity of the compartment.
The *Competent Authority* has the final authority in granting, suspending and revoking the status of a *compartment*. The *Competent Authority* should continuously supervise compliance with all the requirements critical to the maintenance of the *compartment* status described in this chapter and ensure that all the information is readily accessible to the *importing countries*. Any significant change should be notified to the *importing country*. 
CHAPTER 4.3.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON DISINFECTION

Article 4.3.1.

Disinfection is employed as a common disease management tool in aquaculture. Disinfection procedures should be part of a disinfection programme designed for a specific purpose. Disinfection may be used in biosecurity programmes to eradicate or exclude specific diseases from aquaculture establishments, as well as a routine sanitary measure to reduce disease incidence within aquaculture establishments.

Disinfection of installations and equipment and transport units should be carried out using procedures that prevent the contamination of other water and other aquatic animal populations with infectious material. There is a great variety of products and procedures for washing and disinfecting installations or equipment used in aquaculture establishments or for treating effluents, and wastes from quarantine and processing plants. The decision on which product to use should take into account their microbiocidal efficacy, their safety for aquatic animals and the environment.

Article 4.3.2.

The manufacturer’s instructions for effective use of a disinfectant under aquaculture conditions should be followed. Disinfectants to be used in aquaculture should be evaluated/tested against relevant aquatic pathogens under relevant conditions. Approved procedures for the use of disinfectants in aquaculture should be established.

The efficacy of disinfection is affected by various factors, including temperature, pH, and the presence of organic matter. At high temperatures, the disinfecting action is faster as long as the decomposition of the disinfectant does not occur. At low temperatures, the biocidal efficacy of most disinfectants decreases. Many disinfectants have an optimum pH range/level, and product choice should depend on the pH of the diluent (water). For example, quaternary ammonia is more efficient at alkaline pH while iodine and iodophores are more efficient at neutral or acid pH. The presence of organic material and greasy substances may significantly reduce the efficacy of a disinfectant. Therefore, surfaces should be cleaned thoroughly before applying disinfectants.

The use of disinfectants may require measures to protect personnel, aquatic animals and the environment. The manufacturer’s instructions for safe use and disposal should be followed.

Article 4.3.3.

Specific disinfection procedures are provided in Chapter 1.1.3. of the Aquatic Manual.
CHAPTER 4.4.

CONTINGENCY PLANNING

Article 4.4.1.

A number of diseases are regarded as posing a potential threat to aquaculture as well as to wild stocks of aquatic animals world-wide. The introduction of such diseases into countries recognised to be free from these diseases or into countries with an established control system and eradication programme for such diseases, may result in significant losses. In order to diminish such losses, the Competent Authority responsible for aquatic animal health may need to act quickly and should develop contingency plan(s) before such events occur.

Article 4.4.2.

Legal powers

Countries must establish the necessary legal provisions that are needed for the implementation of contingency plan(s). Such legal powers must include provisions for establishing a list of diseases for which action is needed, definitions of how such diseases should be managed if detected, provisions for access to infected/suspected sites, and other legal provisions, as needed.

Article 4.4.3.

Crises centre(s)

Countries must establish specified crises centre(s) (disease control centre[s]) that shall have the responsibility for the co-ordination of all control measures to be carried out. Such centres could either be located centrally or locally, depending on the infrastructure in a given country. A list of the crises centre(s) that has(have) the necessary facilities to carry out disease control measures should be made widely available.

The contingency plan(s) should also state that the crises centre(s) has(have) the authority to act rapidly to bring a given disease situation under control by contacting the personnel, organisations, aquaculture establishments, etc., that are involved directly or indirectly in managing an outbreak of a disease.

Article 4.4.4.

Personnel

The contingency plan(s) should provide information on the staff required to undertake the control measures, their responsibilities, and instructions on the chain of command.
Article 4.4.5.

Instructions

Countries establishing *contingency plan(s)* should provide a detailed set of instructions on actions to be taken when a specified *aquatic animal disease* is suspected or confirmed. These could include:

1. diagnostic procedures in national reference laboratories;
2. confirmation of *diagnosis*, if necessary, at an OIE Reference Laboratory;
3. standing instructions to *aquatic animal* health personnel in the field;
4. instructions for handling/disposal of dead *aquatic animals* at an *aquaculture establishment*;
5. instructions for sanitary slaughtering;
6. instructions for *disease* control at the local level;
7. instructions for the establishment of *quarantine* areas and observation (*surveillance*) zones;
8. provisions for controlling movements of *aquatic animals* in established zones;
9. *disinfection* procedures;
10. *fallowing* procedures;
11. *surveillance* methods for establishing successful eradication;
12. re-stocking procedures;
13. compensation issues;
14. reporting procedures;
15. provisions for raising public awareness of *aquatic animal disease*.

Article 4.4.6.

Diagnostic laboratories

Countries establishing *contingency plan(s)* should establish national reference laboratories having the necessary facilities for diagnostic work on *aquatic animal diseases* that can be carried out rapidly. The national laboratory(ies) must also have established a set of instructions as regards rapid transportation of samples, and established protocols for quality assurance and diagnostic procedures to be used.
Article 4.4.7.

Training programmes

Countries establishing contingency plan(s) must establish necessary training programmes to ensure that skills in field, administrative and diagnostic procedures are maintained. Announced and unannounced field exercises for administrators and aquatic animal personnel should be carried out to maintain the state of readiness.
CHAPTER 4.5.

FALLOWING IN AQUACULTURE

Article 4.5.1.

Introduction

Gaps in aquaculture production at the same location are commonly recognised to be of value in resting or restoring the local environment. As part of this strategy, fallowing can break re-infection cycles by removing loci of a disease from a farm. Consequently, fallowing is often carried out as a regular disease management measure in aquaculture, especially prior to the introduction of new populations of aquatic animals into a previously used site. In order to promote improved health in aquaculture, the Aquatic Animal Health Service in a country may encourage the use of fallowing as a routine management strategy for many diseases. Account should be taken of the likely beneficial effects of fallowing in proportion to the economic costs involved. The Aquatic Animal Health Service should also consider such factors as the level of risk to the local and national aquaculture operations, previous knowledge of the severity of a disease(s), the infective period and distribution of the pathogenic agent(s), the socioeconomic conditions, and benefits pertaining to the general aquatic resources. When the infective period is not known, the farm may be fallowed for a period, the length of which should be based on a risk assessment.

However, where an official stamping-out policy is being carried out for a disease of concern, the Aquatic Animal Health Service should require that an infected aquaculture establishment, and all other aquaculture establishments in an officially established infected zone, be subjected to a required period of fallowing, if necessary synchronised.

Article 4.5.2.

Legal powers

In cases where fallowing may be a compulsory measure, for instance in the establishment or restoration of a disease free zone, countries should establish a legal framework for the implementation of fallowing procedures in aquaculture establishments. Legal provisions could include:

1. defining the disease circumstances when fallowing or synchronised fallowing is required;

2. defining mechanisms based on risk assessment where individual disease-specific measures may be determined, including disinfection and the length of the fallowing period prior to the re-introduction of susceptible species;

3. following permission by the Competent Authority to restock with susceptible species, defining a period of surveillance and diagnosis to verify freedom from the specified disease.
Article 4.5.3.

Technical parameters for the implementation of a statutory fallowing plan

Fallowing of a farm should start immediately after:
1. removal of all susceptible species of aquatic animals for the disease of concern; and
2. removal of all species capable of acting as carriers of the disease of concern; and
3. if appropriate, removal of other species; and
4. removal of water in which infected stocks have been held, where feasible; and
5. equipment and other materials contaminated or otherwise capable of harbouring infection have either been removed or subjected to disinfection to standards approved by the Aquatic Animal Health Service.

The length of the statutory fallowing period should be based on scientific evidence of the likelihood of a pathogenic agent remaining infective outside its aquaculture host(s) in the local environment, at a level likely to cause an unacceptable risk of re-infection of the aquaculture establishment. Account should be taken of the extent of the disease outbreak, local availability of alternative hosts, the survival and infectivity characteristics of the pathogenic agent and the local climatological, geographical and hydrographical factors. In addition, the level of risk to the local aquaculture industry and wider aquatic resources may be included. A scientifically based risk assessment approach should be used to determine the length of the fallowing period.

Article 4.5.4.

Instructions

Countries establishing fallowing procedures should develop a detailed set of instructions for disinfection of aquaculture establishments prior to fallowing. For this purpose, the instructions set out in Chapter 4.3. of the Aquatic Code and Chapter 1.1.3. of the Aquatic Manual should be used as guidelines, taking into account current scientific knowledge on the efficacy of the treatments for the pathogenic agent of concern.

Article 4.5.5.

Restocking

No aquaculture establishment that has been under compulsory fallowing should be restocked until the fallowing period has been completed and permission from the Competent Authority has been received. When restocking, care should be taken not to use stocks of aquatic animals that would compromise the objectives of the fallowing procedure.

To increase confidence in the effectiveness of the fallowing procedures, all farms subjected to compulsory fallowing should have a period of high level official surveillance after susceptible species have been restocked. The duration and intensity of the surveillance should be appropriate for the disease of concern and local conditions.
CHAPTER 4.6.

HANDLING, DISPOSAL AND TREATMENT OF AQUATIC ANIMAL WASTE

Introduction
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. The recommendations in this chapter are general in nature. The choice of one or more of the recommended methods should comply with relevant local and national legislation.

Disposal methods should take into consideration a range of factors, including the cause of mortality. It may be appropriate to carry out a risk assessment on the disposal options.

In the case of killing of animals for disease control purposes or unusually large mortalities, this may require approval from, or supervision by, the Competent Authority.

In the event of aquatic animal mortalities of a significant nature in aquaculture or in the wild, the Competent Authority should be notified so that necessary steps can be taken to dispose of the dead aquatic animals, in order to minimise the risk for possible spread of aquatic animal disease.

Scope
The scope of this chapter covers aquatic animal waste derived from: i) routine aquaculture operations; ii) on shore processing, irrespective of origin; iii) mass killing for disease control purposes and iv) mass mortality (including in the wild).

Definitions
Aquatic animal waste means the entire body or parts of aquatic animals that have died or been killed for disease control purposes as well as slaughtered aquatic animals, and their parts, that are not intended for human consumption.

High risk waste means aquatic animal waste that constitutes, or is suspected of constituting, a serious health risk to aquatic animals or humans.

Low risk waste means aquatic animal waste that is not high risk waste.

Governance
The Competent Authority should oversee the efficient and effective disposal of aquatic animal waste. Cooperation among all relevant agencies and stakeholders involved in aquatic animal health is
necessary to ensure safe handling and disposal. In this context the following aspects should be addressed:

1. physical, logistical and data access by relevant personnel, in cooperation with stakeholders, including access of the Competent Authority to the aquatic animal waste;

2. movement controls and the authority to make exemptions under certain biosecurity conditions, for example for transport of aquatic animal waste to another location for disposal;

3. the determination of the method and location of disposal, and the necessary equipment and facilities, by the Competent Authority, in consultation with other authorities including government organisations responsible for the protection of human health and the environment.

Article 4.6.5.

Storage, transport and labelling

Following collection, aquatic animal waste should be stored for the minimum time practical; however, where storage is necessary there should be sufficient capacity for the expected waste and the Competent Authority may require additional measures.

The storage area should be separated from aquaculture sites and bodies of water to minimise the risk of spread of pathogenic agents. The containers of stored aquatic animal waste should be leak proof and secured to prevent contact with aquatic animals, other animals or birds and unauthorised personnel.

Aquatic animal waste infected by an agent causing a disease referred to in the Aquatic Code or suspected of being so, may not be transported without permission from the Competent Authority. The Competent Authority may assess the requirement for this condition based on the disease situation in the Member (e.g. where a disease referred to in the Aquatic Code is enzootic in the Member).

If low risk waste becomes contaminated with high risk waste, such waste should then be considered high risk waste.

Containers used for transport of aquatic animal waste should be leak-proof and labelled regarding content. Transport should be accompanied by appropriate documentation detailing origin, content and destination to allow tracing if required.

Equipment used for transportation should be cleaned and disinfected before being returned, as described in Chapter 4.3. on General recommendations on disinfection.

Article 4.6.6.

Approval and operational requirements of disposal plants

1. Requirement for approval

   All disposal plants dealing with aquatic animal waste should be approved by the Competent Authority. However, disposal plants using only low risk waste for production of products not intended to be used in animals may be exempted from approval but should be registered by the Competent Authority.
2. **Conditions for approval**

For a disposal plant to be approved to deal with *aquatic animal* waste, it should:

a) be adequately separated from thoroughfares through which contamination may be spread, other premises (such as aquaculture facilities, slaughterhouses, processing plants) and bodies of water, so as to minimise the risk of spread of pathogenic agents;

b) be designed and equipped to the satisfaction of the Competent Authority;

c) have access to approved or accredited laboratories;

d) fulfill requirements for handling the *aquatic animal* waste and products specified by the Competent Authority;

Any substantial proposed changes to the disposal plant should be approved by the Competent Authority.

Approval should be withdrawn or suspended, as appropriate, if a disposal plant no longer fulfils the criteria given by the Competent Authority.

3. **Operating requirements**

The disposal plant should operate using procedures that minimise the risk of spread of pathogenic agents, including:

a) separation of clean and unclean areas, including consideration of workflow, and good hygienic procedures for personnel;

b) equipment and surfaces should be easy to clean and disinfect;

c) handling and treatment of *aquatic animal* waste should take place as soon as possible after being received;

d) effluent waste water should be collected and disinfected before leaving the premises;

e) incorporating measures to prevent access of birds, insects, rodents or other animals to the disposal plant;

f) a system for registration and labelling of material for tracing purposes.

A system for internal control, identifying critical points and means of control for such points, should be in place at the disposal plants. A general documentation system for internal control including sampling for control of critical points should be established.

Spot checks of batches should be carried out to check the microbiological standards following processing. Products from incineration plants may be exempted from such checks. The Competent Authority may grant exemptions on specified conditions.

If testing of the product from processed high risk waste shows that the product is not satisfactorily produced and thus poses a risk for the spread of pathogenic agents, disposal plants should report immediately to the Competent Authority who may then require additional measures. These products should not be transported from disposal plants without permission from the Competent Authority.

Results from the different samples and checks should be kept for a given period decided upon by the Competent Authority. Analyses and sampling should be carried out in accordance with international standards.

Disposal plants applying treatments based on time and pressure should be able to measure and record these parameters.
Disposal plants should maintain records related to quantity and type of raw material received, supplier, quantity and type of finished product, receivers, critical check points, and deviations from provisions stipulated in relevant regulations. These should be made available to the Competent Authority on request.

Article 4.6.7.

Methods for disposal of high risk waste

Recommended methods for disposal of high risk waste from aquatic animals as follows:

1. Rendering

Rendering will inactivate all of the known aquatic animal pathogenic agents.

Rendering is generally carried out in a closed system using a combination of mechanical treatments and time/temperature combinations leading to stable, sterilised products, such as fish meal and fish oil.

The process typically involves pre-heating to 50–60°C, followed by cooking of the raw waste at 95–100°C for 15 to 20 minutes. The oil and proteins are separated by pressing and centrifuging involving temperatures of 90°C. The production of meal involves further high temperature treatments.

2. Incineration

Incineration is a controlled burning process carried out in fixed incinerators or mobile air curtain incinerators. Mobile air curtain incinerators enable the process to be carried out on site thus removing the need to transport the aquatic animal waste.

Incinerators may only be capable of handling limited volumes of aquatic animal waste.

3. Sterilisation

The minimum requirement for sterilisation is a core temperature of at least 90°C for at least 60 minutes, but other time/temperature combinations are also available and effective.

4. Composting

Composting does not inactivate all pathogenic agents; therefore, high risk waste should be heated (85°C for 25 minutes or an equivalent temperature/time combination) prior to the composting process.

Effective composting depends upon a combination of pH, temperature, moisture and time factors. Depending on the type of composting (e.g. windrows, closed vessel) and the raw material used, as well as the climatic conditions, the temperature parameters of the process and the heat distribution in the material may be different.

When held in windrows, the entire material needs an exposure time of at least two weeks at 55°C, while in closed vessels exposure to 65°C for one week is required.

5. Biogas production

Biogas production does not inactivate all pathogenic agents; therefore, high risk waste should be treated to ensure inactivation of pathogenic agents prior to the biogas production process. The method chosen should be shown to inactivate the pathogenic agents of concern.

Biogas production is a process whereby organic matter in biological waste products is fermented under anaerobic conditions.
The two main types of biogas production are mesophilic anaerobe digestion and thermophilic anaerobe digestion.

Both processes are normally continuous, and a portion of the end material is removed every 2–12 hours. There is a risk that new material which has been in the reactor for only 2–12 hours may be removed with the finished products.

6. Ensiling

Ensiling does not inactivate all pathogenic agents; therefore, high risk waste should be heated (85°C for 25 minutes or an equivalent temperature/time combination) prior to the ensiling process.

Ensiling of aquatic animal waste in an organic acid such as formic acid is an effective method of inactivating most pathogenic agents within 48 hours. The pH in the ensiling process should be maintained at, or below, 4.0 throughout the process.

7. Burial

Burial may take place either in a landfill site or other locations approved by the Competent Authority based on risk assessments as regards aquatic animal health, public health and possible environmental impacts.

Whenever possible, the aquatic animal waste should be subjected to a treatment that ensures inactivation of the pathogenic agents prior to burial.

In selecting an acceptable burial site, consideration should be given to the following:

Location – for example, distance from aquaculture establishments, bodies of water, depth of the ground water table, topography, adjacent land use; and direction of prevailing wind.

Access – easy access for equipment and delivery of aquatic animal waste. Fencing and restricted admittance may be necessary.

Pit construction – rocky areas should be avoided. Soils with good stability, capable of withstanding the weight of equipment used to dig and fill the pits, should be selected. If required, diversion banks can be constructed to prevent surface runoff entering the pit or to prevent any liquids escaping from the burial site. Pit dimensions depend on the volume of the aquatic animal waste to be buried and should be easy to fill.

Pit closure – contents should be covered with unslaked lime (CaO) at a rate of 85 kg per 1,000 kg of aquatic animal waste to hasten decomposition and prevent scavenging.

8. Pyre-burning

Pyre burning may not be suitable for large amounts of aquatic animal waste.

In selecting an acceptable pyre burning site, the following considerations are important:

a) Location – the possible effects of the fire’s heat, smoke and odour on nearby structures, underground and aerial utilities, roads and residential areas. The site should be surrounded by an adequate firebreak.

b) Access – for equipment to construct the pyre and maintain the fire, for the delivery of fuel and aquatic animal waste.

Pyre burning needs considerable amounts of fuel and all required fuel should be on site before the burning is started. If the pyre-burning is carried out correctly, aquatic animal wastes will be destroyed within 48 hours.

When leaving the pyre-burning site, vehicles and containers should be disinfected.
Alternatively, high risk waste may be disposed of by any methods, approved by the *Competent Authority*, which ensure an equivalent reduction of risk.

**Article 4.6.8.**

**Methods of disposal for low risk waste**

Low risk waste can be disposed of using all methods described in Article 4.6.7. In the case of composting or biogas production it is not necessary to heat treat the low risk waste prior to disposal.

Alternatively, the following methods may be used:

1. **Ensiling**

   Ensiling of *aquatic animal* waste in an organic acid such as formic acid is an effective method of inactivating most *pathogenic agents* within 48 hours. The pH in the ensiling process should be maintained at, or below, 4.0 throughout the process.

   The *Competent Authority* may require ensiling as a treatment prior to one of the disposal methods described in Article 4.6.7.

2. **Pasteurisation**

   Pasteurisation does not inactivate all *pathogenic agents*. Heat treatment at temperatures below 100°C can be considered as pasteurisation. Pasteurisation may use a range of time/temperature combinations.

   In addition, the *Competent Authority* may permit low risk waste to be disposed of by other means, or used for any other purposes, following an *assessment of the risk* from such methods or uses.

**Article 4.6.9.**

**Mass mortality events**

Mass mortality of *aquatic animals* can arise from natural events or killing for disease control purposes (refer to Chapter X.X. on the humane killing of fish for disease control purposes; in preparation). This may lead to the need for disposal of large numbers of dead *aquatic animals* and is often subject to intense public and media scrutiny. The *Competent Authority* should conduct disposal operations within acceptable scientific principles that will address the *risks* of spread of the *pathogenic agent*, and public and environmental concerns.

1. **Preparedness**

   Successful disposal with minimum delay is achieved by advance planning and preparation:

   a) Preparedness planning should engage other relevant government agencies and stakeholders such as industry organisations, animal welfare organisations, emergency response organisations, and media.

   b) Standard operating procedures should be developed (including documented decision-making processes, training of staff).

   c) Pre-arranged mechanisms to access emergency funding for the disposal operation.

   d) Information sharing with officials involved in the disposal operation, stakeholders, politicians and the media is essential. A well informed spokesperson should be available at all times to answer enquiries.
e) Resource readiness planning should address such items as personnel, transport, storage facilities, equipment, fuel, protective clothing and logistical support. Special equipment, such as well boats, may be required.

2. **Critical elements**

   Critical elements which need to be considered in planning and implementation include:
   
   a) rapid disposal of the dead *aquatic animals*;
   
   b) methods of treatment and disposal should address capacity issues and the *risks* of spread of *pathogenic agents*;
   
   c) adequate funding and staff resources;
   
   d) addressing the *risk* of spread of *pathogenic agents* by vectors and fomites;
   
   e) stakeholder cooperation;
   
   f) safety of personnel;
   
   g) environmental concerns;
   
   h) societal acceptance.

3. **Choice of disposal methods**

   The *Competent Authority* may determine the dead *aquatic animals* to be either high risk waste or low risk waste and select an appropriate disposal method according to the risk (refer to Articles 4.6.7. and 4.6.8.).

   Should the chosen disposal option be applied near the border of a neighbouring country, the *Competent Authority* of that country should be informed.
A combination of factors should be taken into account to facilitate international trade in aquatic animals and aquatic animal products, without incurring unacceptable risks to human and aquatic animal health.

Because of differences between countries in their aquatic animal health situations, various options are offered by the Aquatic Code. The aquatic animal health situation in the exporting country, in the transit countries or countries and in the importing country should be considered before determining the requirements for trade. To maximise harmonisation of the aquatic animal health aspects of international trade, Competent Authorities of OIE Members should base their import requirements on the OIE standards.

These requirements should be included in the certificates drawn up in accordance with the model international aquatic animal health certificates provided for in Chapter 5.10. of the Aquatic Code.

Certification should be exact and concise, and should clearly address the requirements of the importing country. For this purpose, prior consultation between Competent Authorities of importing and exporting countries may be necessary. This consultation helps to determine the exact requirements of the certification.

Certificates should be issued and signed by a single competent official authorized by the Competent Authority to perform inspections, and endorsed through signature and/or official stamp of the Competent Authority. The certification requirements should not include conditions for diseases that are not transmitted by the commodity concerned. The certificate should be signed in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 5.2.

When officials of a Competent Authority wish to visit another country for matters of professional interest to the Competent Authority of the other country, the latter should be informed prior to any such visit. This visit should be mutually agreed upon between Competent Authorities.
Article 5.1.2.

Responsibilities of the importing country

1. The import requirements included in the international aquatic animal health certificate should assure that commodities introduced into the importing country comply with OIE standards. Importing countries should restrict their requirements to those necessary to achieve the national appropriate level of protection. If these are stricter than the OIE standards, they should be based on an import risk analysis.

2. The international aquatic animal health certificate should not include requirements for the exclusion of pathogenic agents or aquatic animal diseases that are present in the importing country and are not subject to any official control programme, except when the strain of the pathogenic agent in the exporting country is of significantly higher pathogenicity and/or has a larger host range. The measures imposed on imports to manage the risks posed by a pathogenic agent or aquatic animal disease should not require a higher level of protection than that provided by measures applied as part of the official control programme operating within the importing country.

3. The international aquatic animal health certificate should not include measures against pathogenic agents or diseases that are not OIE listed, unless the importing country has demonstrated through an import risk analysis, carried out in accordance with Section 2., that the pathogenic agent or disease poses a significant risk to the importing country.

4. The transmission of the requirements of the importing country or certificates from the Competent Authority of the importing country and the communication of import requirements to persons other than the Competent Authority of another country necessitates that copies of these documents be also sent to the Competent Authority of the exporting country. This important procedure avoids delays and difficulties that may arise between traders and Competent Authorities when the authenticity of the certificates or permits is not established.

The transmission of this information is the responsibility of Competent Authorities of the exporting country. However, it can be issued by private sector veterinarians at the place of origin of the commodities when this practice is the subject of appropriate approval and authentication by Competent Authorities.

5. Situations may arise that result in changes to the consignee, identification of the means of transportation, or frontier post after a certificate is issued. If it is determined that these do not change the aquatic animal health or public health status of the consignment, then they should not prevent the acceptance of the certificate.

Article 5.1.3.

Responsibilities of the exporting country

1. An exporting country should, on request, supply the following to importing countries:
   a) information on the aquatic animal health situation and national aquatic animal health information systems to determine whether that country is free or has zones or compartments free from OIE listed diseases, and on the pathway followed to achieve disease freedom e.g. historical freedom, absence of susceptible species or targeted surveillance, including the regulations and procedures in force to maintain the free status;
   b) regular and prompt information on the occurrence of OIE listed diseases;
c) details of the country's ability to apply measures to control and prevent OIE listed diseases;

d) information on the structure of the Competent Authority and the authority that they exercise;

e) technical information, particularly on biological tests and vaccines applied in all or part of the country.

2. Competent Authorities of exporting countries should:

a) have official procedures for the authorisation of certifying officials, defining their functions and duties as well as conditions of oversight and accountability, including possible suspension and termination of the authorisation;

b) ensure that relevant instructions and training are provided to certifying officials;

c) monitor the activities of the certifying officials to verify their integrity and impartiality.

3. The Competent Authority of the exporting country is ultimately accountable for certification used in international trade.

Article 5.1.4.

Responsibilities in case of an incident related to importation

1. International trade involves a continuing ethical responsibility. Therefore, if within a reasonable period subsequent to an export taking place, the Competent Authority becomes aware of the appearance or reappearance of a disease that has been specifically included in the international aquatic animal health certificate or other disease of potential epidemiological importance to the importing country there is an obligation for the Competent Authority to notify the importing country, so that the imported commodities may be inspected or tested and appropriate action be taken to limit the spread of the disease should it have been inadvertently introduced.

2. If a disease condition appears in imported aquatic animals within a reasonable period after importation, the Competent Authority of the exporting country should be informed so as to enable an investigation to be made, because this may be the first available information on the occurrence of the disease in a previously free aquatic animal population. The Competent Authority of the importing country should be informed of the result of the investigation because the source of infection may not be in the exporting country.

3. If, after importation of commodities, a disease condition appears, within a reasonable period after importation, in aquatic animals in the importing country, the Competent Authority of the exporting country should be informed so as to enable an investigation to be made, because this may be the first available information on the occurrence of the disease in a previously free aquatic animal population. The Competent Authority of the importing country should conduct trace back investigations because the source of disease may not be in the exporting country.
4. In case of suspicion, on reasonable grounds, that an *international aquatic animal health certificate* may be fraudulent, the *Competent Authority of the importing country and exporting country* should conduct an investigation. Consideration should also be given to notifying any third country(ies) that may have been implicated. All associated consignments should be kept under official control, pending the outcome of the investigation. *Competent Authorities* of all countries involved should fully cooperate with the investigation. If the *international aquatic animal health certificate* is found to be fraudulent, every effort should be made to identify those responsible so that appropriate action can be taken according to the relevant legislation.
CHAPTER 5.2.

CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES

Article 5.2.1.

Protection of the professional integrity of the certifying official

Certification should be based on the highest possible ethical standards, the most important of which is that the professional integrity of the certifying official should be respected and safeguarded.

It is essential to include in the certificate only those specific statements that can be accurately and honestly signed by a certifying official. For example, these requirements should not include certification of an area as being free from diseases that are not notifiable in that country, or the occurrence of which the signing certifying official is not necessarily informed about. It is unacceptable to ask for certification for events that will take place after the document is signed when these events are not under the direct control and supervision of the signing certifying official.

Article 5.2.2.

Certifying officials

Certifying officials should:

1. be authorised by the Competent Authority of the exporting country to sign international aquatic animal health certificates;

2. only certify matters that are within their own knowledge at the time of signing the certificate, or that have been separately attested by another competent party authorised by the Competent Authority;

3. sign only at the appropriate time certificates that have been completed fully and correctly; where a certificate is signed on the basis of supporting documentation, the certifying official should have verified or be in possession of that documentation before signing;

4. have no conflict of interest in the commercial aspects of the aquatic animals or aquatic animal products being certified and be independent from the commercial parties.

Article 5.2.3.

Preparation of international aquatic animal health certificates

Certificates should be drawn up in accordance with the following principles:

1. Certificates should be designed so as to minimise the potential for fraud including use of a unique identification number, or other appropriate means to ensure security. Paper certificates should bear the signature of the certifying official and the official identifier (stamp) of the issuing Competent Authority. Each page of a multiple page certificate should bear the unique certificate number and a number indicating the number of the page out of the total number of pages. Electronic certification procedures should include equivalent safeguards.
2. Certificates should be written using terms that are simple, unambiguous and as easy to understand as possible, without losing their legal meaning.

3. If so required, certificates should be written in the language of the importing country. In such circumstances, they should also be written in a language understood by the certifying official.

4. Certificates should require appropriate identification of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products except where this is impractical (e.g. eyed eggs).

5. Certificates should not require a certifying official to certify matters that are outside his/her knowledge or that he/she cannot ascertain and verify.

6. Where appropriate, when presented to the certifying official, certificates should be accompanied by notes of guidance indicating the extent of enquiries, tests or examinations expected to be carried out before the certificate is signed.

7. The text of a certificate should not be amended except by deletions that should be signed and stamped by the certifying official.

8. The signature and stamp should be in a colour different to that of the printing of the certificate. The stamp may be embossed instead of being a different colour.

9. Only original certificates should be accepted by the importing country.

10. Replacement certificates may be issued by a Competent Authority to replace original certificates that have been, for example, lost, damaged, contain errors, or where the original information is no longer correct. These replacements should be provided by the issuing authority and be clearly marked to indicate that they are replacing the original certificate. A replacement certificate should reference the number and the issue date of the certificate that it supersedes. The superseded certificate should be cancelled and where possible, returned to the issuing authority.

Article 5.2.4.

Electronic certification

1. Certification may be provided by electronic documentation sent directly from the Competent Authority of the exporting country to the Competent Authority of the importing country. Normally, such systems also provide an interface with the commercial organisation marketing the commodity for provision of information to the certifying authority. The certifying official should have access to all information such as laboratory results and aquatic animal identification data.

2. Electronic certificates should carry the same information as conventional certificates.

3. The Competent Authority should have in place systems for the security of electronic certificates against access by unauthorised persons or organisations.

4. The certifying official should be officially responsible for the secure use of his/her electronic signature.
CHAPTER 5.3.

CRITERIA TO ASSESS THE SAFETY OF AQUATIC ANIMAL COMMODITIES

In the context of this chapter the word ‘safety’ is applied only to animal health considerations for OIE listed diseases.

Article 5.3.1.

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

In all disease chapters, point 1 of Article X.X.3. lists aquatic animals and aquatic animal products that can be traded for any purpose from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from disease X. The criteria for inclusion of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products in point 1 of Article X.X.3. are based on the absence of the pathogenic agent in the traded aquatic animals and aquatic animal products or inactivation of the pathogenic agent by treatment or processing.

The assessment of the safety of the aquatic animals and aquatic animal products using the criteria relating to treatment or processing can only be undertaken where treatments or processing are well defined. It may not be necessary to provide details of the entire treatment or process undertaken. However, the steps considered critical in the inactivation of the pathogenic agent of concern should be detailed.

It is assumed that treatment or processing (i) uses standardised protocols, which include the steps considered critical in the inactivation of the pathogenic agent of concern; (ii) is conducted according to Good Manufacturing Practices; and (iii) that any other steps in the treatment, processing and subsequent handling of the aquatic animal product do not jeopardise the safety of the traded aquatic animal product.

For an aquatic animal or aquatic animal product to be considered safe for international trade under the provisions of Article X.X.3., it should comply with the following criteria:

1. Absence of pathogenic agent in the traded aquatic animal or aquatic animal product:

   a) There is strong evidence that the pathogenic agent is not present in the tissues from which the aquatic animal or aquatic animal product is derived.

   AND

   b) The water (including ice) used to process or transport the aquatic animal or aquatic animal product is not contaminated with the pathogenic agent and the processing prevents cross contamination of the aquatic animal or aquatic animal product to be traded.

   OR

2. Even if the pathogenic agent is present in, or contaminates the tissues from which the aquatic animal or aquatic animal product is derived, the treatment or processing to produce the aquatic animal or aquatic animal product to be traded inactivates the pathogenic agent:

   a) physical (e.g. temperature, drying, smoking);

   AND/OR

   b) chemical (e.g. iodine, pH, salt, smoke);
AND/OR

c) biological (e.g. fermentation).

Article 5.3.2.

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

1. In all disease chapters, point 1 of Article X.X.12. (amphibian and fish disease chapters) and Article X.X.11. (crustacean and mollusc disease chapters) lists aquatic animals or aquatic animal products for retail trade for human consumption. The criteria for inclusion of aquatic animals or aquatic animal products in point 1 of Article X.X.12. (amphibian and fish disease chapters) and Article X.X.11. (crustacean and mollusc disease chapters) include consideration of the form and presentation of the product, the expected volume of waste tissues generated by the consumer and the likely presence of viable pathogenic agent in the waste.

2. For the purpose of this criterion retail means the selling or provision of aquatic animals or aquatic animal products directly to the consumer with the intended purpose of human consumption. The retail pathway may also include wholesale distribution of the products provided they are not further processed by the wholesale distributor or the retailer, i.e. are not subjected to actions such as gutting, cleaning, filleting, freezing, thawing, cooking, unpacking, packing or repackaging.

3. It is assumed that:
   a) the aquatic animals or aquatic animal products are used for human consumption only;
   b) waste may not always be handled in an appropriate manner that mitigates the introduction of the pathogenic agent. The level of risk is related to the waste disposal practices in each Member’s country or territory;
   c) treatment or processing prior to importation is conducted according to Good Manufacturing Practices, and
   d) any other steps in the treatment, processing and subsequent handling of the aquatic animals or aquatic animal products prior to importation do not jeopardise the safety of the traded aquatic animals or aquatic animal products.

4. For aquatic animals or aquatic animal products to be considered for international trade under the provisions of point 1 of Article X.X.12. (amphibian and fish disease chapters) and Article X.X.11. (crustacean and mollusc disease chapters), it should comply with the following criteria:
   a) the aquatic animal or aquatic animal product is prepared and packaged for retail trade for human consumption; AND
      EITHER
   b) it includes only a small amount of waste tissues generated by the consumer;
      OR
   c) the pathogenic agent is not normally found in the waste tissues generated by the consumer.
CHAPTER 5.4.

CONTROL OF AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH TRANSPORT OF AQUATIC ANIMALS

Article 5.4.1.

General considerations

1. These considerations should be used as recommendations when countries introduce measures to control the aquatic animal health risks related to the transport of these aquatic animals and aquatic animal products. These recommendations do not address aquatic animal welfare.

2. Vehicles (or containers) used for the transport of aquatic animals shall be designed, constructed and fitted in such a way as to withstand the weight of the aquatic animals and water and to ensure their safety during transportation. Vehicles shall be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected before use according to the recommendations given in the Aquatic Code.

3. Vehicles (or containers) in which aquatic animals are confined during transport shall be secured to maintain optimal conditions for the aquatic animals during transport, and to allow easy access by the attendant.

Article 5.4.2.

Particular considerations for containers

1. The construction of containers intended for transportation of aquatic animals shall be such that the accidental release of water, etc., is prevented during transport.

2. In the case of the transportation of aquatic animals, provision shall be made to enable preliminary observation of the contents of containers.

3. Containers in transit in which there are aquatic animal products shall not be opened unless the Aquatic Animal Health Service of the transit country consider it necessary. If this is the case, containers shall be subject to precautions to prevent contamination.

4. Containers shall be loaded only with one kind of product or, at least, with products not susceptible to contamination by one another.

5. It rests with each country to decide on the facilities it requires for the transport and importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products in containers.

Article 5.4.3.

Particular considerations for the transport of aquatic animals by air

1. The stocking densities for the transport of aquatic animals in containers should be determined by taking the following into consideration when transporting by air:
   a) the total volume of available space for each type of aquatic animal;
b) the oxygenation capacity available to supply the containers while on the ground and during all stages of the flight.

With regard to fish, molluscs and crustaceans, the space reserved for each aquatic animal species in containers that have been fitted for the separate transportation of several aquatic animals or for the transportation of groups of aquatic animals should comply with acceptable densities specified for the species in question.

2. The OIE approved International Air Transport Association (IATA) Regulations for live animals may be adopted if they do not conflict with national legislative arrangements. (Copies of these Regulations are obtainable from the International Air Transport Association, 800 Place Victoria, P.O. Box 113, Montreal, Quebec H4Z 1M1, Canada.)

Article 5.4.4.

Disinfection and other sanitary measures

1. Disinfection and all zoo-sanitary work should be carried out in order to:
   a) avoid all unjustified inconvenience and to prevent damage or injury to the health of people and aquatic animals;
   b) avoid damage to the structure of the vehicle or its appliances;
   c) prevent, as far as possible, any damage to aquatic animal products.

2. On request, the Aquatic Animal Health Service shall issue the transporters with a certificate indicating the measures that have been applied to all vehicles, the parts of the vehicle that have been treated, the methods used and the reasons that led to the application of the measures.

   In the case of aircraft, the certificate may be replaced, on request, by an entry in the General Declaration of the aircraft.

3. Likewise, the Aquatic Animal Health Service shall issue on request:
   a) a certificate showing the date of arrival and departure of the aquatic animals;
   b) a certificate to the shipper or exporter, the consignee and transporter or their representatives, indicating the measures applied.

Article 5.4.5.

Treatment of transportation water

Water to be used for transportation of aquatic animals should be appropriately treated after transport and/or before discharge in order to minimise the risk of transferring pathogens. The specific recommendations are provided in the chapter of the Aquatic Code on disinfection.

During transportation of aquatic animals, the transporter should not be permitted to evacuate and replace the water in the transport tanks except on specifically designated sites in the national territory. The waste and rinsing water should not be emptied into a drainage system that is directly connected to an aquatic environment where aquatic animals are present. The water from the tanks should therefore either be disinfected by a recognised process (for example, 50 mg iodine or chlorine/litre for one hour), or sprayed over land that does not directly drain into waters containing aquatic animals. Each country shall designate the sites in their national territories where these operations can be carried out.
Article 5.4.6.

Discharge of infected material

The Aquatic Animal Health Service shall take all practical measures to prevent the discharge of any untreated infective material, including transport water, into internal or territorial waters.

Article 5.4.7.

Particular considerations for the transport of live fish by well boat

A well boat is a boat with integrated tanks to carry live fish in sea water that may operate with open valves to allow exchange of sea water. Therefore, well boats can present a biosecurity risk if the fish being carried are infected. Well boats are inherently difficult to disinfect.

1. Only healthy fish showing no clinical signs of disease on the day of loading should be transported. The well boat must have the capability of fully closed containment of fish during its operation if so required.

2. The stocking densities should be determined by taking both the total volume of available space for each species of fish and the oxygenation/aeration capacity available to supply the fish during all stages of transport into consideration.

3. Fish may be transported by well boat from an infected site if this is part of a disease response plan agreed to by the Competent Authority.

4. Provision shall be made to enable preliminary observation of the contents in the well, and monitoring equipment should be available where appropriate.

5. Access by farm staff to the vessel and from the vessel to the farm cages, including the equipment, should be restricted.

6. Transporting fish of different health status at the same time increases the risk of disease transfer between those fish and is discouraged.

7. Well boats may exchange water in their tanks with the environment except in designated areas in proximity to aquaculture establishments or areas with protected wild populations. The Aquatic Animal Health Service should designate the areas based upon a risk assessment.

8. Multiple deliveries of fish during the same trip should be avoided. Where unavoidable the order of deliveries should be made to sites of a higher health status first (e.g. youngest year class), to a single aquaculture establishment, or establishments of the same health status.

9. In the event of mortality occurring during transport, a contingency plan capable of dealing with full containment and disposal of dead fish, via an approved disposal method, should be available. This plan should be prepared according to the recommendations on handling and disposal of carcasses and wastes of aquatic animals (in preparation).

10. Well boats should not operate in adverse inclement weather conditions that may force the operation to divert from the planned route and schedule of transport.

11. The well boat should be cleaned and, where required, disinfected to an acceptable standard before re-use. The level of disinfection should be proportional to the risk. Well boats should maintain a disinfection checklist which should be kept with the ship's log and should be open to audit. It is essential to ensure that all fish are removed from the system before disinfection commences. The general...
principles and specific recommendations as outlined in the *Aquatic Manual* should be consulted for guidance.

12. When travelling between areas and zones of different health levels, cleaning and, if required, *disinfection* procedures should be followed and implemented to a standard approved by the *Aquatic Animal Health Service*. 
CHAPTER 5.5.

AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH MEASURES APPLICABLE
BEFORE AND AT DEPARTURE

Article 5.5.1.

1. Each country should only authorise the exportation from its territory of live aquatic animals and aquatic animal products that are correctly identified, and inspected according to the procedures outlined in the Aquatic Code and Aquatic Manual.

2. In certain cases, the above-mentioned aquatic animals could, according to the wish of the importing country, be subjected to certain biological tests or to prophylactic parasitological procedures within limits of a defined period of time before their departure.

3. Observation of the above-mentioned aquatic animals before leaving the country may be carried out in the establishment where they were reared or at the frontier post. When they have been found to be clinically healthy and free from diseases listed by the OIE or any other specified infectious disease by a member of the personnel of the Competent Authority or a certifying official approved by the importing country during the period of observation, the aquatic animals should be transported to the place of shipment in specially constructed containers, previously cleansed and disinfected, without delay and without coming into contact with other susceptible aquatic animals, unless these aquatic animals have health guarantees similar to those of the transported aquatic animals.

4. The transportation of aquatic animals for breeding or rearing or slaughter shall be carried out directly from the establishment of origin to the place of shipment or to the processing establishment in conformity with the conditions agreed between the importing and exporting countries.

Article 5.5.2.

Each country should only undertake the exportation of live aquatic animals or eggs or gametes destined for a country or zone or aquaculture establishment officially declared free from one or more of the diseases listed by the OIE, when the exporting country or zone or aquaculture establishment of origin is itself officially declared free of the same disease(s). If the live aquatic animals originate in an infected aquaculture establishment or infected zone, with respect to the disease(s) in question, the exporting country should not export the aquatic animals if they have been exposed to infection by direct or indirect contact of a kind likely to cause transmission of the pathogenic agent(s), without the prior agreement of the importing country.

Article 5.5.3.

Each country exporting aquatic animals at any stage of development or aquatic animal products should inform the country of destination and when necessary the transit countries if, after exportation, diagnosis of a disease listed by the OIE occurs in the establishment of origin, or in aquatic animals that were in the aquaculture establishment or natural water body at the same time as the exported animals, within a period of time that indicates that the exported consignment may have been infected.
Article 5.5.4.

Before the departure of the aquatic animals and aquatic animal products, a member of the personnel of the Competent Authority or a certifying official approved by the importing country should provide an international aquatic animal health certificate conforming with the models approved by the OIE (as shown in Chapter 5.10. of the Aquatic Code) and worded in the languages agreed upon between the exporting country and the importing country and, when necessary, with the transit countries.

Article 5.5.5.

1. Before the departure of a consignment of aquatic animals on an international journey, the Competent Authority of the port, airport or district in which the frontier post is situated may, if it is considered necessary, have a health examination carried out on the consignment. The time and place of the examination shall be fixed taking into account customs and other formalities and in such a way as not to impede or unreasonably delay departure.

2. The Competent Authority referred to in point 1 above shall take necessary measures to:
   a) prevent the shipment of aquatic animals showing clinical signs of any disease listed by the OIE;
   b) avoid entry into the container of possible vectors or pathogenic agents.
CHAPTER 5.6.

AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH MEASURES APPLICABLE DURING TRANSIT FROM THE PLACE OF DEPARTURE IN THE EXPORTING COUNTRY TO THE PLACE OF ARRIVAL IN THE IMPORTING COUNTRY

Article 5.6.1.

1. Any country through which the transit of aquatic animals has to be made, and that normally conducts commercial transactions with the exporting country, should not refuse the transit, subject to the reservations mentioned herein and on condition that notification is made of the proposed transit to the Competent Authority in charge of the frontier posts.

This notification shall state the species and quantities of aquatic animals, the methods of transport and the frontier posts of entry and exit in accordance with a previously arranged and authorised itinerary in the transit country.

2. Any country through which transit has to take place may refuse such transit if, in the exporting country or transit country that precedes it on the itinerary, certain diseases exist that have been specifically included in the international aquatic animal health certificates or in bilateral agreements. Alternatively, the Competent Authority of the transit country may impose conditions with regard to the method, including packaging, and route of transport.

3. Any transit country may require the presentation of international aquatic animal health certificates. Such a country may, in addition, cause an examination to be made by a member of the personnel of the Aquatic Animal Health Service on the health status of fish, molluscs or crustaceans in transit, except in cases where transport in sealed vehicles or containers is a condition of transit.

4. Any transit country may refuse passage through its territory of aquatic animals at one of its frontier posts if an examination carried out by a member of the personnel of the Aquatic Animal Health Service shows that the consignment of aquatic animals in transit is affected by or infected with any of the diseases listed by the OIE and if these diseases are exotic to that country or the zone through which the transportation was to take place, or if there is an enforced control programme for the disease(s) in question, or if the international aquatic animal health certificate is inaccurate and/or unsigned or does not apply to fish, molluscs or crustaceans.

In these circumstances, the Competent Authority of the exporting country shall be informed immediately, thereby providing an opportunity for checking the findings or correcting the certificate.

If the diagnosis of any disease listed by the OIE is confirmed or if the certificate cannot be corrected, the consignment of aquatic animals in transit shall either be returned to the exporting country if there is a common frontier with it, or be slaughtered or destroyed.
Article 5.6.2.

1. Any transit country may require vehicles used for the transit of aquatic animals through its territory to be constructed to prevent the escape and dispersion of waste water or other contaminated material.

2. Unloading of aquatic animals shall be permitted in the territory of the transit country only if an emergency situation arises. The importing country shall be informed of any unforeseen unloading in the transit country and the reason for it.

Article 5.6.3.

Vessels stopping in a port or passing through a canal or other navigable route situated in the territory of a country, on their way to a port situated in the territory of another country, must comply with the conditions required by the Competent Authority.

Article 5.6.4.

1. If, for reasons beyond the control of its captain, a ship or aircraft calls or lands somewhere other than at a port or airport, or at a port or airport other than that at which it should normally call or land, the captain of the ship or aircraft, or his/her deputy, shall immediately notify the nearest Competent Authority or any other public authority of the new port of call or landing.

2. As soon as the Competent Authority is notified of this calling or landing place, it shall take appropriate action.

3. The aquatic animals on board the ship or aircraft shall not be permitted to leave the vicinity of the docking or landing place and the removal from the vicinity of any equipment or packing material accompanying them shall not be permitted.

4. When the measures prescribed by the Competent Authority have been carried out, the ship or aircraft shall be permitted, for aquatic animal health purposes, to proceed to the port or airport at which it would normally have called or landed or, if there are technical reasons for which this cannot be done, to a port or an airport that is more suitable.
CHAPTER 5.7.

FRONTIER POSTS IN THE IMPORTING COUNTRY

Article 5.7.1.

The Competent Authority shall provide specified frontier posts with an office comprising personnel, equipment and premises as the case may be and, in particular, means for:

1. detecting and isolating aquatic animal populations affected with or suspected of being affected with a disease;

2. carrying out disinfection of vehicles used to transport aquatic animals and aquatic animal products;

3. making clinical examinations and obtaining specimens of material for diagnostic purposes from live aquatic animals or carcasses of aquatic animals affected or suspected of being affected with a disease, and obtaining specimens of aquatic animal products suspected of contamination.

Furthermore, it is preferable that each port and international airport be provided with equipment for the sterilisation or incineration of any material dangerous to aquatic animal health.

Article 5.7.2.

When required by international traffic in transit, airports shall be provided, as soon as possible, with areas of direct transit; these must, however, comply with the conditions required by the Competent Authority.

Article 5.7.3.

Each Veterinary Authority shall keep at the disposal of the OIE Headquarters and any interested country on request:

1. a list of specified frontier posts and processing plants for aquatic animals in its territory that are approved for international trade;

2. the period of time required for notice to be given for the application of the arrangements contained in paragraph 2 of Articles 5.8.1. and 5.8.2.;

3. a list of airports in its territory that are provided with an area of direct transit.
CHAP 5.8.

AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH MEASURES APPLICABLE ON ARRIVAL

Article 5.8.1.

1. An importing country should only accept into its territory live aquatic animals that have been subjected to examination by a member of the personnel of the Aquatic Animal Health Service of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country and that are accompanied by an international aquatic animal health certificate (see Model Certificates given in Chapter 5.10.).

2. An importing country may require sufficient advance notification regarding the proposed date of entry into its territory of aquatic animals, stating the species, quantity, means of transport and the name of the frontier post.

In addition, any importing country shall publish a list of the specified frontier posts supplied with the equipment required for conducting control operations at importation and enabling the importation and transit procedures to be carried out in the most speedy and efficacious way.

3. An importing country may prohibit the introduction into its territory of aquatic animals if these were found, on examination carried out at the frontier post by a member of the personnel of the Aquatic Animal Health Service, to be affected by an OIE listed disease of concern to the importing country.

Refusal of entry may also be applied to aquatic animals that are not accompanied by an international aquatic animal health certificate conforming to the requirements of the importing country.

In these circumstances, the Competent Authority of the exporting country shall be informed immediately, thereby providing an opportunity for checking the findings or correcting the certificate.

However, the importing country may prescribe that the importation be placed immediately in quarantine in order to carry out a clinical observation and biological examinations with a view to establishing a formal diagnosis.

If the diagnosis of a disease listed by the OIE is confirmed, or if the certificate cannot be corrected, the importing country may take the following measures:

a) return the aquatic animals involved to the exporting country if this rejection does not involve transit through a third country;

b) slaughter and destroy in cases where re-shipment would be dangerous from a health point of view or impossible from a practical point of view.

Article 5.8.2.

1. An importing country should only accept into its territory raw unviscerated fish of those species susceptible to a disease listed by the OIE destined for introduction into an aquatic environment or for human consumption that have been subjected to examination by a member of the personnel of the Aquatic Animal Health Service of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by
the importing country, and that are accompanied by an international aquatic animal health certificate (see Model Certificates given in Chapter 5.10).

2. An importing country may require sufficient advance notification regarding the proposed date of entry into its territory of a consignment of products of aquatic animal origin destined for human consumption, together with information on the nature, quantity and packaging of the products, as well as the name of the frontier post.

Article 5.8.3.

On arrival at a frontier post of a vehicle transporting aquatic animals infected with any specified disease listed by the OIE, the vehicle shall be considered to be contaminated and the Aquatic Animal Health Service shall apply the following measures:

1. unloading of the vehicle and immediate transportation of any possibly contaminated material, such as water or ice, to an establishment assigned in advance for its destruction and the strict application of the aquatic animal health measures required by the importing country;

2. disinfection of:
   a) outer clothes and boots of the crew on the transporting vehicle;
   b) all parts of the vehicle that were used in the transport, moving and unloading of the aquatic animals.
CHAPTER 5.9.

MEASURES CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT OF AQUATIC ANIMAL PATHOGENS AND PATHOLOGICAL MATERIAL

Article 5.9.1.

Introduction

There is the risk that disease may occur as a result of the accidental release of aquatic animal pathogens during international transport of packaged materials. Such pathogens may already occur in the country or they may have been imported deliberately or inadvertently. It is therefore necessary to have in place measures to prevent their accidental release. These measures may be applied at national borders by prohibiting or controlling the importation of specified aquatic animal pathogens or pathological material, which may contain them.

Competent Authorities should not require sanitary measures for biological samples preserved for diagnostic applications that are treated in such a manner as to inactivate the pathogenic agent.

Article 5.9.2.

Importation of aquatic animal pathogens

The importation of a pathogen referred to in the Aquatic Code, whether in culture, in pathological material or in any other form, should be officially controlled by the Competent Authority to ensure appropriate safeguards are in place to manage the risk posed by the pathogen. The conditions should be appropriate to the risk posed by the pathogen and, in relation to air transport, the appropriate standards of the International Air Transport Association or other relevant transport associations concerning the packaging and transport of dangerous goods as outlined in Article 5.9.3. should apply.

When considering applications to import a pathogen referred to in the Aquatic Code, whether in culture, in pathological material or in any other form, from other countries, the Competent Authorities should have regard to the nature of the material, the animal from which it is derived, the susceptibility of that animal to various diseases and the animal health situation of the country of origin. It may be advisable to require that material be pretreated before import to minimise the risk of inadvertent introduction of a pathogen referred to in the Aquatic Code.

Any material that does not satisfy the applied conditions should be rendered safe by the Aquatic Animal Health Service of the receiving country.
Article 5.9.3.

Packaging and documentation for transport

The safe transport of a pathogen referred to in the Aquatic Code, with respect to the pathogen, the handlers and the environment, is primarily dependent on proper packaging and it is the responsibility of the sender that this is done in accordance with current regulations.

1. Basic triple packaging system

   The system consists of three layers as follows:

   a) Primary receptacle: a labelled primary watertight, leak-proof receptacle containing the specimen. The receptacle is wrapped in enough absorbent material to absorb all fluid in case of breakage.

   b) Secondary receptacle: a second durable, watertight, leak-proof receptacle to enclose and protect the primary receptacle(s). Several wrapped primary receptacles may be placed in one secondary receptacle. Sufficient additional absorbent material must be used to cushion multiple primary receptacles.

   c) Outer shipping package: the secondary receptacle is placed in an outer shipping package, which protects it and its contents from outside influences such as physical damage, temperature fluctuations and water while in transit.

   Ice or dry ice when used in a shipment must be placed outside the secondary receptacle. If wet ice is used, it should be in a leak-proof container and the outer package must also be leak-proof. The secondary receptacle must be secured within the outer package to prevent damage after the refrigerant has melted or dissipated.

   Dry ice must NOT be placed inside the primary or secondary receptacle because of the risk of explosions. The outer package must permit the release of carbon dioxide gas if dry ice is used. IATA Packing Instruction 904 must be observed for packages containing dry ice.

2. Documentation

   Specimen data forms, letters and other types of information that identify or describe the specimen and also identify the shipper and receiver should be taped to the outside of the secondary receptacle, together with a copy of the recipient's import permit.

Article 5.9.4.

Any sender of a pathogen referred to in the Aquatic Code or pathological material must ensure that the proposed receiver has obtained the necessary import licence referred to in Article 5.9.2.

Article 5.9.5.

1. Every consignment of a pathogen referred to in the Aquatic Code or pathological material should be notified in advance by the sender to the intended recipient, giving the following information:

   a) exact nature of the sample and its packaging;

   b) the number of packages sent and the marks and numbers enabling their identification;

   c) date of despatch;
d) method of transport used for consignment of products (ship, aircraft, railway wagon or road vehicle).

2. The recipient should notify the sender of the receipt of each consignment of a pathogen referred to in the *Aquatic Code* or pathological material on its arrival.

3. When a consignment that has been notified by the sender fails to arrive by the anticipated date, the intended recipient should notify the *Competent Authority* of the receiving country and, at the same time, the sender in the country of origin, so that any necessary action can be taken for investigation to be made without delay.
CHAPTER 5.10.

MODEL HEALTH CERTIFICATES FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN LIVE AQUATIC ANIMALS AND PRODUCTS OF AQUATIC ANIMAL ORIGIN

Article 5.10.1.

Notes for guidance on the health certificates for international trade in live aquatic animals and products of aquatic animal origin

1. General

Please complete the certificate on paper in capital letters. To confirm an option, mark the box with a cross (X). Ensure that no portion of certificate is left blank in a manner that would allow it to be amended. Non-applicable fields may be crossed out.

2. Part I. Details of dispatched consignment

| Country: | Name of the country that issues the certificate. |
| Box I.1. | Name and full address of the natural or legal entity dispatching the consignment. Information on telephone and fax numbers or e-mail address is recommended. |
| Box I.2. | The certificate reference number is the number used by the Competent Authority of the country to identify the certificate. |
| Box I.3. | Name of the Competent Authority. |
| Box I.4. | Name and full address of the natural or legal entity to whom the consignment is destined at the time the certificate is issued. |
| Box I.5. | Name of the country from which the live aquatic animals or gametes are being exported. For aquatic animal products, name the country(ies) where the finished products were produced, manufactured or packed. "ISO code" refers to the international standard two-letter code (ISO 3166-1 Alpha-2 Code) for a country produced by the International Organization for Standardization. |
| Box I.6. | Name of the zone or compartment of origin, if relevant, in part II of the certificate. |
| Box I.7. | Name of the country of destination. "ISO code" refers to the international standard two-letter code (ISO 3166-1 Alpha-2 Code) for a country produced by the International Organization for Standardization. |
| Box I.8. | Name of the zone or compartment of destination, if relevant, in part II of the certificate. |
| Box I.9. | Name and full address of the place(s) from which the live aquatic animals, gametes or aquatic animal products are being exported; and official approval or registration number when required. For live aquatic animals and gametes: the establishment(s) or place of capture. For products of aquatic animal origin: the premises from which the products are to be dispatched. |
| Box I.10. | Name of the place from which the live aquatic animals, gametes or aquatic animal products are being shipped (this will be a land, sea or airport). |
| Box I.11. | Date of departure. For live aquatic animals include the expected time of departure. |
| Box I.12. | Details of the means of transport. Identification of the means of transport at the time the certificate is issued: for air transport, the flight number; for maritime transport, the name of the vessel; for rail transport, the number of the train and the wagon and for road transport, the registration number of the road vehicle and the number of the trailer where used. |
| Box I.14. | CITES permit number(s) if the commodity concerns species listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. |
| Box I.15. | Describe the commodity or use the titles as they appear in the Harmonised System of the World Customs Organization. |
| Box I.16. | Heading or HS Code of the Harmonized System set up by the World Customs Organization. |
| Box I.17. | Total quantity or weight of the commodity. For live aquatic animals and gametes give the total count or weight. For aquatic animal products give the gross weight and the net weight in kg of the whole consignment. |
| Box I.18. | Temperature of products for transport and storage. |
| Box I.19. | For live aquatic animals and gametes give the total number of containers in which they are being transported. For aquatic animal products give the total number of packages. |
| Box I.20. | Identify the containers/seal numbers where required. |
| Box I.21. | Identify the type of packaging of products as defined in Recommendation No. 21 – Code of Passengers, Type of Cargo, Package and Packaging Materials of UN/CEFACT (United Nation Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business). |
| Box I.22. | Intended use of the imported live aquatic animals or aquatic animal products.  
Breeding: applies to gametes and broodstock.  
Grow out: applies to live aquatic animals, aquatic eggs and aquatic larvae requiring time in culture.  
Slaughter: applies to live aquatic animals for slaughter.  
Restocking: applies to live aquatic animals for the purpose of rebuilding stocks.  
Ornamental: applies to live aquatic animals kept for companionship or enjoyment.  
Competition/display: applies to live aquatic animals used for competition or display purposes.  
Human consumption: applies to live aquatic animals (without further aquaculture involved) or aquatic animals products intended for human consumption.  
Aquatic animal feed: means any product of animal origin (single or multiple), whether processed, semi-processed or raw, that is intended to be fed to aquatic animals.  
Further processing: applies to products of aquatic animal origin that have to be further processed before being suitable for end use.  
Other technical use: applies to aquatic animal products not intended for human or aquatic animal consumption. These include aquatic animal products that are intended for use in the pharmaceutical, medical, cosmetic and other industries. Such products may be subjected to extensive further processing.  
Technical use in live aquatic animals: applies to aquatic animal products used in live aquatic animals, e.g. to stimulate ovulation. |
| Box I.23. | Mark, if appropriate. |
| Box I.24. | Details on the nature of the commodity sufficient to identify it.  
For live aquatic animals and gametes: Category (i.e. amphibian, crustacean, fish or mollusc); Wild stocks or Cultured stocks; Species (scientific name); and if required, Identification system; Batch number or other identification details; Age; Sex. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box I.24. (contd)</th>
<th>For products of aquatic animal origin: Category (i.e. amphibian, crustacean, fish or mollusc); Wild stocks or Cultured stocks; Species (Scientific name); Approval number of establishment(s) (e.g. processing plant; cold store); Lot identification/date code; Number of packages.</th>
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3. **Part II. Zoosanitary information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box II.</th>
<th>Complete this part in accordance with the requirements agreed between the Competent Authorities of the importing and exporting countries in accordance with the recommendations in the Aquatic Code.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box II.a.</td>
<td>Reference number: see box I.2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official veterinarian</td>
<td>Name, address, official position, date of signature and official stamp of the Competent Authority.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Article 5.10.2.

Model health certificate for international trade in live aquatic animals and gametes

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<tr>
<th>COUNTRY:</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1. Consignor: Name:</td>
<td>1.2. Certificate reference number:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address:</td>
<td>1.3. Competent Authority:</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.4. Consignee: Name:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Address:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.5. Country of origin: ISO code:</td>
<td>1.6. Zone or compartment of origin*:</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.7. Country of destination: ISO code:</td>
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<td>1.9. Place of origin: Name:</td>
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<td>Address:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.10. Place of shipment:</td>
<td>1.11. Date of departure:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aeroplane:</td>
<td>Ship:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Road vehicle:</td>
<td>Other:</td>
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<td>Identification:</td>
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<td>1.14. OIE permit holder*:</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.15. Description of commodity:</td>
<td>1.16. Commodity code (ISO code):</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.17. Total quantity/weight:</td>
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<td>1.18. Total number of containers:</td>
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<td>1.19. Identification of consignational summer:</td>
<td>1.20. Type of packaging:</td>
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<td>1.21. Commodities intended for use as:</td>
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<td>Breeding:</td>
<td>Grow out:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ornamental:</td>
<td>Competition/Exhibition:</td>
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<td>1.22. For import or admission:</td>
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<td>Re-exports:</td>
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<td>1.23. Identification of commodity:</td>
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<td>Crustacean:</td>
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<tr>
<td>P+M stock:</td>
<td>Cultured stock:</td>
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<td>Species (Scientific name):</td>
<td>Age*:</td>
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<td>Batch number*:</td>
<td>Sex*:</td>
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* Optional
** Reference in Part I.
### Part 1: Zoonotic Information

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II. The undersigned Certifying Official certifies that the animal(s) (genus(s) described above) met the following requirements:

- [ ]
- [ ]
- [ ]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certifying Official</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name and address (in capital letters):</td>
<td>Official position:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>Signature:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stamp:</td>
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Article 5.10.3.

Model health certificate for international trade in products of aquatic animal origin

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<tr>
<td>1.1. Concession: Name:</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.2. Certificate reference number:</td>
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<td>1.3. Competent Authority:</td>
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<td>1.4. Concession: Name:</td>
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<td>1.5. Country of origin: ISO code:</td>
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<td>1.6. Zone or compartment of origin*:</td>
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<td>1.7. Country of destination: ISO code:</td>
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<td>1.8. Zone or compartment of destination*:</td>
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<td>1.9. Place of origin: Name:</td>
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<td>1.10. Place of shipment:</td>
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<td>1.11. Date of departure:</td>
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<td>1.12. Means of transport:</td>
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<td>1.13. Expected border post:</td>
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<td>Aircraft:</td>
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<td>Road vehicle:</td>
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<td>Identification:</td>
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<td>1.15. Description of commodity:</td>
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<td>1.16. Commodity code (ISO code):</td>
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<td>1.17. Total quantity/weight:</td>
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<td>1.18. Total number of packages:</td>
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<td>1.19. Type of packaging:</td>
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<td>1.20. Identification of contaminative sources:</td>
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<td>1.21. Other:</td>
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<td>Commodities intended for use as:</td>
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<td>Human consumption:</td>
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<td>Further processing:</td>
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<td>Other:</td>
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<td>Other:</td>
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<td>1.22. Other technical use:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identification of commodity:</td>
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<td>Amphibian:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild stock:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Species (Scientific name):</td>
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<td>Lot if available:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Optional
** If relevant in Part II
### Part 1: Zoological information

<table>
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<th><strong>COUNTRY</strong></th>
<th><strong>(p.s. Certificate reference number)</strong></th>
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</table>

II. The undersigned Certifying Official certifies that the product(s) of aquatic animal origin described above satisfy(ies) the following requirements:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Certifying Official:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name and address (in capital letters):</td>
<td>Official position:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>Signature:</td>
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Stamp:
SECTION 6.

VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH

CHAPTER 6.1.

CONTROL OF HAZARDS IN AQUATIC ANIMAL FEEDS

Article 6.1.1.

Introduction

One of the key objectives of the Aquatic Code is to help OIE Members trade safely in aquatic animals and aquatic animal products by developing relevant aquatic animal health measures. These recommendations address aquatic animal health hazards in aquatic animal feed. A key objective is to prevent the spread, via aquatic animal feed, of diseases from an infected country, zone or compartment to a free country, a free zone or a free compartment.

These recommendations should be read in conjunction with relevant recommendations of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has published recommendations relevant to terrestrial and aquatic animal feed (Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries – Aquaculture Development: 1. Good aquaculture feed manufacturing practice. FAO 2001; Draft Good Practices for the Animal Feed Industry – Implementing the Codex Alimentarius’ Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding, IFIF/FAO [In preparation]) and there is a Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) standard (Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding [CAC/RCP 54-2004]). OIE Members are encouraged to consult these publications.

Key considerations relevant to aquatic animal feed are as follows:

1. Concentration of aquaculture establishments heightens the risk of disease transmission, whether the pathogen enters the culture system via feed or other means.

2. For many aquatic animal species, predation (including cannibalism) is their natural way of feeding in their natural habitat.

3. Historically, animal proteins used in feed were mainly sourced from the marine environment, due to the nutritional needs of aquatic animals and for reasons of economy. This practice increases the risk of disease transmission, especially when aquatic animals are fed live or whole aquatic animals of the same or related species. There are many examples of this type of practice, e.g. early stage crustaceans fed on Artemia species and aquaculture tuna fed on whole wild caught fish.

4. The usage of feed in moist form (moisture content equal to or greater than 70%), semi-moist form (moisture content between 15 and 70%), and dry form (a moisture content equal to or less than 15%) implies different levels of risk due to the processing applied to the feed.
5. With the increasing number of species being farmed (especially marine finfish), the use of live feed and moist feed has increased. It is likely that these industries will in future use formulated feed as appropriate technologies are developed.

6. Hazards may be transmitted from feed to aquatic animals via direct or indirect means. Direct transmission occurs when the cultured species consumes feed containing a pathogenic agent (e.g. shrimp larvae consuming rotifer contaminated with white spot syndrome virus) while indirect transmission refers to pathogens in feed entering the aquatic environment or infecting non target species, and thereby establishing a mechanism for indirect infection of the species of commercial interest. Pathogens that are less host-specific (e.g. white spot syndrome virus, *Vibrio* species) present a greater risk of indirect transmission as they can establish reservoirs of infection in multiple species.

7. As new species become the subject of aquaculture, new pathogens emerge in association with these hosts. The expression of disease may be facilitated by culturing species under intensive and novel conditions. Also, it is necessary to conduct research and develop new feed (and feed ingredients) that are appropriate to the species and its culture system. As more and more aquatic animal species are being cultured, it is difficult to make recommendations for all pathogenic agent/host species combinations.

Article 6.1.2.

Scope

These recommendations document risk mitigation measures, including traceability and certification, to deal with aquatic animal health risks associated with trade in aquatic animal feed and feed ingredients. They recommend the control of hazards through adherence to recommended practices during the production (harvest, handling, storage, processing and distribution) and use of both commercial and on-farm produced feed (and feed ingredients) for aquatic animals. Hazards include pathogens that cause OIE listed diseases and other agents that cause an adverse effect on animal and/or public health. While aquatic animals grown for food are the main focus, the same principles apply to feed for aquatic animals used for other purposes.

Article 6.1.3.

General principles

1. Roles and responsibilities

   The Competent Authority has the legal power to set and enforce regulatory requirements related to animal feed, and has final responsibility for verifying that these requirements are met. The Competent Authority may establish regulatory requirements for relevant parties, including requirements to provide information and assistance. Refer to Chapter 3.1. of the Aquatic Code.

   It is a particular responsibility of the Competent Authority to set and enforce the regulatory requirements pertaining to the use of veterinary drugs, aquatic animal disease control and the food safety aspects that relate to the management of live aquatic animal on farm.

   Those involved in the production and use of animal feed and feed ingredients have the responsibility to ensure that these products meet regulatory requirements. All personnel involved in the harvest, manufacture, storage and handling of feed and feed ingredients should be adequately trained and aware of their role and responsibility in preventing the spread of hazards. Appropriate contingency plans should be developed in case of a feed-borne outbreak of disease.
Equipment for producing, storing and transporting feed should be kept clean and maintained in good working order.

Private veterinarians and others (e.g. laboratories) providing specialist services to producers and to the feed industry may be required to meet specific regulatory requirements pertaining to the services they provide (e.g. disease reporting, quality standards, transparency).

2. Regulatory standards for feed safety

All feed and feed ingredients should meet regulatory standards for feed safety. Scientific evidence, including the sensitivity of analytical methods, and on the characterisation of risks, should be taken into account in defining limits and tolerances for hazards.

3. Risk analysis

Internationally accepted principles and practices for risk analysis (see Section 2. of the Aquatic Code and relevant Codex texts) should be used in developing and applying the regulatory framework.

A generic risk analysis framework should be applied to provide a systematic and consistent process for managing hazards.

4. Good practices

Where national guidelines exist, good aquaculture practices and good manufacturing practices (including good hygienic practices) should be followed. Countries without such guidelines are encouraged to develop them or adopt suitable international standards or recommendations.

Where appropriate, Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP; as defined in the Annex to the Recommended International Code of Practice on General Principles of Food Hygiene [CAC/RCP 1-1969]) principles should be followed to control hazards that may occur in feed.

5. Relationship between prions and aquatic animal species

Scientific knowledge is lacking on the relationship between prions and aquatic animal species. There is no evidence to suggest that the use of terrestrial animal by-products as ingredients in aquatic animal feed as currently practiced in aquaculture gives rise to risks in respect of prion diseases. More scientific information is desirable to enable aquaculture industries to utilise more terrestrial animal by-products as a means of reducing dependency on aquatic protein and lipid sources.

6. Bioaccumulation

Heavy metals, dioxins and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) persist in certain tissues and therefore tend to accumulate through the food chain.

7. Geographic and environmental considerations

Aquatic and terrestrial harvest areas for feed should not be located in proximity to sources of animal health or food safety hazards. Where this cannot be avoided, preventive measures should be applied to control risk. The same recommendations apply for the processing of feed and the location of aquaculture establishments.

Aquatic animal health considerations include factors such as disease status, location of quarantined premises, existence of processing plants without proper biosecurity measures and the existence of zones/compartmentsof specified health status.

Public health considerations include factors such as industrial operations and waste treatment plants that generate pollutants and other hazardous products. The potential accumulation of pollutants in the food chain through feed needs to be considered.
8. **Zoning and compartmentalisation**

*Feed* is an important component of biosecurity and needs to be considered when defining a *compartment* or *zone* in accordance with Chapter 4.1. of the *Aquatic Code*.

9. **Sampling and analysis**

Sampling and analytical protocols for *feed* should be based on scientific principles and procedures, and OIE standards where applicable.

10. **Labelling**

Labelling should be clear and informative on how the *feed* and *feed ingredients* should be handled, stored and used and should comply with regulatory requirements. Labelling should provide for trace-back.

See Section 4.2. of the Codex Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding (CAC/RCP 54-2004).

11. **Design and management of inspection programmes**

In meeting animal and public health objectives prescribed in national legislation or required by *importing countries*, *Competent Authorities* contribute through the direct performance of some tasks or through the auditing of animal and public health activities conducted by other agencies or the private sector.

Operators in the *feed* and *feed ingredients* business and other relevant industries should implement procedures to ensure compliance with regulatory standards for harvest, handling, storage, processing, distribution and use of *feed* and *feed ingredients*. Operators have full responsibility for implementing systems for quality control. Where such systems are applied, the *Competent Authority* should verify that they meet all regulatory requirements.

12. **Assurance and certification**

*Competent Authorities* are responsible for providing assurances domestically and to trading partners that regulatory requirements have been met.

13. **Hazards associated with aquatic animal feed**

   a) **Biological hazards**

   Biological hazards that may occur in *feed* and *feed ingredients* include agents such as bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites. The scope of these recommendations covers *OIE listed diseases* and other agents that cause an adverse effect on animal and/or public health.

   b) **Chemical hazards**

   Chemical hazards that may occur in *feed* and *feed ingredients* include naturally occurring chemicals (such as mycotoxins, gossypol and free radicals), industrial and environmental contaminants (such as heavy metals, dioxins and PCBs), residues of veterinary drugs and pesticides and radionuclides.

   c) **Physical hazards**

   Physical hazards that may occur in *feed* and *feed ingredients* include foreign objects (such as pieces of glass, metal, plastic or wood).

14. **Contamination**

Procedures to minimise the *risk* of contamination of *feed* or *feed ingredients* should be included in current regulations and standards. Scientific evidence, including the sensitivity of analytical methods and on the characterisation of *risk*, should be drawn upon in developing this framework.
Procedures such as flushing, sequencing and physical clean-out should be used to avoid cross-contamination between batches of feed or feed ingredients.

15. **Antimicrobial resistance**

Concerning the use of antimicrobials in animal feed refer to Section X.X. of the *Aquatic Code* (under study).

16. **Management of information**

The *Competent Authority* should establish requirements for the provision of information by the private sector in accordance with the regulatory framework.

The private sector should maintain records, in a readily accessible form, on the production, distribution, importation and use of feed and feed ingredients. These records are required to facilitate the prompt trace-back of feed and feed ingredients to the immediate previous source, and trace-forward to the next/subsequent recipients, to address aquatic animal health and/or public health concerns. The private sector should provide information to the *Competent Authority* in accordance with the regulatory framework.

Animal identification (in the case of aquatic animals this will normally be on a group basis) and traceability are tools for addressing animal health and food safety risks arising from animal feed (see Chapters 4.1. and 4.2. of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*; Section 4.3 of CAC/RCP 54-2004).

**Article 6.1.4.**

**Recommended approaches to aquatic animal health risk mitigation**

1. **Commodities**
   a) Safe commodities

   Some commodities undergo extensive processing such as heat treatment, acidification, extrusion and extraction. There may be a negligible risk that pathogens will survive in such products if they have been produced in accordance with Good Manufacturing Practice. Such aquatic animal products are listed in disease-specific chapters in the *Aquatic Code* in Article X.X.3.

   b) Other commodities

   *Competent Authorities* should consider the following risk mitigation measures:

   i) sourcing feed and feed ingredients from a disease free country, free zone or free compartment; or

   ii) confirmation (e.g. by testing) that pathogens are not present in the commodity; or

   iii) treatment (e.g. by heat or acidification) of the commodity using a method approved by the *Competent Authority* to inactivate pathogens; or

   iv) use of feed only in populations that are not susceptible to the pathogen(s) in question and where aquatic animals that are susceptible to the pathogen(s) in question will not come into contact with the feed or its waste products.

   In addition, risks associated with the disposal of effluents and waste material from feed processing plants and aquaculture establishments should be considered.
c) Whole fish (fresh or frozen)

The practice of trading fresh or frozen whole marine fish for use as aquatic animal feed presents a risk of introducing diseases into populations. Risk mitigation measures include sourcing fish only from stocks where there is no evidence of infection with any of the OIE listed diseases or treatments that inactivate aquatic animal pathogens.

2. Feed production

To prevent contamination by pathogens during production, storage and transport of feed and feed ingredients:

a) flushing, sequencing or physical clean-out of manufacturing lines and storage facilities should be performed between batches as appropriate;

b) buildings and equipment for processing and transporting feed and feed ingredients should be constructed in a manner that facilitates hygienic operation, maintenance and cleaning and prevents contamination;

c) in particular, feed manufacturing plants should be designed and operated to avoid cross-contamination between batches;

d) processed feed and feed ingredients should be stored separately from unprocessed feed ingredients, under appropriate storage conditions;

e) feed and feed ingredients, manufacturing equipment, storage facilities and their immediate surroundings should be kept clean and pest control programmes should be implemented;

f) measures to inactivate pathogens, such as heat treatment or the addition of authorised chemicals, should be used where appropriate. Where such measures are used, the efficacy of treatments should be monitored at appropriate stages in the manufacturing process;

g) labelling should provide for the identification of feed and feed ingredients as to the batch/lot and place and date of production. To assist in tracing feed and feed ingredients as may be required to deal with animal disease incidents, labelling should provide for identification by batch/lot and place and date of production.

3. Importing countries

Competent Authorities should consider the following measures:

a) imported feed and feed ingredients should be delivered to feed manufacturing plants or aquaculture facilities for processing and use under conditions approved by the Competent Authority;

b) effluent and waste material from feed manufacturing plants and aquaculture facilities should be managed under conditions approved by the Competent Authority, including, where appropriate, treatment before discharge into the aquatic environment;

c) feed that is known to contain pathogens should only be used in a zone or compartment that does not contain species susceptible to the disease in question;

d) the importation of raw unprocessed feed derived from aquatic animals to feed aquatic animal species should be avoided where possible.
Article 6.1.5.

Certification procedures for feeds and feed ingredients of aquatic animal origin

When importing feed and feed ingredients of aquatic animal origin other than those mentioned in point la) of Article 6.1.4., the Competent Authority of the importing country should require that the consignment be accompanied by an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country (or a certifying official approved by the importing country).

This certificate should certify:

1. that feed and feed ingredients of aquatic animal origin were obtained from a country, zone or compartment that is free from relevant aquatic animal diseases, or
2. that feed and feed ingredients of aquatic animal origin were tested for relevant aquatic animal diseases and shown to be free of these diseases; or
3. that feed and feed ingredients of aquatic animal origin have been processed to ensure that they are free of relevant aquatic animal diseases.

Specific provisions for OIE listed diseases may be found in relevant disease chapters of the Aquatic Code.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

Article 6.1.6.

Risk pathways for pathogen transmission and contamination through harvest, manufacture and use of aquatic animal feed

1. Pathogens can be introduced into feed in the following ways:
   a) via the harvest of infected aquatic animals;
   b) during storage, processing and transport, due to poor hygienic practices, the presence of pests, or residues of previous batches of feed remaining in processing lines, containers or transport vehicles.

2. Aquatic animals can be exposed to pathogenic agents in feed in the following ways:
   a) Direct exposure
      The use of unprocessed feed derived from aquatic animals to feed aquatic animals presents a potential direct route of exposure. For example feeding salmonid offal to salmonids presents a heightened risk of disease transmission because tissue from a susceptible species is being fed to a susceptible species.
   b) Indirect exposure
      Pathogens in feed may be transmitted to aquatic animals in aquaculture and wild aquatic animals via contamination of the environment or infection of non-target species.

Figure 1 illustrates the possible pathways for transmission of pathogens within the feed production and utilisation process.

Feed ingredients of aquatic origin used in aquaculture can be a source of pathogens (viruses, bacteria and parasites) to cultured aquatic animal species. In aquaculture establishments pathogens in feed can infect the animals directly (via consumption of feed) or indirectly via environmental sources. Live feed...
and moist feed are more likely to contain pathogens because their ingredients are either in a raw state or subject to minimal treatment.

Feed and feed ingredients harvested from infected countries, zones or compartments may have a high pathogen load. Feed and feed ingredients from these sources should be processed (e.g. using heat or chemical treatments) to reduce, or eliminate, the pathogen load. After processing care should be taken to avoid post processing contamination during storage and transportation of these commodities. For example, when two or more batches of ingredients of different sanitary status are handled, stored and/or transported together without appropriate biosecurity measures, there is a risk of cross-contamination of the feed.

An aquaculture facility can also be a source of pathogens in aquatic animal feed. For example, feed can be contaminated with pathogens through poor hygiene practices at an infected aquaculture establishment. If the feed is redistributed from the aquaculture facility to the manufacturing facility for recycling, or distributed to another farm, pathogens can be transferred to other aquaculture establishments.

Figure 1: Risk chart of pathogen transmission and contamination through harvest, manufacture and use of aquatic animal feed

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<td>Semi-moist feed</td>
<td>Dry feed</td>
</tr>
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<td>+++</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High risk of pathogen presence</td>
<td>Moderate risk of pathogen presence</td>
<td>Low risk of pathogen presence</td>
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Possibility for risk reduction

Redistribution or recycling of finished feed
CHAPTER 6.2.

INTRODUCTION TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONTROLLING ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Article 6.2.1.

Objectives

The purpose of this section is to provide guidance for Members to appropriately address the selection and dissemination of resistant micro-organisms and antimicrobial resistance determinants from the use of antimicrobial agents in aquatic animals.

Antimicrobial agents are essential drugs for human and animal health and welfare. The OIE recognises the need for access to antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine: antimicrobial agents are essential for treating, controlling and preventing infectious diseases in aquatic animals. The OIE therefore considers that ensuring continued access to effective antimicrobial agents is important.

The OIE recognises that antimicrobial resistance is a global public and animal health concern that is influenced by the usage of antimicrobial agents in humans, animals and elsewhere. Those working in the human, animal and plant sectors have a shared responsibility to address the risk factors for the selection and dissemination of antimicrobial resistance. Arising from its mandate for the protection of animal health and food safety, the OIE developed these chapters to provide guidance to Members in regard to risks in the animal sector.

The application of risk assessment and risk management measures should be based on relevant international standards on risk analysis and supported by sound data and information when available. The guidance provided in these chapters should be consulted as part of the standard approach to reduce the risk associated with the selection and dissemination of antimicrobial resistant micro-organisms and antimicrobial resistance determinants.
SECTION 7.

WELFARE OF FARMED FISH

CHAPTER 7.1.

INTRODUCTION TO RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WELFARE OF FARMED FISH

Article 7.1.1.

Guiding principles

1. Considering that:
   a) the use of fish in harvest or capture fisheries, in research and for recreation (e.g. ornamentals and aquaria), makes a major contribution to the wellbeing of people; and
   b) there is a critical relationship between fish health and fish welfare; and
   c) improvements in farmed fish welfare can often improve productivity and hence lead to economic benefits.

2. The OIE will develop recommendations for the welfare of farmed fish (excluding ornamental species) during transport, slaughter, and destruction for disease control purposes. In developing these, the following principles will apply:
   a) The use of fish carries with it an ethical responsibility to ensure the welfare of such animals to the greatest extent practicable.
   b) The scientific assessment of fish welfare involves both scientifically derived data and value-based assumptions that need to be considered together, and the process of making these assessments should be made as explicit as possible.

Article 7.1.2.

Scientific basis for recommendations

1. The basic requirements for the welfare of farmed fish include handling methods appropriate to the biological characteristics of the fish and a suitable environment to fulfil their needs.

2. There are many species of fish in farming systems and these have different biological characteristics. It is not practicable to develop specific recommendations for each of these species. These OIE recommendations therefore address the welfare of farmed fish at a general level.
CHAPTER 7.2.

WELFARE OF FARMED FISH DURING TRANSPORT

Preamble: Transport is stressful to fish. This chapter provides information to minimise the effect of transport on the welfare of farmed fish (hereafter referred to as fish). It applies to their transport by air, by sea or on land within a country and between countries, and 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. on Control of aquatic animal health risks associated with transport of aquatic animals.

Article 7.2.1.

Responsibilities

All personnel handling fish throughout the transportation process are responsible for ensuring that consideration is given to the potential impact on the welfare of the fish.

The roles of each of the various personnel are defined below:

1. The responsibilities of the Competent Authority for the exporting and importing jurisdiction include:
   a) establishing minimum standards for fish welfare during transport, including examination before, during and after their transport, appropriate certification and record keeping;
   b) ensuring awareness and training of personnel involved in transport;
   c) ensuring implementation of the standards, including possible accreditation of transport companies.

2. Owners and managers of fish at the start and at the end of the journey are responsible for:
   a) the general health of the fish and their fitness for transport at the start of the journey and to ensure the overall welfare of the fish during the transport regardless of whether these duties are subcontracted to other parties;
   b) ensuring trained personnel supervise operations at their facilities for fish to be loaded and unloaded in a manner that causes minimum stress and injury;
   c) having a contingency plan available to enable humane killing of the fish at the start and at the end of the journey, as well as during the journey, if required;
   d) ensuring fish have a suitable environment to enter at their destination that ensures their welfare is maintained.

3. Transport companies, in cooperation with the farm owner/manager, are responsible for planning the transport to ensure that the transport can be carried out according to fish health and welfare standards including:
   a) using a well maintained vehicle that is appropriate to the species to be transported;
   b) ensuring trained staff are available for loading and unloading; and to ensure swift, humane killing of the fish, if required;
   c) having contingency plans to address emergencies and minimise stress during transport;
   d) selecting suitable equipment for loading and unloading of the vehicle.
4. The person in charge of supervising the transport is responsible for all documentation relevant to the transport, and practical implementation of recommendations for welfare of fish during transport.

**Article 7.2.2.**

**Competence**

All parties supervising transport activities, including loading and unloading, should have an appropriate knowledge and understanding to ensure that the welfare of the fish is maintained throughout the process. Competence may be gained through formal training and/or practical experience.

1. All persons handling live fish, or who are otherwise responsible for live fish during transport, should be competent according to their responsibilities listed in Article 7.2.1.

2. *Competent Authority*, farm owners/managers, and transport companies have a responsibility in providing training to their respective staff and personnel.

3. Any necessary training should address species-specific knowledge and may include practical experience on:
   a) fish behaviour, physiology, general signs of disease and poor welfare;
   b) operation and maintenance of equipment relevant to fish health and welfare;
   c) water quality and suitable procedures for water exchange;
   d) methods of live fish handling during transport, loading and unloading (species-specific aspects when relevant);
   e) methods for inspection of the fish, management of situations frequently encountered during transport such as changes in water quality parameters, adverse weather conditions, and emergencies;
   f) methods for the humane killing of fish in accordance with Chapter X.X. on the Humane killing of fish for disease control purposes (in preparation);
   g) logbooks and record keeping.

**Article 7.2.3.**

**Planning the transport**

1. **General considerations**

   Adequate planning is a key factor affecting the welfare of fish during transportation. The pre-transport preparation, the duration and route of a transport should be determined by the purpose of the transport e.g. biosecurity issues, transport of fish for stocking farms or resource enhancement, for slaughter/killing for disease control purposes. Before the transport starts, plans should be made in relation to:
   a) type of vehicle and transport equipment required;
   b) route – such as distance, expected weather and/or sea conditions;
   c) nature and duration of the transport;
   d) need for care of the fish during the transport;
e) emergency response procedures related to fish welfare;
f) assessment of the necessary biosecurity level (e.g. washing and disinfection practices, safe places for changing water, treatment of transport water) (refer to Chapter 5.4).

2. Vehicle design and maintenance

a) *Vehicles* and *containers* used for transport of fish should be appropriate to the species, size, weight and number of fish to be transported.

b) *Vehicles* and *containers* should be maintained in good mechanical and structural condition to prevent predictable and avoidable damage of the *vehicle* that may directly or indirectly affect the welfare of transported fish.

c) *Vehicles* (if relevant) and *containers* should have adequate circulation of water and equipment for oxygenation as required to meet variations in the conditions during the journey and the needs of the animals being transported, including the closing of valves in well boats for biosecurity reasons.

d) The fish should be accessible to inspection en route, if necessary, to ensure that fish welfare can be assessed.

e) Documentation that focuses on fish welfare and thus carried with the *vehicle* should include a transport logbook of stocks received, contact information, mortalities and disposal/storage logs.

3. Water

a) Water quality (e.g. oxygen, CO₂ and NH₃ level, pH, temperature, salinity) should be appropriate for the species being transported and method of transportation.

b) Equipment to monitor and maintain water quality may be required depending on the length of the transport.

4. Preparation of fish for the transport

a) Prior to transport, feed should be withheld from the fish, taking into consideration the fish species and life stage to be transported.

b) The ability of the fish to cope with the stress of transport should be assessed based on health status, previous handling and recent transport history of the fish. Generally, only fish that are fit for transport should be loaded. Transport for disease control purposes should be in accordance with Chapter X.X. on the humane killing of fish for disease control purposes (in preparation).

c) Reasons for considering of unfitness of fish for transport includes:

i) displaying clinical signs of *disease*;

ii) significant physical injuries or abnormal behaviour, such as rapid ventilation or abnormal swimming;

iii) recent exposure to stressors that adversely affect behaviour or physiological state (for example extreme temperatures, chemical agents).

5. Species-specific recommendations

Transport procedures should take account of variations in the behaviour and specific needs of the transported fish species. Handling procedures that are successful with one species may be ineffective or dangerous for another species.

Some species or life stages may need to be physiologically prepared prior to entering a new environment, such as by feed deprivation or osmotic acclimatisation.
6. **Contingency plans**

There should be a _contingency plan_ that identifies the important adverse fish welfare events that may be encountered during the transport, the procedures for managing each event and the action to be taken in such an event. For each event, the plan should document the actions to be undertaken and the responsibilities of all parties involved, including communications and record keeping.

**Article 7.2.4.**

**Documentation**

1. Fish should not be loaded until the required documentation is complete.
2. The documentation accompanying the consignment (the transport log) should include:
   a) description of the consignment (e.g. date, time, and place of loading, species, biomass load);
   b) description of the transport plan (e.g. including route, water exchanges, expected time, date and place of arrival and unloading and receiver contact information).
3. The transport log should be made available to the dispatcher and the receiver of the consignment as well as to the _Aquatic Animal Health Service_ upon request. Transport logs from previous journeys should be kept after completion of the transport for a period of time as specified by the _Aquatic Animal Health Service_.

**Article 7.2.5.**

**Loading the fish**

1. The issues which should be addressed to avoid unnecessary stress and injury to the fish include:
   a) crowding procedure in farm pond, tank, net or cage prior to loading;
   b) equipment (such as nets, pumps, pipes and fittings) both improperly constructed, for example with sharp bends or protrusions or improperly operated by overloading the system with fish of incorrect size or number of fish per time unit according to the equipments capacity;
   c) water quality - some species of fish should be acclimatised if there is a likelihood of the fish being transported in water of a significantly different temperature or other water parameters.
2. The density of fish in a _vehicle_ and/or _container_ should be in accordance with scientific data where available and not exceed what is generally accepted for a given species and a given situation.
3. Loading should be carried out, or supervised, by operators with knowledge and experience of the behaviour and other characteristics of the fish species being loaded to ensure that the welfare of the fish is maintained.

**Article 7.2.6.**

**Transporting the fish**

1. **General considerations**
   a) Periodic inspections should take place during the transport to verify that acceptable welfare is being maintained.
b) Ensure that water quality is monitored and the necessary adjustments made to avoid extreme conditions.

c) Travel in a manner that minimises uncontrolled movements of the fish that may lead to stress and injury.

2. Sick or injured fish

   a) In the event of a fish health emergency during transport, the vehicle operator should initiate the contingency plan (see point 6 of Article 7.2.3.).

   b) If the killing of fish is necessary during the transport, it should be carried out humanely in accordance with Chapter X.X. on the Humane killing of fish for disease control purposes (in preparation), and in compliance with relevant legislation.

   Article 7.2.7.

Unloading the fish

1. The principles of good fish handling during loading apply equally during unloading.

2. Fish should be unloaded as soon as possible after arrival at the destination, allowing sufficient time to ensure that the unloading procedure does not cause harm to the fish. Some species of fish should be acclimatised if there is a likelihood of the fish being unloaded into water of a significantly different quality (such as temperature, salinity, pH).

3. Moribund or seriously injured fish should be removed and humanely killed in accordance with Chapter X.X. on the Humane killing of fish for disease control purposes (in preparation).

   Article 7.2.8.

Post-transport activities

1. The person in charge of receiving the fish should closely observe them during the post-transport period, and keep appropriate records.

2. Fish showing abnormal clinical signs should be humanely killed in accordance with Chapter X.X. on the Humane killing of fish for disease control purposes (in preparation) or isolated and examined by a veterinarian or other qualified personnel, who may recommend treatment.

3. Significant problems associated with transport should be evaluated to prevent recurrence of such problems.
CHAPTER 7.3.

WELFARE ASPECTS OF STUNNING AND KILLING OF FARmed FISH FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Article 7.3.1.

Scope

These recommendations apply to the stunning and killing of farmed fish species for human consumption.

These recommendations address the need to ensure the welfare of farmed fish, intended for human consumption, during stunning and killing including transport and holding immediately prior to stunning.

This chapter describes general principles that should be applied to ensure the welfare of fish for stunning and killing and also applies to fish killed for disease control purposes and intended for human consumption. Specific measures applicable to emergency killing for disease control purposes not intended for human consumption are addressed in Chapter 7.4. Humane Killing for disease control purposes (under development).

As a general principle, fish should be stunned before killing, and the stunning method should ensure immediate and irreversible loss of consciousness. If the stunning is not irreversible, fish should be killed before consciousness is recovered.

Article 7.3.2.

Personnel

Persons engaged in the handling, stunning and killing of fish play an important role in their welfare. Personnel handling fish for killing should be experienced and competent in the handling of fish, and understand their behaviour patterns as well as the underlying principles necessary to carry out their tasks. Some stunning and killing methods may pose a risk to the personnel; therefore training should cover occupational health and safety implications of any methods used.

Article 7.3.3.

Transport

If fish are to be transported prior to stunning and killing, this should be done in accordance with OIE recommendations on the welfare of farmed fish during transport (see Chapter 7.2).
Article 7.3.4.

Design of holding facilities

1. The holding facilities should be designed and specifically constructed to hold a certain fish species or group of fish species.
2. The holding facilities should be of a size that allows holding a certain number of fish for processing in a given timeframe without compromising the welfare of the fish.
3. Operations should be conducted with minimal injury and stress to the fish.
4. The following recommendations may help to achieve this:
   a) nets and tanks should be designed to minimise physical injuries;
   b) water quality should be suitable for the fish species and stocking density;
   c) equipment for transferring fish, including pumps and pipes, should be designed to minimise injury.

Article 7.3.5.

Unloading, transferring and loading

1. Fish should be unloaded, transferred and loaded under conditions that minimise injury and stress to the fish.
2. The following points should be considered:
   a) Water quality should be assessed on arrival of fish prior to their unloading, and corrective action taken if required.
   b) Where possible any injured or moribund fish should be separated and killed humanely.
   c) The crowding periods of fish should be as short and infrequent as possible.
   d) The handling of fish during transfers should be minimised and preferably fish should not be handled out of water. If fish need to be removed from water, this period should be kept as short as possible.
   e) Where feasible, and when applicable, fish should be allowed to swim directly into a stunning device without handling to avoid handling stress.
   f) Equipment used to handle fish, for example nets and dip nets, pumping devices and brailing devices, should be designed, constructed and operated to minimise physical injuries.
   g) There should be a contingency plan to address emergencies and minimise stress during unloading, transferring and loading fish.

Article 7.3.6.

Stunning and killing methods

1. General considerations
   a) The Competent Authority should approve the stunning and killing methods for fish. The choice of method should take account of species-specific information where available.
b) All handling, stunning and killing equipment should be maintained and operated appropriately; it should be tested on a regular basis to ensure that performance is adequate.

c) Effective stunning should be verified by the absence of consciousness.

d) A backup stunning system is necessary. If mis-stunned, the fish should be re-stunned as soon as possible.

e) Stunning should not take place if killing is likely to be delayed such that the fish will recover or partially recover consciousness.

f) While absence of consciousness may be difficult to recognise, signs of correct stunning include i) loss of body and respiratory movement (loss in opercular activity); ii) loss of visual evoked response (VER); iii) loss of vestibulo-ocular reflex (VOR, eye rolling).

2. Mechanical stunning and killing methods

a) Percussive stunning is achieved by a blow of sufficient strength to the head applied above or immediately adjacent to the brain in order to damage the brain. Mechanical stunning may be achieved either manually or using specially developed equipment.

b) Spiking or coring are irreversible stunning and killing methods of fish based on physical damage to the brain by inserting a spike or core into the brain.

c) Shooting using a free bullet may be used for killing large fish (such as tuna). The fish may either be crowded in a net and shot in the head from the surface, or individual fish may be killed by shooting in the head from under the water (commonly called lupara).

d) Mechanical stunning is generally irreversible if correctly applied.

3. Electrical stunning and killing methods

a) Electrical stunning involves the application of an electrical current of sufficient strength, frequency and duration to cause immediate loss of consciousness and insensibility of the fish. The conductivity of fresh and brackish water varies, so it is essential to establish the parameters of the electrical current to ensure proper stunning.

b) The electrical stunning device should be constructed and used for the specific fish species and their environment.

c) Electrical stunning may be reversible. In such cases fish should be killed before consciousness is recovered.

d) Fish should be confined beneath the surface of the water, and there should be a uniform distribution of electrical current in the stunning tank or chamber.

e) In semi-dry electrical stunning systems, fish should enter the device head first to ensure rapid and efficient stunning.

4. Other killing methods

The following methods are known to be used for killing fish: chilling with ice in holding water, carbon dioxide (CO₂) in holding water; chilling with ice and CO₂ in holding water; salt or ammonia baths; asphyxiation by removal from water; exsanguination without stunning. However, they have been shown to result in poor fish welfare. Therefore, it is preferable to use the methods described in points 2 and 3 of this Article, as appropriate to the fish species.
Article 7.3.7.

Examples of stunning/killing methods for fish groups

The following methods enable humane killing for the following fish groups:

1. Percussive stunning: carp, catfish, salmonids, halibut;
2. Spiking or coring: salmonids, tuna;
3. Free bullet: tuna;
4. Electrical stunning: carp, catfish, eel, salmonids, tilapia.

Article 7.3.8.

Summary table of some stunning/killing methods for fish and their respective welfare issues

A combination of methods described in the table below may be used.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stunning/killing method</th>
<th>Specific method</th>
<th>Key fish welfare concerns/requirements</th>
<th>Advantages</th>
<th>Disadvantages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical</td>
<td>Percussive stunning</td>
<td>The blow should be of sufficient force and delivered above or adjacent to the brain in order to render immediate unconsciousness. Fish should be quickly removed from the water, restrained and given a quick blow to the head, delivered either manually by a club or by automated percussive stunning. The effectiveness of stunning should be checked, and fish be re-stunned if necessary. It can be a stun / kill method.</td>
<td>Immediate loss of consciousness. Suitable for medium to large sized fish.</td>
<td>Hand operated equipment may be hampered by uncontrolled movement of the fish. Mis-stunning may result from a too weak blow. Injuries may occur. Manual percussive stunning is only practicable for the killing of a limited number of fish.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Chapter 7.3. - Welfare aspects of stunning and killing of farmed fish for human consumption

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stunning/killing method (contd)</th>
<th>Specific method</th>
<th>Key fish welfare concerns/requirements</th>
<th>Advantages</th>
<th>Disadvantages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mechanical (contd)</strong></td>
<td>Spiking or coring</td>
<td>The spike should be aimed on the skull in a position to penetrate the brain of the fish and the impact of the spike should produce immediate unconsciousness. Fish should be quickly removed from the water, restrained and the spike immediately inserted into the brain. It is a stun / kill method.</td>
<td>Immediate loss of consciousness. Suitable for medium to large sized fish. For small tuna, spiking under the water avoids exposure of fish to air. The pineal window of tuna facilitates spiking for this species.</td>
<td>Inaccurate application may cause injuries. Difficult to apply if fish agitated. It is only practicable for the killing of a limited number of fish.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Electrical</strong></td>
<td>Free bullet</td>
<td>The shot should be carefully aimed at the brain. The fish should be positioned correctly and the shooting range should be as short as practicable. It is a stun / kill method.</td>
<td>Immediate loss of consciousness. Suitable for large sized fish, e.g. large tuna.</td>
<td>Shooting distance; calibre need to be adapted. Excessive crowding and noise of guns may cause stress reaction. Contamination of the working area due to release of body fluids may present a biosecurity risk. May be hazardous to operators.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Electrical</strong></td>
<td>Electrical stunning</td>
<td>Involves the application of an electrical current of sufficient strength, frequency and duration to cause immediately unconsciousness. It can be a stun / kill method. Equipment should be designed and maintained correctly.</td>
<td>Immediate loss of consciousness. Suitable for small to medium sized fish. Suitable for large numbers of fish, and the fish do not have to be removed from the water.</td>
<td>Difficult to standardise for all species. Optimal control parameters are unknown for some species. May be hazardous to operators.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Electrical</strong></td>
<td>Semi-dry electrical stunning</td>
<td>The head of the fish should enter the system first so electricity is applied to the brain first. Involves the application of an electrical current of sufficient strength, frequency and duration to cause immediately unconsciousness. Equipment should be designed and maintained correctly.</td>
<td>Good visual control of stunning and the ability for re-stunning of individual fish.</td>
<td>Misplacement of the fish may result in improper stunning. Optimal control parameters are unknown for some species. Not suitable for mixed sizes of fish.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SECTION 8.

DISEASES OF AMPHIBIANS

CHAPTER 8.1.

INFECTION WITH BATRACHOCYTRIUM DENDROBATIDIS

Article 8.1.1.

For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, infection with Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis means infection with the freshwater fungus B. dendrobatidis (Fungi, Chytridiomycota, Rhizophydiales). Information on methods for diagnosis are provided in the Aquatic Manual (in preparation).

Article 8.1.2.

Scope

The recommendations in this chapter apply to: all species of Anura (frogs and toads), Caudata (salamanders, newts and sirens) and Gymnophiona (caecilians). The recommendations also apply to any other susceptible species referred to in the Aquatic Manual when traded internationally.

Article 8.1.3.

Importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for any purpose from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from B. dendrobatidis

1. Competent Authorities should not require any B. dendrobatidis related conditions, regardless of the B. dendrobatidis 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 8.1.2. intended for any purpose and complying with Article 5.3.1.:
   a) [commodities treated in a manner that inactivates the disease agent e.g. canned products; leather made from amphibian skin; dried amphibian products (including air dried, flame dried and sun dried)] (under study).

2. When authorising the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products of a species referred to in Article 8.1.2., other than those referred to in point 1 of Article 8.1.3., Competent Authorities should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 8.1.7. to 8.1.12. relevant to the B. dendrobatidis status of the exporting country, zone or compartment.
3. When considering the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products from an exporting country, zone or compartment not declared free of B. dendrobatidis of a species not covered in Article 8.1.2. but which could reasonably be expected to pose a risk of transmission for B. dendrobatidis, Competent Authorities should conduct a risk analysis in accordance with the recommendations in the Aquatic Code. The exporting country should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.

**Article 8.1.4.**

**B. dendrobatidis free country**

A country may make a self-declaration of freedom from B. dendrobatidis if it meets the conditions in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a country shares a zone with one or more other countries, it can only make a self-declaration of freedom from B. dendrobatidis if all the areas covered by the zone are declared B. dendrobatidis free (see Article 8.1.5.).

1. A country where none of the susceptible species referred to in Article 8.1.2. is present may make a self-declaration of freedom from B. dendrobatidis when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A country where the susceptible species referred to in Article 8.1.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual (in preparation), may make a self-declaration of freedom from B. dendrobatidis when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 10 years.

OR

3. A country where the last known clinical occurrence of the disease was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual [in preparation]) may make a self-declaration of freedom from B. dendrobatidis when:

   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and

   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of B. dendrobatidis.

OR

4. A country that has previously made a self-declaration of freedom from B. dendrobatidis but in which the disease is subsequently detected may make a self-declaration of freedom from B. dendrobatidis again when the following conditions have been met:

   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and

   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and
c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of B. dendrobatidis; and
d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.

In the meantime, part of the non-affected area may be declared a free zone provided that such part meets the conditions in point 3 of Article 8.1.5.

Article 8.1.5.

B. dendrobatidis free zone or free compartment

A zone or compartment within the territory of one or more countries not declared free from B. dendrobatidis may be declared free by the Competent Authority(ies) of the country(ies) concerned if the zone or compartment meets the conditions referred to in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a zone or compartment extends over more than one country, it can only be declared a B. dendrobatidis free zone or compartment if all the Competent Authorities confirm that the conditions have been met.

1. A zone or compartment where none of the susceptible species referred to in Article 8.1.2. is present may be declared free from B. dendrobatidis when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A zone or compartment where the susceptible species referred to in Article 8.1.2. are present but there has never been any observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual (in preparation), may be declared free from B. dendrobatidis when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 10 years.

OR

3. A zone or compartment where the last observed occurrence of the disease was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to its clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual [in preparation]) may be declared free from B. dendrobatidis when:

   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and
   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of B. dendrobatidis.

OR

4. A zone previously declared free from B. dendrobatidis but in which the disease is subsequently detected may again be declared free from B. dendrobatidis when the following conditions have been met:

   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and
   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and
c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of B. dendrobatidis; and


d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.

**Article 8.1.6.**

**Maintenance of free status**

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from B. dendrobatidis following the provisions of points 1 or 2 of Articles 8.1.4. or 8.1.5. (as relevant) may maintain its status as B. dendrobatidis free provided that basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from B. dendrobatidis following the provisions of point 3 of Articles 8.1.4. or 8.1.5. (as relevant) may discontinue targeted surveillance and maintain its status as B. dendrobatidis free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of B. dendrobatidis, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual (in preparation), exist and basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free zones or compartments in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of B. dendrobatidis, targeted surveillance needs to be continued at a level determined by the Aquatic Animal Health Service on the basis of the likelihood of infection.

**Article 8.1.7.**

**Importation of live aquatic animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free from B. dendrobatidis**

When importing live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 8.1.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from B. dendrobatidis, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country attesting that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 8.1.4. or 8.1.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the aquatic animal is a country, zone or compartment declared free from B. dendrobatidis.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 8.1.3.

**Article 8.1.8.**

**Importation of live aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from B. dendrobatidis**

1. When importing live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 8.1.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from B. dendrobatidis, the Competent Authority of the importing country should:

   a) require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country attesting that the aquatic animals of the species referred
to in Article 8.1.2. have been appropriately treated to eradicate infection and have been subsequently tested to confirm absence of the disease according to specifications provided in the relevant chapter in the Aquatic Manual;

OR

b) assess the risk and apply risk mitigation measures such as:

i) the direct delivery to and lifelong holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for continuous isolation from the local environment;

ii) the treatment of all effluent and waste materials in a manner that inactivates *B. dendrobatidis*.

2. If the intention of the introduction is the establishment of a new stock, relevant aspects of the Code of Practice on the Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) should be considered.

3. For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, relevant aspects of the ICES Code (full version see: http://www.ices.dk/pubs/Miscellaneous/ICESCodeofPractice.pdf) may be summarised to the following points:

a) identify stock of interest (cultured or wild) in its current location;

b) evaluate stock health/disease history;

c) take and test samples for *B. dendrobatidis*, pests and general health/disease status;

d) import and quarantine in a secure facility a founder (F-0) population;

e) produce F-1 generation from the F-0 stock in quarantine;

f) culture F-1 stock and at critical times in its development (life cycle) sample and test for *B. dendrobatidis* and perform general examinations for pests and general health/disease status;

g) if *B. dendrobatidis* is not detected, pests are not present, and the general health/disease status of the stock is considered to meet the basic biosecurity conditions of the importing country, zone or compartment, the F-1 stock may be defined as *B. dendrobatidis* free or specific pathogen free (SPF) for *B. dendrobatidis*;

h) release SPF F-1 stock from quarantine for aquaculture or stocking purposes in the country, zone or compartment.

4. With respect to point 3e), quarantine conditions should be conducive to multiplication of the pathogen and eventually to clinical expression. If quarantine conditions are not suitable for pathogen multiplication and development, the recommended diagnostic approach might not be sensitive enough to detect low infection level.

This Article does not apply to aquatic animals referred to in point 1 of Article 8.1.3.
Chapter 8.1. - Infection with Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis

Article 8.1.9.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *B. dendrobatidis*

When importing, for processing for human consumption, aquatic animals or aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 8.1.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *B. dendrobatidis*, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, require that:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in quarantine or containment facilities until processing into one of the products referred to in point 1 of Article 8.1.3., or products described in point 1 of Article 8.1.12., or other products authorised by the Competent Authority; and
2. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of *B. dendrobatidis* or is disposed in a manner that prevents contact of waste with susceptible species.

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

Article 8.1.10.

Importation of live aquatic animals intended for use in animal feed, or for agricultural, laboratory, zoo, pet trade, industrial or pharmaceutical use, from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *B. dendrobatidis*

When importing live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 8.1.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *B. dendrobatidis*, the Competent Authority of the importing country should:

1. require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country attesting that the aquatic animals have been appropriately treated to eradicate infection and have been subsequently tested to confirm absence of the disease according to specifications provided in the relevant chapter in the Aquatic Manual;

OR

2. assess the risk and apply risk mitigation measures such as:

a) the direct delivery to and lifelong holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for continuous isolation from the local environment;

b) the treatment of all effluent and waste materials in a manner that inactivates *B. dendrobatidis*.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 8.1.3.

Article 8.1.11.

Importation of aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment declared free from *B. dendrobatidis*

When importing aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 8.1.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from *B. dendrobatidis*, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country.
Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country attesting that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 8.1.4. or 8.1.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the consignment is a country, zone or compartment declared free from B. dendrobatidis.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 8.1.3.

Article 8.1.12.

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

1. Competent Authorities should not require any B. dendrobatidis related conditions, regardless of the B. dendrobatidis 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) [skinned frog legs with feet removed;
ii) skinned amphibian meat or carcasses, with heads, hands and feet removed] (under study).

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

2. When importing aquatic animals or aquatic animal products, other than those referred to in point 1 above, of the species referred to in Article 8.1.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from B. dendrobatidis, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and apply appropriate risk mitigation measures.
CHAPTER 8.2.

INFECTION WITH RANAVIRUS

Article 8.2.1.

For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, infection with ranavirus means infection with any members of the genus Ranavirus in the family Iridoviridae with the exception of epizootic haematopoietic necrosis virus and European catfish virus.

Information on methods for diagnosis are provided in the Aquatic Manual (in preparation).

Article 8.2.2.

Scope

The recommendations in this Chapter apply to: all species of Anura (frogs and toads) and Caudata (salamanders and newts). The recommendations also apply to any other susceptible species referred to in the Aquatic Manual when traded internationally.

Article 8.2.3.

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

1. Competent Authorities should not require any ranavirus related conditions, regardless of the ranavirus 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 8.2.2. intended for any purpose and complying with Article 5.3.1.:

   a) [commodities treated in a manner that inactivates the disease agent e.g. canned products; leather made from amphibian skin; dried amphibian products (including air dried, flame dried and sun dried)] (under study).

2. When authorising the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products of a species referred to in Article 8.2.2., other than those referred to in point 1 of Article 8.2.3., Competent Authorities should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 8.2.7. to 8.2.12. relevant to the ranavirus status of the exporting country, zone or compartment.

3. When considering the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products from an exporting country, zone or compartment not declared free of ranavirus of a species not covered in Article 8.2.2. but which could reasonably be expected to pose a risk of transmission for ranavirus, Competent Authorities should conduct a risk analysis in accordance with the recommendations in the Aquatic Code. The exporting country should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.
Article 8.2.4.

Ranavirus free country

A country may make a self-declaration of freedom from ranavirus if it meets the conditions in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a country shares a zone with one or more other countries, it can only make a self-declaration of freedom from ranavirus if all the areas covered by the zone are declared ranavirus free (see Article 8.2.5).

1. A country where none of the susceptible species referred to in Article 8.2.2. is present may make a self-declaration of freedom from ranavirus when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A country where the susceptible species referred to in Article 8.2.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual (in preparation), may make a self-declaration of freedom from ranavirus when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 10 years.

OR

3. A country where the last known clinical occurrence was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual [in preparation]) may make a self-declaration of freedom from ranavirus when:

   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and

   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of ranavirus.

OR

4. A country that has previously made a self-declaration of freedom from ranavirus but in which the disease is subsequently detected may make a self-declaration of freedom from ranavirus again when the following conditions have been met:

   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and

   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and

   c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of ranavirus; and

   d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.

In the meantime, part of the non-affected area may be declared a free zone provided that such part meets the conditions in point 3 of Article 8.2.5.
Article 8.2.5.

Ranavirus free zone or free compartment

A zone or compartment within the territory of one or more countries not declared free from ranavirus may be declared free by the Competent Authority(ies) of the country(ies) concerned if the zone or compartment meets the conditions referred to in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a zone or compartment extends over more than one country, it can only be declared a ranavirus free zone or compartment if all the Competent Authorities confirm that the conditions have been met.

1. A zone or compartment where none of the susceptible species referred to in Article 8.2.2. is present may be declared free from ranavirus when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A zone or compartment where the susceptible species referred to in Article 8.2.2. are present but there has never been any observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual (in preparation), may be declared free from ranavirus when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 10 years.

OR

3. A zone or compartment where the last observed occurrence of the disease was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to its clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual [in preparation]) may be declared free from ranavirus when:
   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and
   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of ranavirus.

OR

4. A zone previously declared free from ranavirus but in which the disease is subsequently detected may again be declared free from ranavirus when the following conditions have been met:
   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and
   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and
   c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of ranavirus; and
   d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.
Article 8.2.6.

Maintenance of free status

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from ranavirus following the provisions of points 1 or 2 of Articles 8.2.4. or 8.2.5. (as relevant) may maintain its status as ranavirus free provided that basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from ranavirus following the provisions of point 3 of Articles 8.2.4. or 8.2.5. (as relevant) may discontinue targeted surveillance and maintain its status as ranavirus free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of infection with ranavirus, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual (in preparation), exist and basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free zones or compartments in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of infection with ranavirus, targeted surveillance needs to be continued at a level determined by the Aquatic Animal Health Service on the basis of the likelihood of infection.

Article 8.2.7.

Importation of live aquatic animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free from ranavirus

When importing live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 8.2.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from ranavirus, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country. This certificate must certify, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 8.2.4. or 8.2.5. (as applicable), whether the place of production of the aquatic animal is a country, zone or compartment declared free from ranavirus.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 8.2.3.

Article 8.2.8.

Importation of live aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from ranavirus

1. When importing, for aquaculture, live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 8.2.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from ranavirus, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, apply the following risk mitigation measures:

   a) the direct delivery to and lifelong holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for continuous isolation from the local environment; and

   b) the treatment of all effluent and waste material in a manner that ensures inactivation of ranavirus.
2. If the intention of the introduction is the establishment of a new stock, relevant aspects of the Code of Practice on the Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) should be considered.

3. For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, relevant aspects of the ICES Code (full version see: http://www.ices.dk/pubs/Miscellaneous/ICESCodeofPractice.pdf) may be summarised to the following points:

   a) identify stock of interest (cultured or wild) in its current location;
   b) evaluate stock health/disease history;
   c) take and test samples for ranavirus, pests and general health/disease status;
   d) import and quarantine in a secure facility a founder (F-0) population;
   e) produce F-1 generation from the F-0 stock in quarantine;
   f) culture F-1 stock and at critical times in its development (life cycle) sample and test for ranavirus and perform general examinations for pests and general health/disease status;
   g) if ranavirus is not detected, pests are not present, and the general health/disease status of the stock is considered to meet the basic biosecurity conditions of the importing country, zone or compartment, the F-1 stock may be defined as free of infection with ranavirus or specific pathogen free (SPF) for ranavirus;
   h) release SPF F-1 stock from quarantine for aquaculture or stocking purposes in the country, zone or compartment.

4. With respect to point 3e), quarantine conditions should be conducive to multiplication of the pathogen and eventually to clinical expression. If quarantine conditions are not suitable for pathogen multiplication and development, the recommended diagnostic approach might not be sensitive enough to detect low infection level.

This Article does not apply to aquatic animals referred to in point 1 of Article 8.2.3.

Article 8.2.9.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from ranavirus

When importing, for processing for human consumption, aquatic animals or aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 8.2.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from ranavirus, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, require that:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in quarantine or containment facilities until processing into one of the products referred to in point 1 of Article 8.2.3., or products described in point 1 of Article 8.2.12., or other products authorised by the Competent Authority; and
2. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of ranavirus or is disposed in a manner that prevents contact of waste with susceptible species.

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.
Article 8.2.10.

Importation of live aquatic animals intended for use in animal feed, or for agricultural, laboratory, zoo, pet trade, industrial or pharmaceutical use, from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from ranavirus

When importing live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 8.2.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from ranavirus, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and apply risk mitigation measures such as:

1. the direct delivery to and lifelong holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for continuous isolation from the local environment;
2. the treatment of all effluent and waste materials in a manner that inactivates ranavirus.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 8.2.3.

Article 8.2.11.

Importation of aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment declared free from ranavirus

When importing aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 8.2.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from ranavirus, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country attesting that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 8.2.4. or 8.2.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the consignment is a country, zone or compartment declared free from ranavirus.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 8.2.3.

Article 8.2.12.

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

1. Competent Authorities should not require any ranavirus related conditions, regardless of the ranavirus 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) [skinned frog legs with feet removed;]
   ii) skinned amphibian meat or carcasses, with heads, hands and feet removed] (under study).

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.
2. When importing aquatic animals or aquatic animal products, other than those referred to in point 1 above, of the species referred to in Article 8.2.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from ranavirus, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and apply appropriate risk mitigation measures.
SECTION 9.

DISEASES OF CRUSTACEANS

CHAPTER 9.1.

CRAYFISH PLAGUE
(Aphanomyces astaci)

Article 9.1.1.

For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, crayfish plague means infection with Aphanomyces astaci Schikora. This organism is a member of a group commonly known as the water moulds (the Oomycetida). Common synonyms are listed in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual.

Information on methods for diagnosis are provided in the Aquatic Manual.

Article 9.1.2.

Scope

The recommendations in this chapter apply to all species of crayfish in all three crayfish families (Cambaridae, Astacidae, and Parastacidae). These recommendations also apply to any other susceptible species referred to in the Aquatic Manual when traded internationally.

Article 9.1.3.

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

1. Competent Authorities should not require any crayfish plague related conditions, regardless of the crayfish plague 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 9.1.2. intended for any purpose and complying with Article 5.3.1:

a) commodities treated in a manner that inactivates the pathogenic agent e.g. boiled, canned or pasteurised products and some ready-to-eat meals; and crayfish oil and crayfish meal intended for use in feed;

b) chemically extracted chitin;

c) crayfish products made non-infectious through processing as dry feed (e.g. pelleted or extruded feed);
d) frozen crayfish products that have been subjected to -20°C or lower temperatures for at least 72 hours] under study.

2. When authorising the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products of a species referred to in Article 9.1.2., other than those referred to in point 1 of Article 9.1.3., Competent Authorities should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 9.1.7. to 9.1.11. relevant to the crayfish plague status of the exporting country, zone or compartment.

3. When considering the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products from an exporting country, zone or compartment not declared free of crayfish plague of a species not covered in Article 9.1.2. but which could reasonably be expected to pose a risk of transmission for crayfish plague, Competent Authorities should conduct a risk analysis in accordance with the recommendations in the Aquatic Code. The exporting country should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.

Article 9.1.4.

Crayfish plague free country

A country may make a self-declaration of freedom from crayfish plague if it meets the conditions in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a country shares a zone with one or more other countries, it can only make a self-declaration of freedom from crayfish plague if all the areas covered by the shared water are declared crayfish plague free countries or zones (see Article 9.1.5).

1. A country where none of the susceptible species referred to in Article 9.1.2. is present may make a self-declaration of freedom from crayfish plague when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A country where the susceptible species referred to in Article 9.1.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 25 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may make a self-declaration of freedom from crayfish plague when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 10 years.

OR

3. A country where the last observed occurrence of the disease was within the past 25 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to its clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may make a self-declaration of freedom from crayfish plague when:

   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 5 years; and
   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 5 years without detection of A. astaci.

OR

4. A country that has previously made a self-declaration of freedom from crayfish plague but in which the disease is subsequently detected may make a self-declaration of freedom from crayfish plague again when the following conditions have been met:

   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and
b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and

c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the past 5 years without detection of A. astaci; and

d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 5 years.

In the meantime, part of the non-affected area may be declared a free zone provided that such part meets the conditions in point 3 of Article 9.1.5.

Article 9.1.5.

Crayfish plague free zone or free compartment

A zone or compartment within the territory of one or more countries not declared free from crayfish plague may be declared free by the Competent Authority(ies) of the country(ies) concerned if the zone or compartment meets the conditions referred to in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a zone or compartment extends over more than one country, it can only be declared a crayfish plague free zone or compartment if all the relevant Competent Authorities confirm that the conditions have been met.

1. A zone or compartment where none of the susceptible species referred to in Article 9.1.2. is present may be declared free from crayfish plague when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A zone or compartment where the susceptible species referred to in Article 9.1.2. are present but in which there has not been any observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 25 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may be declared free from crayfish plague when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 10 years.

OR

3. A zone or compartment where the last observed occurrence of the disease was within the past 25 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to its clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may be declared free from crayfish plague when:

   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 5 years; and

   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place, through the zone or compartment, for at least the past 5 years without detection of A. astaci.

OR

4. A zone previously declared free from crayfish plague but in which the disease is subsequently detected may again be declared free from crayfish plague when the following conditions have been met:

   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and
b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and

c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the past 5 years without detection of A. astaci; and

d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 5 years.

Article 9.1.6.

Maintenance of free status

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from crayfish plague following the provisions of points 1 or 2 of Articles 9.1.4. or 9.1.5. (as relevant) may maintain its status as crayfish plague free provided that basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from crayfish plague following the provisions of point 3 of Articles 9.1.4. or 9.1.5. (as relevant) may discontinue targeted surveillance and maintain its status as crayfish plague free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of crayfish plague, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, exist, and basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free zones or compartments in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of crayfish plague, targeted surveillance needs to be continued at a level determined by the Aquatic Animal Health Service on the basis of the likelihood of infection.

Article 9.1.7.

Importation of live aquatic animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free from crayfish plague

When importing live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 9.1.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from crayfish plague, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country attesting that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 9.1.4. or 9.1.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the aquatic animal is a country, zone or compartment declared free from crayfish plague.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities listed in point 1 of Article 9.1.3.

Article 9.1.8.

Importation of live aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from crayfish plague

1. When importing, for aquaculture, live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 9.1.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from crayfish plague, the Competent
Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, apply the following risk mitigation measures:

a) the direct delivery to and lifelong holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for continuous isolation from the local environment; and

b) the treatment of all effluent and waste materials in a manner that ensures inactivation of *A. astaci*.

2. If the intention of the introduction is the establishment of a new stock, relevant aspects of the Code of Practice on the Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) should be considered.

3. For the purposes of the *Aquatic Code*, relevant aspects of the ICES Code (full version see: http://www.ices.dk/pubs/Miscellaneous/ICESCodeofPractice.pdf) may be summarised to the following points:

a) identify stock of interest (cultured or wild) in its current location;

b) evaluate stock health/disease history;

c) take and test samples for *A. astaci*, pests and general health/disease status;

d) import and quarantine in a secure facility a founder (F-0) population;

e) produce F-1 generation from the F-0 stock in quarantine;

f) culture F-1 stock and at critical times in its development (life cycle) sample and test for *A. astaci* and perform general examinations for pests and general health/disease status;

g) if *A. astaci* is not detected, pests are not present, and the general health/disease status of the stock is considered to meet the basic biosecurity conditions of the importing country, zone or compartment, the F-1 stock may be defined as crayfish plague free or specific pathogen free (SPF) for *A. astaci*;

h) release SPF F-1 stock from quarantine for aquaculture or stocking purposes in the country, zone or compartment.

4. With respect to point 3e), quarantine conditions should be conducive to multiplication of the pathogen and eventually to clinical expression. If quarantine conditions are not suitable for pathogen multiplication and development, the recommended diagnostic approach might not be sensitive enough to detect low infection level.

This Article does not apply to aquatic animals listed in point 1 of Article 9.1.3.

**Article 9.1.9.**

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from crayfish plague

When importing, for processing for human consumption, aquatic animals or aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 9.1.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from crayfish plague, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, require that:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in quarantine or containment facilities until processing into one of the products referred to in point 1 of Article 9.1.3., or products described in point 1 of Article 9.1.11., or other products authorised by the Competent Authority; and
2. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of *A. astaci* or is disposed in a manner that prevents contact of waste with susceptible species.

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

**Article 9.1.10.**

**Importation of aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment declared free from crayfish plague**

When importing aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 9.1.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from crayfish plague, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country attesting that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 9.1.4. or 9.1.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the consignment is a country, zone or compartment declared free from crayfish plague.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities listed in point 1 of Article 9.1.3.

**Article 9.1.11.**

**Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for retail trade for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from crayfish plague**

1. Competent Authorities should not require any crayfish plague related conditions, regardless of the crayfish plague 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) [commodity(ies)] under study.

   For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

2. When importing aquatic animals or aquatic animal products, other than those referred to in point 1 above, of the species referred to in Article 9.1.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from crayfish plague, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and apply appropriate risk mitigation measures.
CHAPTER 9.2.
INFECTIOUS HYPODERMAL AND HAEMATOPOIETIC NECROSIS

Article 9.2.1.

For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis (IHHN) means infection with infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis virus (IHHNV). IHHNV is classified as the species Penaeus stylirostris densovirus in the genus Brividensovirus in the family Parvoviridae.

Information on methods for diagnosis are provided in the Aquatic Manual.

Article 9.2.2.

Scope

The recommendations in this chapter apply to: giant tiger prawn (Penaeus monodon), Pacific white shrimp (P. vannamei) and blue shrimp (P. stylirostris). These recommendations also apply to any other susceptible species referred to in the Aquatic Manual when traded internationally.

For the purposes of this chapter, the terms shrimp and prawn are used interchangeably.

Article 9.2.3.

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

1. Competent Authorities should not require any IHHN related conditions, regardless of the IHHN 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 9.2.2. intended for any purpose and complying with Article 5.3.1.:
   a) commodities treated in a manner that inactivates the pathogenic agent e.g. boiled, canned or pasteurised products and some ready-to-eat meals; and crustacean oil and crustacean meal intended for use in feed;
   b) chemically extracted chitin;
   c) crustacean products made non-infectious through processing as dry feed (e.g. pelleted or extruded feed) under study.

2. When authorising the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products of a species referred to in Article 9.2.2., other than those referred to in point 1 of Article 9.2.3., Competent Authorities should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 9.2.7. to 9.2.11. relevant to the IHHN status of the exporting country, zone or compartment.

3. When considering the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products from an exporting country, zone or compartment not declared free of IHHN of a species not covered in Article 9.2.2. but which could reasonably be expected to pose a risk of transmission for
IHNN, *Competent Authorities* should conduct a *risk analysis* in accordance with the recommendations in the *Aquatic Code*. The *exporting country* should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.

**Article 9.2.4.**

**Infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis free country**

A country may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from IHNN if it meets the conditions in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a country shares a *zone* with one or more other countries, it can only make a *self-declaration of freedom* from IHNN if all the areas covered by the shared water are declared IHNN free countries or *zones* (see Article 9.2.5).

1. A country where none of the *susceptible species* referred to in Article 9.2.2. is present may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from IHNN when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A country where the *susceptible species* referred to in Article 9.2.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the *disease* for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the *Aquatic Manual*, may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from IHNN when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

3. A country where the last observed occurrence of the *disease* was within the past 10 years or where the *infection status* prior to *targeted surveillance* was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to its clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the *Aquatic Manual*) may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from IHNN when:

   a) *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and

   b) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the *Aquatic Code*, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of IHHNV.

OR

4. A country that has previously made a *self-declaration of freedom* from IHNN but in which the *disease* is subsequently detected may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from IHNN again when the following conditions have been met:

   a) on detection of the *disease*, the affected area was declared an *infected zone* and a *protection zone* was established; and

   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the *infected zone* by means that minimise the *risk* of further spread of the *disease*, and the appropriate *disinfection procedures* (see *Aquatic Manual*) have been completed; and

   c) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the *Aquatic Code*, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of IHHNV; and

   d) previously existing *basic biosecurity conditions* have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.
In the meantime, part of the non-affected area may be declared a free zone provided that such part meets the conditions in point 3 of Article 9.2.5.

**Article 9.2.5.**

**Infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis free zone or free compartment**

A zone or compartment within the territory of one or more countries not declared free from IHHN may be declared free by the Competent Authority(ies) of the country(ies) concerned if the zone or compartment meets the conditions referred to in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a zone or compartment extends over more than one country, it can only be declared a IHHN free zone or compartment if all the relevant Competent Authorities confirm that the conditions have been met.

1. A zone or compartment where none of the susceptible species referred to in Article 9.2.2. is present may be declared free from IHHN when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A zone or compartment where the susceptible species referred to in Article 9.2.2. are present but in which there has not been any observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the *Aquatic Manual*, may be declared free from IHHN when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 2 years.

OR

3. A zone or compartment where the last observed occurrence of the disease was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to its clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the *Aquatic Manual*) may be declared free from IHHN when:

   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and

   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the *Aquatic Code*, has been in place, through the zone or compartment, for at least the past 2 years without detection of IHHNV.

OR

4. A zone previously declared free from IHHN but in which the disease is subsequently detected may again be declared free from IHHN when the following conditions have been met:

   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and

   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see *Aquatic Manual*) have been completed; and

   c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the *Aquatic Code*, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of IHHNV; and

   d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.
Article 9.2.6.

Maintenance of free status

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from IHHN following the provisions of points 1 or 2 of Articles 9.2.4. or 9.2.5. (as relevant) may maintain its status as IHHN free provided that basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from IHHN following the provisions of point 3 of Articles 9.2.4. or 9.2.5. (as relevant) may discontinue targeted surveillance and maintain its status as IHHN free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of IHHN, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, exist, and basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free zones or compartments in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of IHHN, targeted surveillance needs to be continued at a level determined by the Aquatic Animal Health Service on the basis of the likelihood of infection.

Article 9.2.7.

Importation of live aquatic animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free from infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis

When importing live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 9.2.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from IHHN, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country attesting that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 9.2.4. or 9.2.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the aquatic animal is a country, zone or compartment declared free from IHHN.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities listed in point 1 of Article 9.2.3.

Article 9.2.8.

Importation of live aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis

1. When importing, for aquaculture, live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 9.2.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from IHHN, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, apply the following risk mitigation measures:
   a) the direct delivery to and lifelong holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for continuous isolation from the local environment; and
   b) the treatment of all effluent and waste materials in a manner that ensures inactivation of IHHNV.

2. If the intention of the introduction is the establishment of a new stock, relevant aspects of the Code of Practice on the Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) should be considered.
3. For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, relevant aspects of the ICES Code (full version see: http://www.ices.dk/pubs/Miscellaneous/ICESCodeofPractice.pdf) may be summarised to the following points:

a) identify stock of interest (cultured or wild) in its current location;

b) evaluate stock health/disease history;

c) take and test samples for IHHNV, pests and general health/disease status;

d) import and quarantine in a secure facility a founder (F-0) population;

e) produce F-1 generation from the F-0 stock in quarantine;

f) culture F-1 stock and at critical times in its development (life cycle) sample and test for IHHNV and perform general examinations for pests and general health/disease status;

g) if IHHNV is not detected, pests are not present, and the general health/disease status of the stock is considered to meet the basic biosecurity conditions of the importing country, zone or compartment, the F-1 stock may be defined as IHHN free or specific pathogen free (SPF) for IHHNV;

h) release SPF F-1 stock from quarantine for aquaculture or stocking purposes in the country, zone or compartment.

4. With respect to point 3e), quarantine conditions should be conducive to multiplication of the pathogen and eventually to clinical expression. If quarantine conditions are not suitable for pathogen multiplication and development, the recommended diagnostic approach might not be sensitive enough to detect low infection level.

This Article does not apply to aquatic animals listed in point 1 of Article 9.2.3.

Article 9.2.9.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis

When importing, for processing for human consumption, aquatic animals or aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 9.2.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from IHHN, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, require that:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in quarantine or containment facilities until processing into one of the products referred to in point 1 of Article 9.2.3., or products described in point 1 of Article 9.2.11., or other products authorised by the Competent Authority; and

2. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of IHHNV or is disposed in a manner that prevents contact of waste with susceptible species.

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.
Article 9.2.10.

Importation of aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment declared free from infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis

When importing aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 9.2.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from IHHN, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country attesting that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 9.2.4. or 9.2.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the consignment is a country, zone or compartment declared free from IHHN.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities listed in point 1 of Article 9.2.3.

Article 9.2.11.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for retail trade for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis

1. Competent Authorities should not require any IHHN related conditions, regardless of the IHHN 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) [commodity(ties)] under study.

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

2. When importing aquatic animals or aquatic animal products, other than those referred to in point 1 above, of the species referred to in Article 9.2.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from IHHN, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and apply appropriate risk mitigation measures.
CHAPTER 9.3.

INFECTIOUS MYONECROSIS

Article 9.3.1.

For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, infectious myonecrosis (IMN) means infection with infectious myonecrosis virus (IMNV). This virus is similar to members of the family Togaviridae.

Information on methods for diagnosis are provided in the Aquatic Manual.

Article 9.3.2.

Scope

The recommendations in this chapter apply to: Pacific white shrimp (Penaeus vannamei). These recommendations also apply to any other susceptible species referred to in the Aquatic Manual when traded internationally.

For the purposes of this chapter, the terms shrimp and prawn are used interchangeably.

Article 9.3.3.

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

1. Competent Authorities should not require any IMN related conditions, regardless of the IMN 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 9.3.2. intended for any purpose and complying with Article 5.3.1:
   a) commodities treated in a manner that inactivates the disease agent e.g. boiled, canned or pasteurised products and some ready-to-eat meals; and crustacean oil and crustacean meal intended for use in feed;
   b) chemically extracted chitin;
   c) crustacean products made non-infectious through processing as dry feed (e.g. pelleted or extruded feed) (under study).

2. When authorising the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products of a species referred to in Article 9.3.2., other than those referred to in point 1 of Article 9.3.3., Competent Authorities should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 9.3.7. to 9.3.11. relevant to the IMN status of the exporting country, zone or compartment.

3. When considering the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products from an exporting country, zone or compartment not declared free of IMN of a species not covered in Article 9.3.2. but which could reasonably be expected to pose a risk of transmission for IMN, Competent Authorities should conduct a risk analysis in accordance with the recommendations in the Aquatic Code. The exporting country should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.
Article 9.3.4.

Infectious myonecrosis free country

A country may make a self-declaration of freedom from IMN if it meets the conditions in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a country shares a zone with one or more other countries, it can only make a self-declaration of freedom from IMN if all the areas covered by the shared water are declared IMN free countries or zones (see Article 9.3.5).

1. A country where none of the susceptible species referred to in Article 9.3.2. is present may make a self-declaration of freedom from IMN when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A country where the susceptible species referred to in Article 9.3.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may make a self-declaration of freedom from IMN when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

3. A country where the last observed occurrence of the disease was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to its clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may make a self-declaration of freedom from IMN when:

   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and
   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of IMNV.

OR

4. A country that has previously made a self-declaration of freedom from IMN but in which the disease is subsequently detected may make a self-declaration of freedom from IMN again when the following conditions have been met:

   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and
   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and
   c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of IMNV; and
   d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.

In the meantime, part of the non-affected area may be declared a free zone provided that such part meets the conditions in point 3 of Article 9.3.5.
Infectious myonecrosis free zone or free compartment

A **zone or compartment** within the **territory** of one or more countries not declared free from IMN may be declared free by the **Competent Authority(ies)** of the country(ies) concerned if the **zone or compartment** meets the conditions referred to in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a **zone or compartment** extends over more than one country, it can only be declared an IMN free **zone or compartment** if all the relevant **Competent Authority(ies)** confirm that the conditions have been met.

1. A **zone or compartment** where none of the **susceptible species** referred to in Article 9.3.2. is present may be declared free from IMN when **basic biosecurity conditions** have been continuously met in the **zone or compartment** for at least the past 2 years.

   OR

2. A **zone or compartment** where the **susceptible species** referred to in Article 9.3.2. are present but in which there has not been any observed occurrence of the **disease** for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the **Aquatic Manual**, may be declared free from IMN when **basic biosecurity conditions** have been continuously met in the **zone or compartment** for at least the past 2 years.

   OR

3. A **zone or compartment** where the last observed occurrence of the **disease** was within the past 10 years or where the **infection status** prior to **targeted surveillance** was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to its clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the **Aquatic Manual**) may be declared free from IMN when:

   a) **basic biosecurity conditions** have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and

   b) **targeted surveillance**, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the **Aquatic Code**, has been in place, through the **zone or compartment**, for at least the past 2 years without detection of IMNV.

   OR

4. A **zone** previously declared free from IMN but in which the **disease** is subsequently detected may again be declared free from IMN when the following conditions have been met:

   a) on detection of the **disease**, the affected area was declared an **infected zone** and a **protection zone** was established; and

   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the **infected zone** by means that minimise the **risk** of further spread of the **disease**, and the appropriate **disinfection procedures** (see **Aquatic Manual**) have been completed; and

   c) **targeted surveillance**, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the **Aquatic Code**, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of IMNV; and

   d) previously existing **basic biosecurity conditions** have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.
Article 9.3.6.

Maintenance of free status

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from IMN following the provisions of points 1 or 2 of Articles 9.3.4. or 9.3.5. (as relevant) may maintain its status as IMN free provided that basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from IMN following the provisions of point 3 of Articles 9.3.4. or 9.3.5. (as relevant) may discontinue targeted surveillance and maintain its status as IMN free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of IMN, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, exist, and basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free zones or compartments in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of IMN, targeted surveillance needs to be continued at a level determined by the Aquatic Animal Health Service on the basis of the likelihood of infection.

Article 9.3.7.

Importation of live aquatic animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free from infectious myonecrosis

When importing live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 9.3.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from IMN, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country attesting that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 9.3.4. or 9.3.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the aquatic animal is a country, zone or compartment declared free from IMN.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities listed in point 1 of Article 9.3.3.

Article 9.3.8.

Importation of live aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from infectious myonecrosis

1. When importing, for aquaculture, live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 9.3.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from IMN, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, apply the following risk mitigation measures:
   a) the direct delivery to and lifelong holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for continuous isolation from the local environment; and
   b) the treatment of all effluent and waste materials in a manner that ensures inactivation of IMNV.

2. If the intention of the introduction is the establishment of a new stock, relevant aspects of the Code of Practice on the Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) should be considered.
3. For the purposes of the *Aquatic Code*, relevant aspects of the ICES Code (full version see: http://www.ices.dk/pubs/Miscellaneous/ICESCodeofPractice.pdf) may be summarised to the following points:

a) identify stock of interest (cultured or wild) in its current location;

b) evaluate stock health/disease history;

c) take and test samples for IMNV, pests and general health/disease status;

d) import and quarantine in a secure facility a founder (F-0) population;

e) produce F-1 generation from the F-0 stock in *quarantine*;

f) culture F-1 stock and at critical times in its development (life cycle) sample and test for IMNV and perform general examinations for pests and general health/disease status;

g) if IMNV is not detected, pests are not present, and the general health/disease status of the stock is considered to meet the *basic biosecurity conditions* of the importing country, zone or compartment, the F-1 stock may be defined as IMN free or specific pathogen free (SPF) for IMNV;

h) release SPF F-1 stock from *quarantine* for *aquaculture* or stocking purposes in the country, zone or compartment.

4. With respect to point 3e), *quarantine* conditions should be conducive to multiplication of the pathogen and eventually to clinical expression. If *quarantine* conditions are not suitable for pathogen multiplication and development, the recommended diagnostic approach might not be sensitive enough to detect low infection level.

This Article does not apply to *aquatic animals* listed in point 1 of Article 9.3.3.

**Article 9.3.9.**

**Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from infectious myonecrosis**

When importing, for processing for human consumption, *aquatic animals* or *aquatic animal products* of species referred to in Article 9.3.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from IMN, the *Competent Authority* of the importing country should assess the *risk* and, if justified, require that:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in *quarantine* or containment facilities until processing into one of the products referred to in point 1 of Article 9.3.3., or products described in point 1 of Article 9.3.11., or other products authorised by the *Competent Authority*; and

2. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of IMNV or is disposed in a manner that prevents contact of waste with *susceptible species*.

For these *commodities* Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the *risks* associated with the *commodity* being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.
Article 9.3.10.

Importation of aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment declared free from infectious myonecrosis

When importing aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 9.3.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from IMN, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country attesting that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 9.3.4. or 9.3.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the consignment is a country, zone or compartment declared free from IMN.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities listed in point 1 of Article 9.3.3.

Article 9.3.11.

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

1. Competent Authorities should not require any IMN related conditions, regardless of the IMN 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) [commodity(ties)] under study.

   For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

2. When importing aquatic animals or aquatic animal products, other than those referred to in point 1 above, of the species referred to in Article 9.3.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from IMN, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and apply appropriate risk mitigation measures.
CHAPTER 9.4.

NECROTISING HEPATOPANCREATITIS

Article 9.4.1.

For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, necrotising hepatopancreatitis (NHP) means infection with necrotising hepatopancreatitis bacteria (NHP-B). This obligate intracellular bacterium is a member of the order a-Proteobacteria.

Information on methods for diagnosis are provided in the Aquatic Manual (under preparation).

Article 9.4.2.

Scope

The recommendations in this chapter apply to: Pacific white shrimp (Penaeus vannamei), blue shrimp (P. stylirostris), northern white shrimp (P. setiferus) and northern brown shrimp (P. aztecus). These recommendations also apply to any other susceptible species referred to in the Aquatic Manual when traded internationally.

For the purposes of this chapter, the terms shrimp and prawn are used interchangeably.

Article 9.4.3.

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

1. Competent Authorities should not require any NHP related conditions, regardless of the NHP 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 9.4.2. intended for any purpose and complying with Article 5.3.1.:

   a) [commodity(ies)] under study.

2. When authorising the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products of a species referred to in Article 9.4.2., other than those referred to in point 1 of Article 9.4.3., Competent Authorities should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 9.4.7. to 9.4.11. relevant to the NHP status of the exporting country, zone or compartment.

3. When considering the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products from an exporting country, zone or compartment not declared free of NHP of a species not covered in Article 9.4.2. but which could reasonably be expected to pose a risk of transmission for NHP, Competent Authorities should conduct a risk analysis in accordance with the recommendations in the Aquatic Code. The exporting country should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.
Necrotising hepatopancreatitis free country

A country may make a self-declaration of freedom from NHP if it meets the conditions in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a country shares a zone with one or more other countries, it can only make a self-declaration of freedom from NHP if all the areas covered by the shared water are declared NHP free countries or zones (see Article 9.4.5).

1. A country where none of the susceptible species referred to in Article 9.4.2. is present may make a self-declaration of freedom from NHP when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A country where the susceptible species referred to in Article 9.4.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may make a self-declaration of freedom from NHP when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

3. A country where the last observed occurrence of the disease was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to its clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may make a self-declaration of freedom from NHP when:
   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and
   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of NHPV.

OR

4. A country that has previously made a self-declaration of freedom from NHP but in which the disease is subsequently detected may make a self-declaration of freedom from NHP again when the following conditions have been met:
   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and
   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and
   c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of NHPV; and
   d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.

In the meantime, part of the non-affected area may be declared a free zone provided that such part meets the conditions in point 3 of Article 9.4.5.
Article 9.4.5.

Necrotising hepatopancreatitis free zone or free compartment

A zone or compartment within the territory of one or more countries not declared free from NHP may be declared free by the Competent Authority(ies) of the country(ies) concerned if the zone or compartment meets the conditions referred to in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a zone or compartment extends over more than one country, it can only be declared an NHP free zone or compartment if all the relevant Competent Authority(ies) confirm that the conditions have been met.

1. A zone or compartment where none of the susceptible species referred to in Article 9.4.2. is present may be declared free from NHP when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A zone or compartment where the susceptible species referred to in Article 9.4.2. are present but in which there has not been any observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may be declared free from NHP when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 2 years.

OR

3. A zone or compartment where the last observed occurrence of the disease was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to its clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may be declared free from NHP when:

   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and

   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place, through the zone or compartment, for at least the past 2 years without detection of NHPV.

OR

4. A zone previously declared free from NHP but in which the disease is subsequently detected may again be declared free from NHP when the following conditions have been met:

   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and

   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and

   c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of NHPV; and

   d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.
Article 9.4.6.

Maintenance of free status

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from NHP following the provisions of points 1 or 2 of Articles 9.4.4. or 9.4.5. (as relevant) may maintain its status as NHP free provided that basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from NHP following the provisions of point 3 of Articles 9.4.4. or 9.4.5. (as relevant) may discontinue targeted surveillance and maintain its status as IMN free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of NHP, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, exist, and basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free zones or compartments in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of NHP, targeted surveillance needs to be continued at a level determined by the Aquatic Animal Health Service on the basis of the likelihood of infection.

Article 9.4.7.

Importation of live aquatic animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free from necrotising hepatopancreatitis

When importing live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 9.4.5. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from NHP, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country attesting that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 9.4.4. or 9.4.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the aquatic animal is a country, zone or compartment declared free from NHP.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities listed in point 1 of Article 9.4.3.

Article 9.4.8.

Importation of live aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from necrotising hepatopancreatitis

1. When importing for aquaculture, live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 9.4.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from NHP, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, apply the following risk mitigation measures:
   a) the direct delivery to and lifelong holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for continuous isolation from the local environment; and
   b) the treatment of all effluent and waste materials in a manner that ensures inactivation of NHPV.

2. If the intention of the introduction is the establishment of a new stock, relevant aspects of the Code of Practice on the Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) should be considered.
3. For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, relevant aspects of the ICES Code (full version see: http://www.ices.dk/pubs/Miscellaneous/ICESCodeofPractice.pdf) may be summarised to the following points:

   a) Identify stock of interest (cultured or wild) in its current location;
   b) Evaluate stock health/disease history;
   c) Take and test samples for NHPV, pests and general health/disease status;
   d) Import and quarantine in a secure facility a founder (F-0) population;
   e) Produce F-1 generation from the F-0 stock in quarantine;
   f) Culture F-1 stock and at critical times in its development (life cycle) sample and test for NHPV and perform general examinations for pests and general health/disease status;
   g) If NHPV is not detected, pests are not present, and the general health/disease status of the stock is considered to meet the basic biosecurity conditions of the importing country, zone or compartment, the F-1 stock may be defined as NHP free or specific pathogen free (SPF) for NHPV;
   h) Release SPF F-1 stock from quarantine for aquaculture or stocking purposes in the country, zone or compartment.

4. With respect to point 3e), quarantine conditions should be conducive to multiplication of the pathogen and eventually to clinical expression. If quarantine conditions are not suitable for pathogen multiplication and development, the recommended diagnostic approach might not be sensitive enough to detect low infection level.

This Article does not apply to aquatic animals listed in point 1 of Article 9.4.3.

Article 9.4.9.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from necrotising hepatopancreatitis

When importing, for processing for human consumption, aquatic animals or aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 9.4.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from NHP, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, require that:

1. The consignment is delivered directly to and held in quarantine or containment facilities until processing into one of the products referred to in point 1 of Article 9.4.3., or products described in point 1 of Article 9.4.11., or other products authorised by the Competent Authority; and

2. All effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of NHPV or is disposed in a manner that prevents contact of waste with susceptible species.

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.
Article 9.4.10.

Importation of aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment declared free from necrotising hepatopancreatitis

When importing aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 9.4.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from NHP, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country attesting that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 9.4.4. or 9.4.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the consignment is a country, zone or compartment declared free from NHP.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities listed in point 1 of Article 9.4.3.

Article 9.4.11.

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

1. Competent Authorities should not require any NHP related conditions, regardless of the NHP 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) [commodity(ies)] under study.

   For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

2. When importing aquatic animals or aquatic animal products, other than those referred to in point 1 above, of the species referred to in Article 9.4.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from NHP, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and apply appropriate risk mitigation measures.
CHAPTER 9.5.

TAURA SYNDROME

Article 9.5.1.

For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, Taura syndrome (TS) means infection with Taura syndrome virus (TSV). Taura syndrome virus is classified as a species in the family Dicistroviridae. Common synonyms are listed in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual.

Information on methods for diagnosis are provided in the Aquatic Manual.

Article 9.5.2.

Scope

The recommendations in this chapter apply to: Pacific white shrimp or whiteleg shrimp (Penaeus vannamei), blue shrimp (P. stylirostris), northern white shrimp (P. setiferus), southern white shrimp (P. schmittii), greasyback prawn (Metapenaeus ensis) and giant tiger prawn (P. monodon). These recommendations also apply to any other susceptible species referred to in the Aquatic Manual when traded internationally.

For the purposes of this chapter, the terms shrimp and prawn are used interchangeably.

Article 9.5.3.

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

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 animals and aquatic animal products from the species referred to in Article 9.5.2. intended for any purpose and complying with Article 5.3.1: 
   a) heat sterilised hermetically sealed crustacean products (i.e. a heat treatment at 121°C for at least 3.6 minutes or equivalent); 
   b) cooked crustacean products that have been subjected to heat treatment at 70°C for at least 30 minutes or to any equivalent treatment which has been demonstrated to inactivate TSV; 
   c) pasteurised crustacean products that have been subjected to heat treatment at 90°C for 10 minutes or to any pasteurisation equivalent; 
   d) crustacean oil;  
   e) crustacean meal; and 
   f) chemically extracted chitin.

2. When authorising the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products of a species referred to in Article 9.5.2., other than those referred to in point 1 of Article 9.5.3.,
Competent Authorities should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 9.5.7. to 9.5.11. relevant to the TS status of the exporting country, zone or compartment.

3. When considering the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products from an exporting country, zone or compartment not declared free of TS of a species not covered in Article 9.5.2. but which could reasonably be expected to pose a risk of transmission for TS, Competent Authorities should conduct a risk analysis in accordance with the recommendations in the Aquatic Code. The exporting country should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.

Article 9.5.4.

Taura syndrome free country

A country may make a self-declaration of freedom from TS if it meets the conditions in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

1. A country where none of the susceptible species referred to in Article 9.5.2. is present may make a self-declaration of freedom from TS when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A country where the susceptible species referred to in Article 9.5.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may make a self-declaration of freedom from TS when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

3. A country where the last observed occurrence of the disease was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to its clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may make a self-declaration of freedom from TS when:
   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and
   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of TSV.

OR

4. A country that has previously made a self-declaration of freedom from TS but in which the disease is subsequently detected may make a self-declaration of freedom from TS again when the following conditions have been met:
   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and
   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and
   c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of TSV; and
d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.

In the meantime, part of the non-affected area may be declared a free zone provided that such part meets the conditions in point 3 of Article 9.5.5.

Article 9.5.5.

Taura syndrome free zone or free compartment

A zone or compartment within the territory of one or more countries not declared free from TS may be declared free by the Competent Authority(ies) of the country(ies) concerned if the zone or compartment meets the conditions referred to in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a zone or compartment extends over more than one country, it can only be declared a TS free zone or compartment if all the relevant Competent Authorities confirm that the conditions have been met.

1. A zone or compartment where none of the susceptible species referred to in Article 9.5.2. is present may be declared free from TS when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A zone or compartment where the susceptible species referred to in Article 9.5.2. are present but in which there has not been any observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may be declared free from TS when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 2 years.

OR

3. A zone or compartment where the last observed occurrence of the disease was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to its clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may be declared free from TS when:
   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and
   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place, through the zone or compartment, for at least the past 2 years without detection of TSV.

OR

4. A zone previously declared free from TS but in which the disease is subsequently detected may again be declared free from TS when the following conditions have been met:
   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and
   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and
   c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of TSV; and
   d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.
Article 9.5.6.

Maintenance of free status

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from TS following the provisions of points 1 or 2 of Articles 9.5.4. or 9.5.5. (as relevant) may maintain its status as TS free provided that basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from TS following the provisions of point 3 of Articles 9.5.4. or 9.5.5. (as relevant) may discontinue targeted surveillance and maintain its status as TS free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of TS, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, exist, and basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free zones or compartments in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of TS, targeted surveillance needs to be continued at a level determined by the Aquatic Animal Health Service on the basis of the likelihood of infection.

Article 9.5.7.

Importation of live aquatic animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free from Taura syndrome

When importing live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 9.5.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from TS, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country attesting that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 9.5.4. or 9.5.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the aquatic animal is a country, zone or compartment declared free from TS.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities listed in point 1 of Article 9.5.3.

Article 9.5.8.

Importation of live aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from Taura syndrome

1. When importing, for aquaculture, live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 9.5.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from TS, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, apply the following risk mitigation measures:

   a) the direct delivery to and lifelong holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for continuous isolation from the local environment; and

   b) the treatment of all effluent and waste materials in a manner that ensures inactivation of TSV.

2. If the intention of the introduction is the establishment of a new stock, relevant aspects of the Code of Practice on the Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) should be considered.
3. For the purposes of the *Aquatic Code*, relevant aspects of the ICES Code (full version see: http://www.ices.dk/pubs/Miscellaneous/ICESCodeofPractice.pdf) may be summarised to the following points:

a) identify stock of interest (cultured or wild) in its current location;

b) evaluate stock health/disease history;

c) take and test samples for TSV, pests and general health/disease status;

d) import and quarantine in a secure facility a founder (F-0) population;

e) produce F-1 generation from the F-0 stock in quarantine;

f) culture F-1 stock and at critical times in its development (life cycle) sample and test for TSV and perform general examinations for pests and general health/disease status;

g) if TSV is not detected, pests are not present, and the general health/disease status of the stock is considered to meet the basic biosecurity conditions of the importing country, zone or compartment, the F-1 stock may be defined as TS free or specific pathogen free (SPF) for TSV;

h) release SPF F-1 stock from quarantine for aquaculture or stocking purposes in the country, zone or compartment.

4. With respect to point 3e), quarantine conditions should be conducive to multiplication of the pathogen and eventually to clinical expression. If quarantine conditions are not suitable for pathogen multiplication and development, the recommended diagnostic approach might not be sensitive enough to detect low infection level.

This Article does not apply to aquatic animals listed in point 1 of Article 9.5.3.

Article 9.5.9.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from Taura syndrome

When importing, for processing for human consumption, aquatic animals or aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 9.5.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from TS, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, require that:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in quarantine or containment facilities until processing into one of the products referred to in point 1 of Article 9.5.3., or products described in point 1 of Article 9.5.11., or other products authorised by the Competent Authority; and

2. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of TSV or is disposed in a manner that prevents contact of waste with susceptible species.

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.
Article 9.5.10.

Importation of aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment declared free from Taura syndrome

When importing aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 9.5.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from TS, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country attesting that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 9.5.4. or 9.5.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the consignment is a country, zone or compartment declared free from TS.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities listed in point 1 of Article 9.5.3.

Article 9.5.11.

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

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.:

   a) frozen, peeled shrimp (shell off and head off).

   For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

2. When importing aquatic animals or aquatic animal products, other than those referred to in point 1 above, of the species referred to in Article 9.5.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from TS, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and apply appropriate risk mitigation measures.
CHAPTER 9.6.

WHITE SPOT DISEASE

Article 9.6.1.

For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, white spot disease (WSD) means infection with white spot syndrome virus (WSSV). White spot syndrome virus 1 is classified as a species in the genus *Whispo virus* of the family *Nimaviridae*. Common synonyms are listed in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual.

Information on methods for diagnosis are provided in the Aquatic Manual.

Article 9.6.2.

**Scope**

The recommendations in this chapter apply to all decapod (order Decapoda) crustaceans from marine, brackish and freshwater sources. These recommendations also apply to any other susceptible species referred to in the Aquatic Manual when traded internationally.

For the purposes of this chapter, the terms shrimp and prawn are used interchangeably.

Article 9.6.3.

**Importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for any purpose from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from white spot disease**

1. **Competent Authorities** should not require any WSD related conditions, regardless of the WSD 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 9.6.2., intended for any purpose and complying with Article 5.3.1.:
   a) [commodities treated in a manner that inactivates the pathogenic agent e.g. boiled, canned or pasteurised products and some ready-to-eat meals; and crustacean oil and crustacean meal intended for use in feed;]
   b) chemically extracted chitin;
   c) crustacean products made non-infectious through processing as dry feed (e.g. pelleted or extruded feed) (under study).

2. When authorising the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products of a species referred to in Article 9.6.2., other than those referred to in point 1 of Article 9.6.3., Competent Authorities should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 9.6.7. to 9.6.11. relevant to the WSD status of the exporting country, zone or compartment.

3. When considering the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products from an exporting country, zone or compartment not declared free of WSD of a species not covered in Article 9.6.2. but which could reasonably be expected to pose a risk of transmission for WSD, Competent Authorities should conduct a risk analysis in accordance with the
recommendations in the Aquatic Code. The exporting country should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.

Article 9.6.4.

White spot disease free country

A country may make a self-declaration of freedom from WSD if it meets the conditions in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a country shares a zone with one or more other countries, it can only make a self-declaration of freedom from WSD if all the areas covered by the shared water are declared WSD free countries or zones (see Article 9.6.5).

1. A country where none of the susceptible species referred to in Article 9.6.2. is present may make a self-declaration of freedom from WSD when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A country where the susceptible species referred to in Article 9.6.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may make a self-declaration of freedom from WSD when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

3. A country where the last observed occurrence of the disease was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to its clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may make a self-declaration of freedom from WSD when:
   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and
   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of WSSV.

OR

4. A country that has previously made a self-declaration of freedom from WSD but in which the disease is subsequently detected may make a self-declaration of freedom from WSD again when the following conditions have been met:
   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and
   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and
   c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of WSSV; and
   d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.

In the meantime, part of the non-affected area may be declared a free zone provided that such part meets the conditions in point 3 of Article 9.6.5.
White spot disease free zone or free compartment

A zone or compartment within the territory of one or more countries not declared free from WSD may be declared free by the Competent Authority(ies) of the country(ies) concerned if the zone or compartment meets the conditions referred to in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a zone or compartment extends over more than one country, it can only be declared a WSD free zone or compartment if all the relevant Competent Authorities confirm that the conditions have been met.

1. A zone or compartment where none of the susceptible species referred to in Article 9.6.2. is present may be declared free from WSD when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A zone or compartment where the susceptible species referred to in Article 9.6.2. are present but in which there has not been any observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may be declared free from WSD when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 2 years.

OR

3. A zone or compartment where the last observed occurrence of the disease was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to its clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may be declared free from WSD when:

   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and

   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place, through the zone or compartment, for at least the past 2 years without detection of WSSV.

OR

4. A zone previously declared free from WSD but in which the disease is subsequently detected may again be declared free from WSD when the following conditions have been met:

   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and

   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and

   c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of WSSV; and

   d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.
Article 9.6.6.

Maintenance of free status

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from WSD following the provisions of points 1 or 2 of Articles 9.6.4. or 9.6.5. (as relevant) may maintain its status as WSD free provided that basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from WSD following the provisions of point 3 of Articles 9.6.4. or 9.6.5. (as relevant) may discontinue targeted surveillance and maintain its status as WSD free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of WSD, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, exist, and basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free zones or compartments in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of WSD, targeted surveillance needs to be continued at a level determined by the Aquatic Animal Health Service on the basis of the likelihood of infection.

Article 9.6.7.

Importation of live aquatic animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free from white spot disease

When importing live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 9.6.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from WSD, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country attesting that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 9.6.4. or 9.6.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the aquatic animal is a country, zone or compartment declared free from WSD.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities listed in point 1 of Article 9.6.3.

Article 9.6.8.

Importation of live aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from white spot disease

1. When importing, for aquaculture, live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 9.6.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from WSD, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, apply the following risk mitigation measures:
   a) the direct delivery to and lifelong holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for continuous isolation from the local environment; and
   b) the treatment of all effluent and waste materials in a manner that ensures inactivation of WSSV.

2. If the intention of the introduction is the establishment of a new stock, relevant aspects of the Code of Practice on the Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) should be considered.
3. For the purposes of the *Aquatic Code*, relevant aspects of the ICES Code (full version see: http://www.ices.dk/pubs/Miscellaneous/ICESCodeofPractice.pdf) may be summarised to the following points:

a) identify stock of interest (cultured or wild) in its current location;
b) evaluate stock health/disease history;
c) take and test samples for WSSV, pests and general health/disease status;
d) import and quarantine in a secure facility a founder (F-0) population;
e) produce F-1 generation from the F-0 stock in quarantine;
f) culture F-1 stock and at critical times in its development (life cycle) sample and test for WSSV and perform general examinations for pests and general health/disease status;
g) if WSSV is not detected, pests are not present, and the general health/disease status of the stock is considered to meet the basic biosecurity conditions of the importing country, zone or compartment, the F-1 stock may be defined as WSD free or specific pathogen free (SPF) for WSSV;
h) release SPF F-1 stock from quarantine for aquaculture or stocking purposes in the country, zone or compartment.

4. With respect to point 3e), quarantine conditions should be conducive to multiplication of the pathogen and eventually to clinical expression. If quarantine conditions are not suitable for pathogen multiplication and development, the recommended diagnostic approach might not be sensitive enough to detect low infection level.

This Article does not apply to aquatic animals listed in point 1 of Article 9.6.3.

**Article 9.6.9.**

**Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from white spot disease**

When importing, for processing for human consumption, aquatic animals or aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 9.6.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from WSD, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, require that:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in quarantine or containment facilities until processing into one of the products referred to in point 1 of Article 9.6.3., or products described in point 1 of Article 9.6.11., or other products authorised by the Competent Authority; and
2. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of WSSV or is disposed in a manner that prevents contact of waste with susceptible species.

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.
Article 9.6.10.

Importation of aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment declared free from white spot disease

When importing aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 9.6.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from WSD, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country attesting that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 9.6.4. or 9.6.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the consignment is a country, zone or compartment declared free from WSD.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities listed in point 1 of Article 9.6.3.

Article 9.6.11.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for retail trade for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from white spot disease

1. Competent Authorities should not require any WSD related conditions, regardless of the WSD 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 9.6.2.:

   a) commodity(ties) (under study).

   For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

2. When importing aquatic animals or aquatic animal products, other than those referred to in point 1 above, of the species referred to in Article 9.6.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from WSD, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and apply appropriate risk mitigation measures.
CHAPTER 9.7.

WHITE TAIL DISEASE

Article 9.7.1.

For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, white tail disease (WTD) means infection with macrobrachium nodavirus (MrNV). This virus has yet to be formally classified.

Information on methods for diagnosis are provided in the Aquatic Manual.

Article 9.7.2.

Scope

The recommendations in this chapter apply to: the giant fresh water prawn (Macrobrachium rosenbergii). Other common names are listed in the Aquatic Manual. These recommendations also apply to any other susceptible species referred to in the Aquatic Manual when traded internationally.

For the purposes of this chapter, the terms shrimp and prawn are used interchangeably.

Article 9.7.3.

Importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for any purpose from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from white tail disease

1. Competent Authorities should not require any WTD related conditions, regardless of the WTD 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 9.7.2. intended for any purpose and complying with Article 5.3.1:
   a) [commodities treated in a manner that inactivates the pathogenic agent e.g. boiled, canned or pasteurised products and some ready-to-eat meals; and crustacean oil and crustacean meal intended for use in feed;]
   b) chemically extracted chitin;
   c) crustacean products made non-infectious through processing as dry feed (e.g. pelleted or extruded feed) (under study).

2. When authorising the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products of a species referred to in Article 9.7.2., other than those referred to in point 1 of Article 9.7.3., Competent Authorities should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 9.7.7. to 9.7.11. relevant to the WTD status of the exporting country, zone or compartment.

3. When considering the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products from an exporting country, zone or compartment not declared free of WTD of a species not covered in Article 9.7.2. but which could reasonably be expected to pose a risk of transmission for WTD, Competent Authorities should conduct a risk analysis in accordance with the recommendations in the Aquatic Code. The exporting country should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.

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Article 9.7.4.

White tail disease free country

A country may make a self-declaration of freedom from WTD if it meets the conditions in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a country shares a zone with one or more other countries, it can only make a self-declaration of freedom from WTD if all the areas covered by the shared water are declared WTD free countries or zones (see Article 9.7.5).

1. A country where none of the susceptible species referred to in Article 9.7.2. is present may make a self-declaration of freedom from WTD when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A country where the susceptible species referred to in Article 9.7.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may make a self-declaration of freedom from WTD when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

3. A country where the last observed occurrence of the disease was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to its clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may make a self-declaration of freedom from WTD when:

   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and

   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of WTDV.

OR

4. A country that has previously made a self-declaration of freedom from WTD but in which the disease is subsequently detected may make a self-declaration of freedom from WTD again when the following conditions have been met:

   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and

   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and

   c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of WTDV; and

   d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.

In the meantime, part of the non-affected area may be declared a free zone provided that such part meets the conditions in point 3 of Article 9.7.5.
White tail disease free zone or free compartment

A zone or compartment within the territory of one or more countries not declared free from WTD may be declared free by the Competent Authority(ies) of the country(ies) concerned if the zone or compartment meets the conditions referred to in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a zone or compartment extends over more than one country, it can only be declared an WTD free zone or compartment if all the relevant Competent Authority(ies) confirm that the conditions have been met.

1. A zone or compartment where none of the susceptible species referred to in Article 9.7.2. is present may be declared free from WTD when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A zone or compartment where the susceptible species referred to in Article 9.7.2. are present but in which there has not been any observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may be declared free from WTD when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 2 years.

OR

3. A zone or compartment where the last observed occurrence of the disease was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to its clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may be declared free from WTD when:

   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and

   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place, through the zone or compartment, for at least the past 2 years without detection of WTDV.

OR

4. A zone previously declared free from WTD but in which the disease is subsequently detected may again be declared free from WTD when the following conditions have been met:

   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and

   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and

   c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of WTDV; and

   d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.
Article 9.7.6.

Maintenance of free status

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from WTD following the provisions of points 1 or 2 of Articles 9.7.4. or 9.7.5. (as relevant) may maintain its status as WTD free provided that basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from WTD following the provisions of point 3 of Articles 9.7.4. or 9.7.5. (as relevant) may discontinue targeted surveillance and maintain its status as WTD free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of WTD, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, exist, and basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free zones or compartments in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of WTD, targeted surveillance needs to be continued at a level determined by the Aquatic Animal Health Service on the basis of the likelihood of infection.

Article 9.7.7.

Importation of live aquatic animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free from white tail disease

When importing live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 9.7.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from WTD, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country attesting that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 9.7.4. or 9.7.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the aquatic animal is a country, zone or compartment declared free from WTD.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities listed in point 1 of Article 9.7.5.

Article 9.7.8.

Importation of live aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from white tail disease

1. When importing, for aquaculture, live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 9.7.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from WTD, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, apply the following risk mitigation measures:

   a) the direct delivery to and lifelong holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for continuous isolation from the local environment; and

   b) the treatment of all effluent and waste materials in a manner that ensures inactivation of WTDV.

2. If the intention of the introduction is the establishment of a new stock, relevant aspects of the Code of Practice on the Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) should be considered.
3. For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, relevant aspects of the ICES Code (full version see: http://www.ices.dk/pubs/Miscellaneous/ICESCodeofPractice.pdf) may be summarised to the following points:

   a) identify stock of interest (cultured or wild) in its current location;
   b) evaluate stock health/disease history;
   c) take and test samples for WTDV, pests and general health/disease status;
   d) import and quarantine in a secure facility a founder (F-0) population;
   e) produce F-1 generation from the F-0 stock in quarantine;
   f) culture F-1 stock and at critical times in its development (life cycle) sample and test for WTD and perform general examinations for pests and general health/disease status;
   g) if WTDV is not detected, pests are not present, and the general health/disease status of the stock is considered to meet the basic biosecurity conditions of the importing country, zone or compartment, the F-1 stock may be defined as WTD free or specific pathogen free (SPF) for WTDV;
   h) release SPF F-1 stock from quarantine for aquaculture or stocking purposes in the country, zone or compartment.

4. With respect to point 3e), quarantine conditions should be conducive to multiplication of the pathogen and eventually to clinical expression. If quarantine conditions are not suitable for pathogen multiplication and development, the recommended diagnostic approach might not be sensitive enough to detect low infection level.

This Article does not apply to aquatic animals listed in point 1 of Article 9.7.3.

Article 9.7.9.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from white tail disease

When importing, for processing for human consumption, aquatic animals or aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 9.7.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from WTD, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, require that:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in quarantine or containment facilities until processing into one of the products referred to in point 1 of Article 9.7.3., or products described in point 1 of Article 9.7.11., or other products authorised by the Competent Authority; and

2. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of WTDV or is disposed in a manner that prevents contact of waste with susceptible species.

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.
Importation of aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment declared free from white tail disease

When importing aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 9.7.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from WTD, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country attesting that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 9.7.4. or 9.7.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the consignment is a country, zone or compartment declared free from WTD.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities listed in point 1 of Article 9.7.3.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for retail trade for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from white tail disease

1. Competent Authorities should not require any WTD related conditions, regardless of the WTD 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 9.7.2:

   a) [commodity(ties)] (under study).

   For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

2. When importing aquatic animals or aquatic animal products, other than those referred to in point 1 above, of the species referred to in Article 9.7.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from WTD, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and apply appropriate risk mitigation measures.
CHAPTER 9.8.

YELLOW HEAD DISEASE

Article 9.8.1.

For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, yellow head disease (YHD) means infection with yellow head virus (YHV). YHV and the related gill-associated virus are classified as a species in the genus Okavirus, family Roniviridae and order Nidovirales. Common synonyms are listed in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual.

Information on methods for diagnosis are provided in the Aquatic Manual.

Article 9.8.2.

Scope

The recommendations in this chapter apply to: giant tiger prawn (Penaeus monodon), brown tiger prawn (P. esculentus) and Kuruma prawn (P. japonicus). These recommendations also apply to any other susceptible species referred to in the Aquatic Manual when traded internationally.

Article 9.8.3.

Importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for any purpose from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from yellow head disease

1. Competent Authorities should not require any YHD related conditions, regardless of the YHD 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 9.8.2. intended for any purpose and complying with Article 5.3.1.:

   a) [commodities treated in a manner that inactivates the pathogenic agent e.g. boiled, canned or pasteurised products and some ready-to-eat meals; and crustacean oil and crustacean meal intended for use in feed;]

   b) chemically extracted chitin;

   c) crustacean products made non-infectious through processing as dry feed (e.g. pelleted or extruded feed) under study.

2. When authorising the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products of a species referred to in Article 9.8.2., other than those referred to in point 1 of Article 9.8.3., Competent Authorities should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 9.8.7. to 9.8.11. relevant to the YHD status of the exporting country, zone or compartment.

3. When considering the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products from an exporting country, zone or compartment not declared free of YHD of a species not covered in Article 9.8.2. but which could reasonably be expected to pose a risk of transmission for YHD, Competent Authorities should conduct a risk analysis in accordance with the recommendations in the Aquatic Code. The exporting country should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.
Article 9.8.4.

Yellow head disease free country

A country may make a self-declaration of freedom from YHD if it meets the conditions in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a country shares a zone with one or more other countries, it can only make a self-declaration of freedom from YHD if all the areas covered by the shared water are declared YHD free countries or zones (see Article 9.8.5).

1. A country where none of the susceptible species referred to in Article 9.8.2. is present may make a self-declaration of freedom from YHD when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A country where the susceptible species referred to in Article 9.8.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may make a self-declaration of freedom from YHD when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

3. A country where the last observed occurrence of the disease was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to its clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may make a self-declaration of freedom from YHD when:

   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and

   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of YHV.

OR

4. A country that has previously made a self-declaration of freedom from YHD but in which the disease is subsequently detected may make a self-declaration of freedom from YHD again when the following conditions have been met:

   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and

   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and

   c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of YHV; and

   d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.

In the meantime, part of the non-affected area may be declared a free zone provided that such part meets the conditions in point 3 of Article 9.8.5.
Article 9.8.5.

Yellow head disease free zone or free compartment

A zone or compartment within the territory of one or more countries not declared free from YHD may be declared free by the Competent Authority(ies) of the country(ies) concerned if the zone or compartment meets the conditions referred to in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a zone or compartment extends over more than one country, it can only be declared a YHD free zone or compartment if all the relevant Competent Authorities confirm that the conditions have been met.

1. A zone or compartment where none of the susceptible species referred to in Article 9.8.2. is present may be declared free from YHD when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A zone or compartment where the susceptible species referred to in Article 9.8.2. are present but in which there has not been any observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may be declared free from YHD when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 2 years.

OR

3. A zone or compartment where the last observed occurrence of the disease was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to its clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may be declared free from YHD when:

   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and

   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place, through the zone or compartment, for at least the past 2 years without detection of YHV.

OR

4. A zone previously declared free from YHD but in which the disease is subsequently detected may again be declared free from YHD when the following conditions have been met:

   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and

   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and

   c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of YHV; and

   d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.
Article 9.8.6.

Maintenance of free status

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from YHD following the provisions of points 1 or 2 of Articles 9.8.4. or 9.8.5. (as relevant) may maintain its status as YHD free provided that basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from YHD following the provisions of point 3 of Articles 9.8.4. or 9.8.5. (as relevant) may discontinue targeted surveillance and maintain its status as YHD free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of YHD, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, exist, and basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free zones or compartments in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of YHD, targeted surveillance needs to be continued at a level determined by the Aquatic Animal Health Service on the basis of the likelihood of infection.

Article 9.8.7.

Importation of live aquatic animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free from yellow head disease

When importing live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 9.8.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from YHD, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country attesting that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 9.8.4. or 9.8.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the aquatic animal is a country, zone or compartment declared free from YHD.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities listed in point 1 of Article 9.8.3.

Article 9.8.8.

Importation of live aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from yellow head disease

1. When importing, for aquaculture, live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 9.8.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from YHD, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, apply the following risk mitigation measures:
   a) the direct delivery to and lifelong holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for continuous isolation from the local environment; and
   b) the treatment of all effluent and waste materials in a manner that ensures inactivation of YHV.

2. If the intention of the introduction is the establishment of a new stock, relevant aspects of the Code of Practice on the Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) should be considered.
3. For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, relevant aspects of the ICES Code (full version see: http://www.ices.dk/pubs/Miscellaneous/ICESCodeofPractice.pdf) may be summarised to the following points:
   
a) identify stock of interest (cultured or wild) in its current location;
   
b) evaluate stock health/disease history;
   
c) take and test samples for YHV, pests and general health/disease status;
   
d) import and quarantine in a secure facility a founder (F-0) population;
   
e) produce F-1 generation from the F-0 stock in quarantine;
   
f) culture F-1 stock and at critical times in its development (life cycle) sample and test for YHV and perform general examinations for pests and general health/disease status;
   
g) if YHV is not detected, pests are not present, and the general health/disease status of the stock is considered to meet the basic biosecurity conditions of the importing country, zone or compartment, the F-1 stock may be defined as YHD free or specific pathogen free (SPF) for YHV;
   
h) release SPF F-1 stock from quarantine for aquaculture or stocking purposes in the country, zone or compartment.

4. With respect to point 3e), quarantine conditions should be conducive to multiplication of the pathogen and eventually to clinical expression. If quarantine conditions are not suitable for pathogen multiplication and development, the recommended diagnostic approach might not be sensitive enough to detect low infection level.

This Article does not apply to aquatic animals listed in point 1 of Article 9.8.3.

Article 9.8.9.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from yellow head disease

When importing, for processing for human consumption, aquatic animals or aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 9.8.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from YHD, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, require that:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in quarantine or containment facilities until processing into one of the products referred to in point 1 of Article 9.8.3., or products described in point 1 of Article 9.8.11., or other products authorised by the Competent Authority; and

2. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of YHV or is disposed in a manner that prevents contact of waste with susceptible species.

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.
Article 9.8.10.

Importation of aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment declared free from yellow head disease

When importing aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 9.8.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from YHD, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country attesting that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 9.8.4. or 9.8.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the consignment is a country, zone or compartment declared free from YHD.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities listed in point 1 of Article 9.8.3.

Article 9.8.11.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for retail trade for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from yellow head disease

1. Competent Authorities should not require any YHD related conditions, regardless of the YHD 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) [commodity(ties)] under study.

   For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

2. When importing aquatic animals or aquatic animal products, other than those referred to in point 1 above, of the species referred to in Article 9.8.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from YHD, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and apply appropriate risk mitigation measures.
SECTION 10.
DISEASES OF FISH

CHAPTER 10.1.
EPIZOOTIC HAEMATOPOIETIC NECROSIS

Article 10.1.1.

For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, epizootic haematopoietic necrosis (EHN) means infection with EHN virus (EHNV) of the genus Ranavirus of the family Iridoviridae.

Information on methods for diagnosis are provided in the Aquatic Manual.

Article 10.1.2.

Scope

The recommendations in this chapter apply to: redfin perch (Perca fluviatilis) and rainbow trout (Oncorhynchus mykiss). These recommendations also apply to any other susceptible species referred to in the Aquatic Manual when traded internationally.

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 haematopoietic necrosis

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 animals and aquatic animal products from the species referred to in Article 10.1.2. intended for any purpose and complying with Article 5.3.1.:
   a) heat sterilised hermetically sealed fish products (i.e. a heat treatment at 121°C for at least 3.6 minutes or equivalent);
   b) pasteurised fish products that have been subjected to heat treatment at 90°C for 10 minutes or to any pasteurisation equivalent which has been demonstrated to inactivate EHNV;
   c) mechanically dried eviscerated fish (i.e. a heat treatment at 100°C for at least 30 minutes or equivalent);
   d) fish skin leather;
   e) fish oil; and
f) fish meal.

2. When authorising the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products of a species referred to in Article 10.1.2., other than those referred to in point 1 of Article 10.1.3., Competent Authorities should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 10.1.7. to 10.1.12. relevant to the EHN status of the exporting country, zone or compartment.

3. When considering the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products from an exporting country, zone or compartment not declared free of EHN of a species not covered in Article 10.1.2. but which could reasonably be expected to pose a risk of transmission for EHN, Competent Authorities should conduct a risk analysis in accordance with the recommendations in the Aquatic Code. The exporting country should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.

Article 10.1.4.

Epizootic haematopoietic necrosis free country

A country may make a self-declaration of freedom from EHN if it meets the conditions in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a country shares a zone with one or more other countries, it can only make a self-declaration of freedom from EHN if all the areas covered by the shared water are declared EHN free countries or zones (see Article 10.1.5.).

1. A country where none of the susceptible species is present may make a self-declaration of freedom from EHN when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A country where the species referred to in Article 10.1.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may make a self-declaration of freedom from EHN when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 10 years.

OR

3. A country where the last observed occurrence of the disease was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may make a self-declaration of freedom from EHN when:

   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and

   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of EHNV.

OR

4. A country that has made a self-declaration of freedom from EHN but in which the disease is subsequently detected may make a self-declaration of freedom from EHN again when the following conditions have been met:

   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and
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b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and

c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of EHN; and

d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.

In the meantime, part of the non-affected area may be declared a free zone provided that such part meets the conditions in point 3 of Article 10.1.5.

Article 10.1.5.

Epizootic haematopoietic necrosis free zone or free compartment

A zone or compartment within the territory of one or more countries not declared free from EHN may be declared free by the Competent Authority(ies) of the country(ies) concerned if the zone or compartment meets the conditions referred to in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a zone or compartment extends over more than one country, it can only be declared an EHN free zone or compartment if all the Competent Authorities confirm that the conditions have been met.

1. A zone or compartment where none of the susceptible species is present may be declared free from EHN when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A zone or compartment where the species referred to in Article 10.1.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may be declared free from EHN when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 10 years.

OR

3. A zone or compartment where the last observed occurrence of the disease was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may be declared free from EHN when:

   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and

   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of EHN.

OR

4. A zone previously declared free from EHN but in which the disease is detected may be declared free from EHN again when the following conditions have been met:

   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and

   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and
Chapter 10.1. - Epizootic haematopoietic necrosis

c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of EHNV; and

d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.

Article 10.1.6.

Maintenance of free status

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from EHN following the provisions of points 1 or 2 of Articles 10.1.4. or 10.1.5. (as relevant) may maintain its status as EHN free provided that basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from EHN following the provisions of point 3 of Articles 10.1.4. or 10.1.5. (as relevant) may discontinue targeted surveillance and maintain its status as EHN free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of EHN, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, exist and basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free zones or compartments in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of EHN, targeted surveillance needs to be continued at a level determined by the Aquatic Animal Health Service on the basis of the likelihood of infection.

Article 10.1.7.

Importation of live aquatic animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free from epizootic haematopoietic necrosis

When importing live aquatic animals of the species referred to in Article 10.1.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from EHN, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country certifying that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 10.1.4. or 10.1.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the aquatic animal is a country, zone or compartment declared free from EHN.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 10.1.3.

Article 10.1.8.

Importation of live aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from epizootic haematopoietic necrosis

1. When importing, for aquaculture, live aquatic animals of the species referred to in Article 10.1.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from EHN, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, apply the following risk mitigation measures:

   a) the direct delivery to and lifelong holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for continuous isolation from the local environment; and
b) the treatment of all effluent and waste material in a manner that ensures inactivation of EHNV.

2. If the intention of the introduction is the establishment of a new stock, relevant aspects of the Code of Practice on the Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) should be considered.

3. For the purposes of the *Aquatic Code*, relevant aspects of the ICES Code (full version see: http://www.ices.dk/pubs/Miscellaneous/ICESCodeofPractice.pdf) may be summarised to the following points:

   a) identify stock of interest (cultured or wild) in its current location;
   b) evaluate stock health/disease history;
   c) take and test samples for EHNV, pests and general health/disease status;
   d) import and quarantine in a secure facility a founder (F-0) population;
   e) produce F-1 generation from the F-0 stock in quarantine;
   f) culture F-1 stock and at critical times in its development (life cycle) sample and test for EHNV and perform general examinations for pests and general health/disease status;
   g) if EHNV is not detected, pests are not present, and the general health/disease status of the stock is considered to meet the basic biosecurity conditions of the importing country, zone or compartment, the F-1 stock may be defined as EHN free or specific pathogen free (SPF) for EHNV;
   h) release SPF F-1 stock from quarantine for aquaculture or stocking purposes in the country, zone or compartment.

4. With respect to point 3e), quarantine conditions should be conducive to multiplication of the pathogen and eventually to clinical expression. If quarantine conditions are not suitable for pathogen multiplication and development, the recommended diagnostic approach might not be sensitive enough to detect low infection level.

This Article does not apply to aquatic animals referred to in point 1 of Article 10.1.3.

**Article 10.1.9.**

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from epizootic haematopoietic necrosis

When importing, for processing for human consumption, aquatic animals or aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 10.1.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from EHN, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, require that:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in quarantine or containment facilities until processing into one of the products referred to in point 1 of Article 10.1.3., or products described in point 1 of Article 10.1.12., or other products authorised by the Competent Authority; and

2. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of EHNV or is disposed in a manner that prevents contact of waste with susceptible species.
For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

Article 10.1.10.

Importation of live aquatic animals intended for use in animal feed, or for agricultural, industrial or pharmaceutical use from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from epizootic haematopoietic necrosis

When importing, for use in animal feed, or for agricultural, industrial or pharmaceutical use, live aquatic animals of the species referred to in Article 10.1.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from EHN, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require that:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in quarantine facilities for slaughter and processing to products authorised by the Competent Authority; and
2. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of EHNV.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 10.1.3.

Article 10.1.11.

Importation of aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment declared free from epizootic haematopoietic necrosis

When importing aquatic animal products of the species referred to in Article 10.1.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from EHN, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country certifying that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 10.1.4. or 10.1.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the commodity is a country, zone or compartment declared free from EHN.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 10.1.3.

Article 10.1.12.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for retail trade for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from epizootic haematopoietic necrosis

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.:
   a) fillets or steaks (chilled or frozen).

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.
2. When importing *aquatic animals* or *aquatic animal products*, other than those referred to in point 1 above, of the species referred to in Article 10.1.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* not declared free from EHN, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should assess the risk and apply appropriate *risk mitigation* measures.
CHAPTER 10.2.

EPIZOOTIC ULCERATIVE SYNDROME

Article 10.2.1.

For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, epizootic ulcerative syndrome (EUS) means infection with the Oomycete fungus Aphanomyces invadans.

Information on methods for diagnosis are provided in the Aquatic Manual.

Article 10.2.2.

Scope

The recommendations in this Chapter apply to: yellowfin seabream (Acanthopagrus australis), climbing perch (Anabas testudineus), eels (Anguillidae), bagrid catfishes (Bagridae), silver perch (Bidyanus bidyanus), Atlantic menhaden (Brevoortia tyrannus), jacks (Caranx spp.), catla (Catla catla), striped snakehead (Channa striatus), mrigal (Cirrhitus mrigala), torpedo-shaped catfishes (Clarius spp.), halfbeaks flying fishes (Exocoetidae), tank goby (Glosogobius giuris), marble goby (Oxyeleotris marmoratus), gobies (Gobiidae), rohu (Labeo rohita), rhinofishes (Labeo spp.), barramundi and giant sea perch (Lates calcarifer), striped mullet (Mugil cephalus), mullets [Mugilidae] (Mugil spp. and Liza spp.), ayu (Plecoglossus altivelis), pool barb (Puntius sophore), barcoo grunter (Scortum barcoo), sand whiting (Sillago ciliata), wells catfishes (Siluridae), snakeskin gourami (Trichogaster pectoralis), common archer fish (Toxotes chatareus), silver barb (Puntius gonionotus), spotted scat (Scatophagus argus), giant gourami (Osphronemus goramy), dusky flathead (Platycephalus fuscus), spiny turbot (Psetta spp.), Tairiku-baratanago (Rhodeus ocellatus), Keti-Bangladeshi (Robtee sp.), Rudd (Scardinius erythrophthalmus), therapon (Terapon sp.) and three-spot gouramy (Trichogaster trichopterus). These recommendations also apply to any other susceptible species referred to in the Aquatic Manual when traded internationally.

Article 10.2.3.

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.: 

   a) 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] (under study).

2. When authorising the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products of a species referred to in Article 10.2.2., other than those referred to in point 1 of Article 10.2.3., Competent Authorities should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 10.2.7. to 10.2.12. relevant to the EUS status of the exporting country, zone or compartment.
3. When considering the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products from an exporting country, zone or compartment not declared free of EUS of a species not covered in Article 10.2.2. but which could reasonably be expected to pose a risk of transmission for EUS, Competent Authorities should conduct a risk analysis in accordance with the recommendations in the Aquatic Code. The exporting country should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.

Article 10.2.4.

Epizootic ulcerative syndrome free country

A country may make a self-declaration of freedom from EUS if it meets the conditions in points 1, 2 or 3 below.

If a country shares a zone with one or more other countries, it can only make a self-declaration of freedom from EUS if all the areas covered by the shared water are declared EUS free countries or zones (see Article 10.2.5).

1. A country where the species referred to in Article 10.2.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may make a self-declaration of freedom from EUS when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 10 years.

OR

2. A country where the last observed occurrence of the disease was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may make a self-declaration of freedom from EUS when:

a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and

b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of A. invadans.

OR

3. A country that has made a self-declaration of freedom from EUS but in which the disease is subsequently detected may make a self-declaration of freedom from EUS again when the following conditions have been met:

a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and

b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and

c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of A. invadans; and

d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.

In the meantime, part of the non-affected area may be declared a free zone provided that such part meets the conditions in point 2 of Article 10.2.5.
Article 10.2.5.

Epizootic ulcerative syndrome free zone or free compartment

A zone or compartment within the territory of one or more countries not declared free from EUS may be declared free by the Competent Authority(ies) of the country(ies) concerned if the zone or compartment meets the conditions referred to in points 1, 2 or 3 below.

If a zone or compartment extends over more than one country, it can only be declared an EUS free zone or compartment if all the Competent Authorities confirm that the conditions have been met.

1. A zone or compartment where the species referred to in Article 10.2.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may be declared free from EUS when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 10 years.

2. A zone or compartment where the last observed occurrence of the disease was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may be declared free from EUS when:
   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and
   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of A. invadans.

3. A zone previously declared free from EUS but in which the disease is detected may be declared free from EUS again when the following conditions have been met:
   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and
   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and
   c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of A. invadans; and
   d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.

Article 10.2.6.

Maintenance of free status

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from EUS following the provisions of point 1 of Articles 10.2.4. or 10.2.5. (as relevant) may maintain its status as EUS free provided that basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from EUS following the provisions of point 2 of Articles 10.2.4. or 10.2.5. (as relevant) may discontinue targeted surveillance and maintain its status as EUS free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of EUS, as described in
the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, exist and basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free zones or compartments in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of EUS, targeted surveillance needs to be continued at a level determined by the Aquatic Animal Health Service on the basis of the likelihood of infection.

Article 10.2.7.

Importation of live aquatic animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free from epizootic ulcerative syndrome

When importing live aquatic animals of the species referred to in Article 10.2.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from EUS, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country certifying that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 10.2.4. or 10.2.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the aquatic animal is a country, zone or compartment declared free from EUS.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 10.2.3.

Article 10.2.8.

Importation of live aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from epizootic ulcerative syndrome

1. When importing, for aquaculture, live aquatic animals of the species referred to in Article 10.2.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from EUS, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, apply the following risk mitigation measures:
   a) the direct delivery to and lifelong holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for continuous isolation from the local environment; and
   b) the treatment of all effluent and waste material in a manner that ensures inactivation of EUSV.

2. If the intention of the introduction is the establishment of a new stock, relevant aspects of the Code of Practice on the Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) should be considered.

3. For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, relevant aspects of the ICES Code (full version see: http://www.ices.dk/pubs/Miscellaneous/ICESCodeofPractice.pdf) may be summarised to the following points:
   a) identify stock of interest (cultured or wild) in its current location;
   b) evaluate stock health/disease history;
   c) take and test samples for EUSV, pests and general health/disease status;
   d) import and quarantine in a secure facility a founder (F-0) population;
   e) produce F-1 generation from the F-0 stock in quarantine;
f) culture F-1 stock and at critical times in its development (life cycle) sample and test for EUSV and perform general examinations for pests and general health/disease status;

g) if EUSV is not detected, pests are not present, and the general health/disease status of the stock is considered to meet the basic biosecurity conditions of the importing country, zone or compartment, the F-1 stock may be defined as EUS free or specific pathogen free (SPF) for EUSV;

h) release SPF F-1 stock from quarantine for aquaculture or stocking purposes in the country, zone or compartment.

4. With respect to point 3e), quarantine conditions should be conducive to multiplication of the pathogen and eventually to clinical expression. If quarantine conditions are not suitable for pathogen multiplication and development, the recommended diagnostic approach might not be sensitive enough to detect low infection level.

This Article does not apply to aquatic animals referred to in point 1 of Article 10.2.3.

Article 10.2.9.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from epizootic ulcerative syndrome

When importing, for processing for human consumption, aquatic animals or aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 10.2.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from EUS, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, require that:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in quarantine or containment facilities until processing into one of the products referred to in point 1 of Article 10.2.3., or products described in point 1 of Article 10.2.12., or other products authorised by the Competent Authority; and

2. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of A. invadans or is disposed in a manner that prevents contact of waste with susceptible species.

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

Article 10.2.10.

Importation of live aquatic animals intended for use in animal feed, or for agricultural, industrial or pharmaceutical use from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from epizootic ulcerative syndrome

When importing, for use in animal feed, or for agricultural, industrial or pharmaceutical use, live aquatic animals of the species referred to in Article 10.2.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from EUS, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require that:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in quarantine facilities for slaughter and processing to products authorised by the Competent Authority; and

2. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of A. invadans.
This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 10.2.3.

Article 10.2.11.

Importation of aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment declared free from epizootic ulcerative syndrome

When importing aquatic animal products of the species referred to in Article 10.2.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from EUS, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country certifying that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 10.2.4. or 10.2.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the commodity is a country, zone or compartment declared free from EUS.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 10.2.3.

Article 10.2.12.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for retail trade for human consumption 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 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)] (under study).

   For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

2. When importing aquatic animals or aquatic animal products, other than those referred to in point 1 above, of the species referred to in Article 10.2.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from EUS, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and apply appropriate risk mitigation measures.
CHAPTER 10.3.

GYRODACTYLOSIS
(Gyrodactylus salaris)

Article 10.3.1.

For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, gyrodactylosis means infection with the viviparous freshwater ectoparasite Gyrodactylus salaris (G. salaris) (Phylum Platyhelminthes; Class Monogenea).

Information on methods for diagnosis are provided in the Aquatic Manual.

Article 10.3.2.

Scope

The recommendations in this Chapter apply to: Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar), rainbow trout (Oncorhynchus mykiss), Arctic char (Salvelinus alpinus), North American brook trout (Salvelinus fontinalis), grayling (Thymallus thymallus), North American lake trout (Salvelinus namaycush) and brown trout (Salmo trutta). The recommendations also apply to other fish species in waters where the parasite is present, because these species may carry the parasite and act as vectors.

Article 10.3.3.

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

1. Competent Authorities should not require any gyrodactylosis related conditions, regardless of the gyrodactylosis 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 10.3.2, intended for any purpose and complying with Article 5.3.1.:

   a) 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;

   b) Chilled products of fish, where the head, fins and skin have been removed] (under study).

2. When authorising the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products of a species referred to in Article 10.3.2, other than those referred to in point 1 of Article 10.3.3, Competent Authorities should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 10.3.7. to 10.3.12. relevant to the gyrodactylosis status of the exporting country, zone or compartment.

3. When considering the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products from an exporting country, zone or compartment not declared free of gyrodactylosis of a species not covered in Article 10.3.2, but which could reasonably be expected to pose a risk of transmission for gyrodactylosis, Competent Authorities should conduct a risk analysis in accordance with the recommendations in the Aquatic Code. The exporting country should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.
Article 10.3.4.

Gyrodactylosis free country

A country may make a self-declaration of freedom from gyrodactylosis if it meets the conditions in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a country shares a zone with one or more other countries, it can only make a self-declaration of freedom from gyrodactylosis if all the areas covered by the shared watercourse(s) are declared gyrodactylosis free countries or zones (see Article 10.3.5.).

1. A country where none of the susceptible species is present may make a self-declaration of freedom from gyrodactylosis when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A country where the species referred to in Article 10.3.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may make a self-declaration of freedom from gyrodactylosis when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 10 years.

OR

3. A country where the last observed occurrence of the disease was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to its clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may make a self-declaration of freedom from gyrodactylosis when:
   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 5 years; and
   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 5 years without detection of G. salaris.

OR

4. A country that has previously made a self-declaration of freedom from gyrodactylosis but in which the disease is subsequently detected may make a self-declaration of freedom from gyrodactylosis again when the following conditions have been met:
   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and
   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed, or the waters containing the infected fish have been treated by chemicals that kill the parasite; and
   c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 5 years without detection of G. salaris; and
   d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 5 years.

In the meantime, part of the non-affected area may be declared a free zone provided that such part meets the conditions in point 3 of Article 10.3.5.
Article 10.3.5.

Gyrodactylosis free zone or free compartment

A zone or compartment within the territory of one or more countries not declared free from gyrodactylosis may be declared free by the Competent Authority (ies) of the country(ies) concerned if the zone or compartment meets the conditions referred to in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a zone or compartment extends over more than one country, it can only be declared a gyrodactylosis free zone or compartment if all the Competent Authorities confirm that the conditions have been met.

1. A zone or compartment where none of the susceptible species is present may be declared free from gyrodactylosis when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A zone or compartment where the species referred to in Article 10.3.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may be declared free from gyrodactylosis when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 5 years.

OR

3. A zone or compartment supplied with seawater with a salinity of at least 25 parts per thousand may be declared free from gyrodactylosis provided that no live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 10.3.2. are introduced from a site of a lesser health status for G. salaris during the 14 days prior to any live fish transfers from the zone or compartment.

OR

4. A zone or compartment where the last observed occurrence of the disease was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to its clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may be declared free from gyrodactylosis when:
   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 10 years; and
   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 5 years without detection of G. salaris.

OR

5. A zone previously declared free from gyrodactylosis but in which the disease is subsequently detected may be declared free from gyrodactylosis again when the following conditions have been met:
   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and
   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed, or the waters containing the infected fish have been treated by chemicals that kill the parasite; and
   c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 5 years without detection of G. salaris; and
d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 5 years.

Article 10.3.6.

Maintenance of free status

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from gyrodactylosis following the provisions of points 1 or 2 of Articles 10.3.4. or 10.3.5. (as relevant) may maintain its status as gyrodactylosis free provided that basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from gyrodactylosis following the provisions of point 3 of Article 10.3.4. or point 4 of 10.3.5. (as relevant) may discontinue targeted surveillance and maintain its status as gyrodactylosis free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of gyrodactylosis, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, exist, and basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free zones or compartments in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of gyrodactylosis, targeted surveillance needs to be continued at a level determined by the Aquatic Animal Health Service on the basis of the likelihood of infection.

Article 10.3.7.

Importation of live aquatic animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free from gyrodactylosis

When importing live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 10.3.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from gyrodactylosis, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country attesting that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 10.3.4. or 10.3.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the aquatic animal is a country, zone or compartment declared free from gyrodactylosis.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 10.3.3.

Article 10.3.8.

Importation of live aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from gyrodactylosis

1. When importing, for aquaculture, live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 10.3.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from gyrodactylosis, the Competent Authority of the importing country should:
   a) require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country attesting that:
      i) the aquatic animals have been held, immediately prior to export, in water with a salinity of at least 25 parts per thousand for a continuous period of at least 14 days; and
ii) no other live aquatic animals of the species referred to in Article 10.3.2. have been introduced during that period;

OR

iii) in the case of eyed eggs, the eggs have been disinfected by a method demonstrated to be effective against *G. salaris*;

OR

b) assess the risk and apply risk mitigation measures such as:

i) the direct delivery to and lifelong holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for continuous isolation from the local environment;

ii) if breeding from the imported fish, disinfecion of the fertilised eggs by a method demonstrated to be effective against *G. salaris*, and complete separation of the hatched progeny from the imported animals;

iii) the treatment of all effluent and waste materials in a manner that ensures inactivation of *G. salaris*.

2. If the intention of the introduction is the establishment of a new stock, relevant aspects of the Code of Practice on the Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) should be followed.

3. For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, relevant aspects of the ICES Code (full version see: http://www.ices.dk/pubs/Miscellaneous/ICESCodeofPractice.pdf) may be summarised to the following points:

a) identify stock of interest (cultured or wild) in its current location;

b) evaluate stock’s health/disease history;

c) take and test samples for *G. salaris*, pests and general health/disease status;

d) import and quarantine in a secure facility a founder (F-0) population;

e) produce F-1 generation from the F-0 stock in quarantine;

f) culture F-1 stock and at critical times in its development (life cycle) sample and test for *G. salaris* and perform general examinations for pests and general health/disease status;

g) if *G. salaris* is not detected, pests are not present, and the general health/disease status of the stock is considered to meet the basic biosecurity conditions of the importing country, zone or compartment, the F-1 stock may be defined as gyrodactylosis free or specific pathogen free (SPF) for *G. salaris*;

h) release SPF F-1 stock from quarantine for aquaculture or stocking purposes in the country, zone or compartment.

4. With respect to point 3e), quarantine conditions should be conducive to multiplication of the pathogen and eventually to clinical expression. If quarantine conditions are not suitable for pathogen multiplication and development, the recommended diagnostic approach might not be sensitive enough to detect low infection level.

This Article does not apply to aquatic animals referred to in point 1 of Article 10.3.3.
Article 10.3.9.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from gyrodactylosis

When importing, for processing for human consumption, aquatic animals or aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 10.3.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from gyrodactylosis, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, require that:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in quarantine or containment facilities until processing into one of the products referred to in point 1 of Article 10.3.3., or products described in point 1 of Article 10.3.12., or other products authorised by the Competent Authority; and

2. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of G. salaris or is disposed in a manner that prevents contact of waste with susceptible species.

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

Article 10.3.10.

Importation of live aquatic animals intended for use in animal feed, or for agricultural, industrial or pharmaceutical use, from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from gyrodactylosis

When importing, for use in animal feed, or for agricultural, industrial or pharmaceutical use, live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 10.3.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from gyrodactylosis, the Competent Authority of the importing country should:

1. require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country attesting that the aquatic animals have been held, immediately prior to export, in water with a salinity of at least 25 parts per thousand for a continuous period of at least 14 days, and no other live aquatic animals of the species referred to in Article 10.3.2. have been introduced during that period;

OR

2. require that the consignment be delivered directly to and held in quarantine facilities for slaughter and processing to one of the products referred to in point 1 of Article 10.3.3. or other products authorised by the Competent Authority, and all effluent and waste materials be treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of G. salaris.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 10.3.3.

Article 10.3.11.

Importation of aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment declared free from gyrodactylosis

When importing aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 10.3.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from gyrodactylosis, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country.
Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country attesting that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 10.3.4. or 10.3.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the commodity is a country, zone or compartment declared free from gyrodactylosis.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 10.3.3.

Article 10.3.12.

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

1. Competent Authorities should not require any gyrodactylosis related conditions, regardless of the gyrodactylosis 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) [fish (chilled or frozen)];

   b) fillets or cutlets (chilled or frozen);

   c) dried fish (including air dried, flame dried and sun dried);

   d) smoked salmonids] (under study).

   For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

2. When importing aquatic animals or aquatic animal products, other than those referred to in point 1 above, of the species referred to in Article 10.3.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from gyrodactylosis, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and apply appropriate risk mitigation measures.
CHAPTER 10.4.

INFECTIOUS HAEMATOPOIETIC NECROSIS

Article 10.4.1.

For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN) means infection with IHN virus (IHNV) of the genus Novirhabdovirus of the family Rhabdoviridae.

Information on methods for diagnosis are provided in the Aquatic Manual.

Article 10.4.2.

Scope

The recommendations in this chapter apply to: rainbow trout or steelhead (Oncorhyncus mykiss), the Pacific salmon species (chinook [O. tsawytscha], sockeye [O. nerka], chum [O. keta], masou [O. masou], pink [O. rhodurus] and coho [O. kisutch]), and Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar). These recommendations also apply to any other susceptible species referred to in the Aquatic Manual when traded internationally.

Article 10.4.3.

Importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for any purpose from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from infectious haematopoietic necrosis

1. Competent Authorities should not require any IHN related conditions, regardless of the IHN 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 10.4.2. intended for any purpose and complying with Article 5.3.1.:
   a) [commodities treated in a manner that inactivates the disease 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] (under study).

2. When authorising the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products of a species referred to in Article 10.4.2., other than those referred to in point 1 of Article 10.4.3., Competent Authorities should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 10.4.7. to 10.4.12. relevant to the IHN status of the exporting country, zone or compartment.

3. When considering the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products from an exporting country, zone or compartment not declared free of IHN of a species not covered in Article 10.4.2. but which could reasonably be expected to pose a risk of transmission for IHN, Competent Authorities should conduct a risk analysis in accordance with the recommendations in the Aquatic Code. The exporting country should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.
Article 10.4.4.

Infectious haematopoietic necrosis free country

A country may make a self-declaration of freedom from IHN if it meets the conditions in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a country shares a zone with one or more other countries, it can only make a self-declaration of freedom from IHN if all the areas covered by the shared water are declared IHN free countries or zones (see Article 10.4.5).

1. A country where none of the susceptible species is present may make a self-declaration of freedom from IHN when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A country where the species referred to in Article 10.4.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may make a self-declaration of freedom from IHN when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 10 years.

OR

3. A country where the last observed occurrence of the disease was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may make a self-declaration of freedom from IHN when:

   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and

   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of IHNV.

OR

4. A country that has made a self-declaration of freedom from IHN but in which the disease is subsequently detected may make a self-declaration of freedom from IHN again when the following conditions have been met:

   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and

   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and

   c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of IHNV; and

   d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.

In the meantime, part of the non-affected area may be declared a free zone provided that such part meets the conditions in point 3 of Article 10.4.5.
Infectious haematopoietic necrosis free zone or free compartment

A zone or compartment within the territory of one or more countries not declared free from IHN may be declared free by the Competent Authority(ies) of the country(ies) concerned if the zone or compartment meets the conditions referred to in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a zone or compartment extends over more than one country, it can only be declared an IHN free zone or compartment if all the Competent Authorities confirm that the conditions have been met.

1. A zone or compartment where none of the susceptible species is present may be declared free from IHN when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A zone or compartment where the species referred to in Article 10.4.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may be declared free from IHN when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 10 years.

OR

3. A zone or compartment where the last observed occurrence of the disease was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may be declared free from IHN when:

   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and

   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of IHNV.

OR

4. A zone previously declared free from IHN but in which the disease is detected may be declared free from IHN again when the following conditions have been met:

   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and

   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and

   c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of IHNV; and

   d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.
Article 10.4.6.

Maintenance of free status

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from IHN following the provisions of points 1 or 2 of Articles 10.4.4. or 10.4.5. (as relevant) may maintain its status as IHN free provided that basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from IHN following the provisions of point 3 of Articles 10.4.4. or 10.4.5. (as relevant) may discontinue targeted surveillance and maintain its status as IHN free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of IHN, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, exist and basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free zones or compartments in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of IHN, targeted surveillance needs to be continued at a level determined by the Aquatic Animal Health Service on the basis of the likelihood of infection.

Article 10.4.7.

Importation of live aquatic animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free from infectious haematopoietic necrosis

When importing live aquatic animals of the species referred to in Article 10.4.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from IHN, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country certifying that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 10.4.4. or 10.4.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the aquatic animal is a country, zone or compartment declared free from IHN.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 10.4.3.

Article 10.4.8.

Importation of live aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from infectious haematopoietic necrosis

1. When importing for aquaculture, live aquatic animals of the species referred to in Article 10.4.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from IHN, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, apply the following risk mitigation measures:

a) the direct delivery to and lifelong holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for continuous isolation from the local environment; and

b) the treatment of all effluent and waste material in a manner that ensures inactivation of IHNV.

2. If the intention of the introduction is the establishment of a new stock, relevant aspects of the Code of Practice on the Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) should be considered.
3. For the purposes of the *Aquatic Code*, relevant aspects of the ICES Code (full version see: http://www.ices.dk/pubs/Miscellaneous/ICESCodeofPractice.pdf) may be summarised to the following points:

a) identify stock of interest (cultured or wild) in its current location;

b) evaluate stock health/disease history;

c) take and test samples for IHN, pests and general health/disease status;

d) import and quarantine in a secure facility a founder (F-0) population;

e) produce F-1 generation from the F-0 stock in quarantine;

f) culture F-1 stock and at critical times in its development (life cycle) sample and test for IHN and perform general examinations for pests and general health/disease status;

g) if IHNV is not detected, pests are not present, and the general health/disease status of the stock is considered to meet the basic biosecurity conditions of the importing country, zone or compartment, the F-1 stock may be defined as IHN free or specific pathogen free (SPF) for IHNV;

h) release SPF F-1 stock from quarantine for aquaculture or stocking purposes in the country, zone or compartment.

4. With respect to point 3e), quarantine conditions should be conducive to multiplication of the pathogen and eventually to clinical expression. If quarantine conditions are not suitable for pathogen multiplication and development, the recommended diagnostic approach might not be sensitive enough to detect low infection level.

This Article does not apply to aquatic animals referred to in point 1 of Article 10.4.3.

**Article 10.4.9.**

**Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from infectious haematopoietic necrosis**

When importing, for processing for human consumption, aquatic animals or aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 10.4.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from IHN, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, require that:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in quarantine or containment facilities until processing into one of the products referred to in point 1 of Article 10.4.3., or products described in point 1 of Article 10.4.12., or other products authorised by the Competent Authority; and

2. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of IHNV or is disposed in a manner that prevents contact of waste with susceptible species.

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.
Chapter 10.4. - Infectious haematopoietic necrosis

Article 10.4.10.

Importation of live aquatic animals intended for use in animal feed, or for agricultural, industrial or pharmaceutical use from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from infectious haematopoietic necrosis

When importing, for use in animal feed, or for agricultural, industrial or pharmaceutical use, live aquatic animals of the species referred to in Article 10.4.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from IHN, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require that:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in quarantine facilities for slaughter and processing to products authorised by the Competent Authority; and
2. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of IHNV.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 10.4.3.

Article 10.4.11.

Importation of aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment declared free from infectious haematopoietic necrosis

When importing aquatic animal products of the species referred to in Article 10.4.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from IHN, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country certifying that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 10.4.4. or 10.4.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the commodity is a country, zone or compartment declared free from IHN.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 10.4.3.

Article 10.4.12.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for retail trade for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from infectious haematopoietic necrosis

1. Competent Authorities should not require any IHN related conditions, regardless of the IHN 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)] (under study).

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.
2. When importing  *aquatic animals or aquatic animal products*, other than those referred to in point 1 above, of the species referred to in Article 10.4.2. from a country,  *zone or compartment* not declared free from IHN, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should assess the *risk* and apply appropriate *risk mitigation measures*.

**Article 10.4.13.**

**Importation of disinfected eggs for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from infectious haematopoietic necrosis**

1. When importing disinfected eggs of the species referred to in Article 10.4.2. for *aquaculture*, from a country,  *zone or compartment* not declared free from IHN, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should assess the *risk* associated with at least:

   a) the IHN virus status of the water to be used during the *disinfection* of the eggs;

   b) the level of infection with IHN virus in broodstock (ovarian fluid and milt); and

   c) the temperature and pH of the water to be used for *disinfection*.

2. If the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* concludes that the importation is acceptable, it should apply the following *risk mitigation measures* including:

   a) the eggs should be disinfected prior to importing, according to the methods described in Chapter 1.1.3. of the *Aquatic Manual* (under study) or those specified by the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country*; and

   b) between *disinfection* and the import, eggs should not come into contact with anything which may affect their health status.

3. When importing disinfected eggs of the species referred to in Article 10.4.2. for *aquaculture*, from a country,  *zone or compartment* not declared free from IHN, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued by the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* or a *certifying official* approved by the *importing country* attesting that the procedures described in point 2 of Article 10.4.13. have been fulfilled.
CHAPTER 10.5.

INFECTIOUS SALMON ANAEMIA

Article 10.5.1.

For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, infectious salmon anaemia (ISA) means infection with ISA virus (ISAV) of the genus *Isavirus* of the family Orthomyxoviridae.

Information on methods for diagnosis are provided in the Aquatic Manual.

Article 10.5.2.

Scope

The recommendations in this Chapter apply to: Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), brown and sea trout (*S. trutta*) and rainbow trout (*Oncorhyncus mykiss*). These recommendations also apply to any other susceptible species referred to in the Aquatic Manual when traded internationally.

Article 10.5.3.

Importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for any purpose from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from infectious salmon anaemia

1. Competent Authorities should not require any ISA related conditions, regardless of the ISA 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 10.5.2. intended for any purpose and complying with Article 5.3.1.:

   a) [Commodities treated in a manner that inactivates the disease 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] (under study).

2. When authorising the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products of a species referred to in Article 10.5.2., other than those referred to in point 1 of Article 10.5.3., Competent Authorities should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 10.5.7. to 10.5.12. relevant to the ISA status of the exporting country, zone or compartment.

3. When considering the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products from an exporting country, zone or compartment not declared free of ISA of a species not covered in Article 10.5.2. but which could reasonably be expected to pose a risk of transmission for ISA, Competent Authorities should conduct a risk analysis in accordance with the recommendations in the Aquatic Code. The exporting country should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.
Infectious salmon anaemia free country

A country may make a self-declaration of freedom from ISA if it meets the conditions in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a country shares a zone with one or more other countries, it can only make a self-declaration of freedom from ISA if all the areas covered by the shared water are declared ISA free countries or zones (see Article 10.5.5).

1. A country where none of the susceptible species is present may make a self-declaration of freedom from ISA when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A country where the species referred to in Article 10.5.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may make a self-declaration of freedom from ISA when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 10 years.

OR

3. A country where the last observed occurrence of the disease was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may make a self-declaration of freedom from ISA when:
   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and
   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of ISAV.

OR

4. A country that has made a self-declaration of freedom from ISA but in which the disease is subsequently detected may make a self-declaration of freedom from ISA again when the following conditions have been met:
   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and
   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and
   c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of ISAV; and
   d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.

In the meantime, part of the non-affected area may be declared a free zone provided that such part meets the conditions in point 3 of Article 10.5.5.
Article 10.5.5.

Infectious salmon anaemia free zone or free compartment

A zone or compartment within the territory of one or more countries not declared free from ISA may be declared free by the Competent Authority(ies) of the country(ies) concerned if the zone or compartment meets the conditions referred to in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a zone or compartment extends over more than one country, it can only be declared an ISA free zone or compartment if all the Competent Authorities confirm that the conditions have been met.

1. A zone or compartment where none of the susceptible species is present may be declared free from ISA when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A zone or compartment where the species referred to in Article 10.5.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may be declared free from ISA when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 10 years.

OR

3. A zone or compartment where the last observed occurrence of the disease was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may be declared free from ISA when:

a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and

b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of ISAV.

OR

4. A zone previously declared free from ISA but in which the disease is detected may be declared free from ISA again when the following conditions have been met:

a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and

b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and

c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of ISAV; and

d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.
Article 10.5.6.

Maintenance of free status

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from ISA following the provisions of points 1 or 2 of Articles 10.5.4. or 10.5.5. (as relevant) may maintain its status as ISA free provided that basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from ISA following the provisions of point 3 of Articles 10.5.4. or 10.5.5. (as relevant) may discontinue targeted surveillance and maintain its status as ISA free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of ISA, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, exist and basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free zones or compartments in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of ISA, targeted surveillance needs to be continued at a level determined by the Aquatic Animal Health Service on the basis of the likelihood of infection.

Article 10.5.7.

Importation of live aquatic animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free from infectious salmon anaemia

When importing live aquatic animals of the species referred to in Article 10.5.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from ISA, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country certifying that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 10.5.4. or 10.5.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the aquatic animal is a country, zone or compartment declared free from ISA.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 10.5.3.

Article 10.5.8.

Importation of live aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from infectious salmon anaemia

1. When importing, for aquaculture, live aquatic animals of the species referred to in Article 10.5.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from ISA, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, apply the following risk mitigation measures:
   a) the direct delivery to and lifelong holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for continuous isolation from the local environment; and
   b) the treatment of all effluent and waste material in a manner that ensures inactivation of ISAV.

2. If the intention of the introduction is the establishment of a new stock, relevant aspects of the Code of Practice on the Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) should be considered.
3. For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, relevant aspects of the ICES Code (full version see: http://www.ices.dk/pubs/Miscellaneous/ICESCodeofPractice.pdf) may be summarised to the following points:

a) identify stock of interest (cultured or wild) in its current location;

b) evaluate stock health/disease history;

c) take and test samples for ISAV, pests and general health/disease status;

d) import and quarantine in a secure facility a founder (F-0) population;

e) produce F-1 generation from the F-0 stock in quarantine;

f) culture F-1 stock and at critical times in its development (life cycle) sample and test for ISAV and perform general examinations for pests and general health/disease status;

g) if ISAV is not detected, pests are not present, and the general health/disease status of the stock is considered to meet the basic biosecurity conditions of the importing country, zone or compartment, the F-1 stock may be defined as ISA free or specific pathogen free (SPF) for ISAV;

h) release SPF F-1 stock from quarantine for aquaculture or stocking purposes in the country, zone or compartment.

4. With respect to point 3e), quarantine conditions should be conducive to multiplication of the pathogen and eventually to clinical expression. If quarantine conditions are not suitable for pathogen multiplication and development, the recommended diagnostic approach might not be sensitive enough to detect low infection level.

This Article does not apply to aquatic animals referred to in point 1 of Article 10.5.3.

Article 10.5.9.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from infectious salmon anaemia

When importing, for processing for human consumption, aquatic animals or aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 10.5.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from ISA, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, require that:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in quarantine or containment facilities until processing into one of the products referred to in point 1 of Article 10.5.3., or products described in point 1 of Article 10.5.12., or other products authorised by the Competent Authority; and

2. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of ISAV or is disposed in a manner that prevents contact of waste with susceptible species.

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.
Article 10.5.10.

Importation of live aquatic animals intended for use in animal feed, or for agricultural, industrial or pharmaceutical use from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from infectious salmon anaemia

When importing, for use in animal feed, or for agricultural, industrial or pharmaceutical use, live aquatic animals of the species referred to in Article 10.5.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from ISA, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require that:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in quarantine facilities for slaughter and processing to products authorised by the Competent Authority; and
2. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of ISAV.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 10.5.3.

Article 10.5.11.

Importation of aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment declared free from infectious salmon anaemia

When importing aquatic animal products of the species referred to in Article 10.5.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from ISA, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country certifying that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 10.5.4. or 10.5.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the commodity is a country, zone or compartment declared free from ISA.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 10.5.3.

Article 10.5.12.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for retail trade for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from infectious salmon anaemia

1. Competent Authorities should not require any ISA related conditions, regardless of the ISA 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)] (under study).

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.
2. When importing aquatic animals or aquatic animal products, other than those referred to in point 1 above, of the species referred to in Article 10.5.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from ISA, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and apply appropriate risk mitigation measures.

Article 10.5.13.

Importation of disinfected eggs for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from infectious salmon anaemia

1. When importing disinfected eggs of the species referred to in Article 10.5.2. for aquaculture, from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from ISA, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk associated with at least:

   a) the ISA virus status of the water to be used during the disinfection of the eggs;

   b) the level of infection with ISA virus in broodstock (ovarian fluid and milt); and

   c) the temperature and pH of the water to be used for disinfection.

2. If the Competent Authority of the importing country concludes that the importation is acceptable, it should apply the following risk mitigation measures including:

   a) the eggs should be disinfected prior to importing, according to the methods described in Chapter 1.1.3. of the Aquatic Manual (under study) or those specified by the Competent Authority of the importing country; and

   b) between disinfection and the import, eggs should not come into contact with anything which may affect their health status.

3. When importing disinfected eggs of the species referred to in Article 10.5.2. for aquaculture, from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from ISA, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country attesting that the procedures described in point 2 of Article 10.5.13. have been fulfilled.
CHAPTER 10.6.

KOI HERPESVIRUS DISEASE

Article 10.6.1.

For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, koi herpesvirus disease (KHVD) means infection with the viral species koi herpesvirus (KHV) tentatively placed in the sub-family Cyprinid herpesvirus of the family Herpesviridae.

Information on methods for diagnosis are provided in the Aquatic Manual.

Article 10.6.2.

Scope

The recommendations in this Chapter apply to: common carp (Cyprinus carpio carpio), ghost carp (Cyprinus carpio goi), koi carp (Cyprinus carpio koi) and common carp hybrids (e.g. Cyprinus carpio x Carassius auratus). These recommendations also apply to any other susceptible species referred to in the Aquatic Manual when traded internationally.

Article 10.6.3.

Importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for any purpose from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from koi herpesvirus disease

1. Competent Authorities should not require any KHVD related conditions, regardless of the KHVD 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 10.6.2. intended for any purpose and complying with Article 5.3.1.: 

a) [commodities treated in a manner that inactivates the disease 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] (under study).

2. When authorising the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products of a species referred to in Article 10.6.2, other than those referred to in point 1 of Article 10.6.3., Competent Authorities should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 10.6.7. to 10.6.12. relevant to the KHVD status of the exporting country, zone or compartment.

3. When considering the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products from an exporting country, zone or compartment not declared free of KHVD of a species not covered in Article 10.6.2. but which could reasonably be expected to pose a risk of transmission for KHVD, Competent Authorities should conduct a risk analysis in accordance with the recommendations in the Aquatic Code. The exporting country should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.
Article 10.6.4.

Koi herpesvirus disease free country

A country may make a self-declaration of freedom from KHVD if it meets the conditions in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a country shares a zone with one or more other countries, it can only make a self-declaration of freedom from KHVD if all the areas covered by the shared water are declared KHVD free countries or zones (see Article 10.6.5).

1. A country where none of the susceptible species is present may make a self-declaration of freedom from KHVD when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A country where the species referred to in Article 10.6.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may make a self-declaration of freedom from KHVD when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 10 years.

OR

3. A country where the last observed occurrence of the disease was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to its clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may make a self-declaration of freedom from KHVD when:

   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and

   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of KHV.

OR

4. A country that has previously made a self-declaration of freedom from KHVD but in which the disease is subsequently detected may make a self-declaration of freedom from KHVD again when the following conditions have been met:

   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and

   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and

   c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of KHV; and

   d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.

In the meantime, part of the non-affected area may be declared a free zone provided that such part meets the conditions in point 3 of Article 10.6.5.
Article 10.6.5.

Koi herpesvirus disease free zone or free compartment

A zone or compartment within the territory of one or more countries not declared free from KHVD may be declared free by the Competent Authority(ies) of the country(ies) concerned if the zone or compartment meets the conditions referred to in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a zone or compartment extends over more than one country, it can only be declared a KHVD free zone or compartment if all the Competent Authorities confirm that the conditions have been met.

1. A zone or compartment where none of the susceptible species is present may be declared free from KHVD when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A zone or compartment where the species referred to in Article 10.6.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may be declared free from KHVD when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 10 years.

OR

3. A zone or compartment where the last observed occurrence of the disease was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to its clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may be declared free from KHVD when:

   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and

   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of KHV.

OR

4. A zone previously declared free from KHVD but in which the disease is detected may be declared free from KHVD again when the following conditions have been met:

   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and

   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and

   c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of KHV; and

   d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.
Article 10.6.6.

Maintenance of free status

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from KHVD following the provisions of points 1 or 2 of Articles 10.6.4. or 10.6.5. (as relevant) may maintain its status as KHVD free provided that basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from KHVD following the provisions of point 3 of Articles 10.6.4. or 10.6.5. (as relevant) may discontinue targeted surveillance and maintain its status as KHVD free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of KHVD, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, exist, and basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free zones or compartments in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of KHVD, targeted surveillance needs to be continued at a level determined by the Competent Authority on the basis of the likelihood of infection.

Article 10.6.7.

Importation of live aquatic animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free from koi herpesvirus disease

When importing live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 10.6.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from KHVD, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country attesting that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 10.6.4. or 10.6.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the aquatic animal is a country, zone or compartment declared free from KHVD.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 10.6.3.

Article 10.6.8.

Importation of live aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from koi herpesvirus disease

1. When importing, for aquaculture, live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 10.6.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from KHVD, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, apply the following risk mitigation measures:
   a) the direct delivery to and lifelong holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for continuous isolation from the local environment; and
   b) the treatment of all effluent and waste materials in a manner that ensures inactivation of koi herpesvirus.

2. If the intention of the introduction is the establishment of a new stock, relevant aspects of the Code of Practice on the Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) should be followed.
3. For the purposes of the *Aquatic Code*, relevant aspects of the ICES Code (full version see: http://www.ices.dk/pubs/Miscellaneous/ICESCodeofPractice.pdf) may be summarised to the following points:

a) identify stock of interest (cultured or wild) in its current location;

b) evaluate stock health/disease history;

c) take and test samples for KHV, pests and general health/disease status;

d) import and quarantine in a secure facility a founder (F-0) population;

e) produce F-1 generation from the F-0 stock in quarantine;

f) culture F-1 stock and at critical times in its development (life cycle) sample and test for KHV and perform general examinations for pests and general health/disease status;

g) if KHV is not detected, pests are not present, and the general health/disease status of the stock is considered to meet the basic biosecurity conditions of the importing country, zone or compartment, the F-1 stock may be defined as KHVD free or specific pathogen free (SPF) for KHV;

h) release SPF F-1 stock from quarantine for aquaculture or stocking purposes in the country, zone or compartment.

4. With respect to point 3e), quarantine conditions should be conducive to multiplication of the pathogen and eventually to clinical expression. If quarantine conditions are not suitable for pathogen multiplication and development, the recommended diagnostic approach might not be sensitive enough to detect low infection level.

This Article does not apply to aquatic animals referred to in point 1 of Article 10.6.3.

**Article 10.6.9.**

**Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from koi herpesvirus disease**

When importing, for processing for human consumption, aquatic animals or aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 10.6.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from KHVD, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, require that:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in quarantine or containment facilities until processing into one of the products referred to in point 1 of Article 10.6.3., or products described in point 1 of Article 10.6.11., or other products authorised by the Competent Authority; and

2. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of KHV or is disposed in a manner that prevents contact of waste with susceptible species.

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.
Article 10.6.10.

Importation of live aquatic animals intended for use in animal feed, or for agricultural, industrial or pharmaceutical use, from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from koi herpesvirus disease

When importing, for use in animal feed, or for agricultural, industrial or pharmaceutical use, live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 10.6.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from KHVD, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require that:

1. the consignment be delivered directly to and held in quarantine facilities for slaughter and processing to products authorised by the Competent Authority; and
2. all effluent and waste materials from the processing be treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of koi herpesvirus.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 10.6.3.

Article 10.6.11.

Importation of aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment declared free from koi herpesvirus disease

When importing aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 10.6.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from KHVD, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country attesting that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 10.6.4. or 10.6.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the commodity is a country, zone or compartment declared free from KHVD.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 10.6.3.

Article 10.6.12.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for retail trade for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from koi herpesvirus disease

1. Competent Authorities should not require any KHVD related conditions, regardless of the KHVD 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) (under study).

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.
2. When importing *aquatic animals or aquatic animal products*, other than those referred to in point 1 above, of the species referred to in Article 10.6.2. from a country, *zone or compartment* not declared free from KHVD, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should assess the *risk* and apply appropriate *risk mitigation* measures.
CHAPTER 10.7.

RED SEA BREAM IRIDOVIRAL DISEASE

Article 10.7.1.

For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, red sea bream iridoviral disease (RSIVD) means infection with red sea bream iridovirus (RSIV) of the family Iridoviridae.

Information on methods for diagnosis are provided in the Aquatic Manual.

Article 10.7.2.

Scope

The recommendations in this Chapter apply to: red sea bream (Pagrus major), yellowtail (Seriola quinqueraadiata), amberjack (Seriola dumeril), sea bass (Lateolabrax sp. and Lates calcarifer), Albacore (Thunnus thynnus), Japanese parrotfish (Oplegnathus fasciatus), striped jack (Caranx delicatissimus), mandarin fish (Siniperca chuanti), red drum (Sciaenops ocellatus), mullet (Mugil cephalus) and groupers (Epinephelus spp.). These recommendations also apply to any other susceptible species referred to in the Aquatic Manual when traded internationally.

Article 10.7.3.

Importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for any purpose from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from red sea bream iridovirus

1. Competent Authorities should not require any RSIVD related conditions, regardless of the RSIVD 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 10.7.2. intended for any purpose and complying with Article 5.3.1.:

   a) [commodities treated in a manner that inactivates the disease 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](under study).

2. When authorising the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products of a species referred to in Article 10.7.2., other than those referred to in point 1 of Article 10.7.3., Competent Authorities should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 10.7.7. to 10.7.12. relevant to the RSIVD status of the exporting country, zone or compartment.

3. When considering the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products from an exporting country, zone or compartment not declared free of RSIVD of a species not covered in Article 10.7.2. but which could reasonably be expected to pose a risk of transmission for RSIVD, Competent Authorities should conduct a risk analysis in accordance with the recommendations in the Aquatic Code. The exporting country should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.
**Article 10.7.4.**

**Red sea bream iridovirus free country**

A country may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from RSIVD if it meets the conditions in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a country shares a *zone* with one or more other countries, it can only make a *self-declaration of freedom* from RSIVD if all the areas covered by the shared water are declared RSIVD free countries or *zones* (see Article 10.7.5).

1. A country where none of the *susceptible species* is present may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from RSIVD when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A country where the species referred to in Article 10.7.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the *disease* for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the *Aquatic Manual*, may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from RSIVD when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 10 years.

OR

3. A country where the last observed occurrence of the *disease* was within the past 10 years or where the *infection* status prior to *targeted surveillance* was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the *Aquatic Manual*) may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from RSIVD when:
   a) *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and
   b) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the *Aquatic Code*, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of RSIV.

OR

4. A country that has made a *self-declaration of freedom* from RSIVD but in which the *disease* is subsequently detected may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from RSIVD again when the following conditions have been met:
   a) on detection of the *disease*, the affected area was declared an *infected zone* and a *protection zone* was established; and
   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the *infected zone* by means that minimise the *risk* of further spread of the *disease*, and the appropriate *disinfection* procedures (see *Aquatic Manual*) have been completed; and
   c) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the *Aquatic Code*, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of RSIV; and
   d) previously existing *basic biosecurity conditions* have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.

In the meantime, part of the non-affected area may be declared a free *zone* provided that such part meets the conditions in point 3 of Article 10.7.5.
Article 10.7.5.

Red sea bream iridovirus free zone or free compartment

A zone or compartment within the territory of one or more countries not declared free from RSIVD may be declared free by the Competent Authority(ies) of the country(ies) concerned if the zone or compartment meets the conditions referred to in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a zone or compartment extends over more than one country, it can only be declared an RSIVD free zone or compartment if all the Competent Authorities confirm that the conditions have been met.

1. A zone or compartment where none of the susceptible species is present may be declared free from RSIVD when basic biosecurity conditions have been met continuously in the zone or compartment for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A zone or compartment where the species referred to in Article 10.7.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may be declared free from RSIVD when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 10 years.

OR

3. A zone or compartment where the last observed occurrence of the disease was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may be declared free from RSIVD when:

   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and

   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of RSIV.

OR

4. A zone previously declared free from RSIVD but in which the disease is detected may be declared free from RSIVD again when the following conditions have been met:

   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and

   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and

   c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of RSIV; and

   d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.
Article 10.7.6.

Maintenance of free status

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from RSIVD following the provisions of points 1 or 2 of Articles 10.7.4. or 10.7.5. (as relevant) may maintain its status as RSIVD free provided that basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from RSIVD following the provisions of point 3 of Articles 10.7.4. or 10.7.5. (as relevant) may discontinue targeted surveillance and maintain its status as RSIVD free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of RSIVD, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, exist and basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free zones or compartments in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of RSIVD, targeted surveillance needs to be continued at a level determined by the Aquatic Animal Health Service on the basis of the likelihood of infection.

Article 10.7.7.

Importation of live aquatic animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free from red sea bream iridovirus

When importing live aquatic animals of the species referred to in Article 10.7.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from RSIVD, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country certifying that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 10.7.4. or 10.7.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the aquatic animal is a country, zone or compartment declared free from RSIVD.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 10.7.3.

Article 10.7.8.

Importation of live aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from red sea bream iridovirus

1. When importing, for aquaculture, live aquatic animals of the species referred to in Article 10.7.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from RSIVD, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, apply the following risk mitigation measures:

   a) the direct delivery to and lifelong holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for continuous isolation from the local environment; and

   b) the treatment of all effluent and waste material in a manner that ensures inactivation of RSIVD.

2. If the intention of the introduction is the establishment of a new stock, relevant aspects of the Code of Practice on the Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) should be considered.
3. For the purposes of the *Aquatic Code*, relevant aspects of the ICES Code (full version see: http://www.ices.dk/pubs/Miscellaneous/ICESCodeofPractice.pdf) may be summarised to the following points:

a) identify stock of interest (cultured or wild) in its current location;

b) evaluate stock health/disease history;

c) take and test samples for RSIVD, pests and general health/disease status;

d) import and quarantine in a secure facility a founder (F-0) population;

e) produce F-1 generation from the F-0 stock in quarantine;

f) culture F-1 stock and at critical times in its development (life cycle) sample and test for RSIVD and perform general examinations for pests and general health/disease status;

g) if RSIVDV is not detected, pests are not present, and the general health/disease status of the stock is considered to meet the basic biosecurity conditions of the importing country, zone or compartment, the F-1 stock may be defined as RSIVD free or specific pathogen free (SPF) for RSIVDV;

h) release SPF F-1 stock from quarantine for aquaculture or stocking purposes in the country, zone or compartment.

4. With respect to point 3e), quarantine conditions should be conducive to multiplication of the pathogen and eventually to clinical expression. If quarantine conditions are not suitable for pathogen multiplication and development, the recommended diagnostic approach might not be sensitive enough to detect low infection level.

This Article does not apply to aquatic animals referred to in point 1 of Article 10.7.3.

**Article 10.7.9.**

**Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from red sea bream iridovirus**

When importing, for processing for human consumption, aquatic animals or aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 10.7.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from RSIVD, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, require that:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in quarantine or containment facilities until processing into one of the products referred to in point 1 of Article 10.7.3., or products described in point 1 of Article 10.7.12., or other products authorised by the Competent Authority; and

2. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of RSIVDV or is disposed in a manner that prevents contact of waste with susceptible species.

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.
Article 10.7.10.

Importation of live aquatic animals intended for use in animal feed, or for agricultural, industrial or pharmaceutical use from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from red sea bream iridovirus

When importing, for use in animal feed, or for agricultural, industrial or pharmaceutical use, live aquatic animals of the species referred to in Article 10.7.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from RSIVD, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require that:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in quarantine facilities for slaughter and processing to products authorised by the Competent Authority; and
2. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of RSIV.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 10.7.3.

Article 10.7.11.

Importation of aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment declared free from red sea bream iridovirus

When importing aquatic animal products of the species referred to in Article 10.7.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from RSIVD, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country certifying that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 10.7.4. or 10.7.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the commodity is a country, zone or compartment declared free from RSIVD.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 10.7.3.

Article 10.7.12.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for retail trade for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from red sea bream iridovirus

1. Competent Authorities should not require any RSIVD related conditions, regardless of the RSIVD 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)] (under study).

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.
2. When importing *aquatic animals* or *aquatic animal products*, other than those referred to in point 1 above, of the species referred to in Article 10.7.2. from a country, *zone or compartment* not declared free from RSIVD, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should assess the *risk* and apply appropriate *risk mitigation* measures.
CHAPTER 10.8.

SPRING VIRAEMIA OF CARP

Article 10.8.1.

For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, spring viraemia of carp (SVC) means infection with the viral species SVC virus (SVCV) tentatively placed in the genus *Vesiculovirus* of the family Rhabdoviridae.

Information on methods for diagnosis are provided in the Aquatic Manual.

Article 10.8.2.

Scope

The recommendations in this Chapter apply to: common carp (*Cyprinus carpio carpio*) and koi carp (*Cyprinus carpio koi*), crucian carp (*Carassius carassius*), sheatfish (also known as European catfish or wels) (*Silurus glanis*), silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*), bighead carp (*Aristichthys nobilis*), grass carp (white amur) (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*), goldfish (*Carassius auratus*), orfe (*Leuciscus idus*), and tench (*Tinca tinca*). These recommendations also apply to any other susceptible species referred to in the Aquatic Manual when traded internationally.

Article 10.8.3.

Importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for any purpose from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from spring viraemia of carp

1. Competent Authorities should not require any SVC related conditions, regardless of the SVC 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 10.8.2. intended for any purpose and complying with Article 5.3.1.:

   a) commodities treated in a manner that inactivates the disease 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 (under study).

2. When authorising the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products of a species referred to in Article 10.8.2., other than those referred to in point 1 of Article 10.8.3., Competent Authorities should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 10.8.7. to 10.8.12. relevant to the SVC status of the exporting country, zone or compartment.

3. When considering the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products from an exporting country, zone or compartment not declared free of SVC of a species not covered in Article 10.8.2. but which could reasonably be expected to pose a risk of transmission for SVC, Competent Authorities should conduct a risk analysis in accordance with the recommendations in the Aquatic Code. The exporting country should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.
Article 10.8.4.

Spring viraemia of carp free country

A country may make a self-declaration of freedom from SVC if it meets the conditions in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a country shares a zone with one or more other countries, it can only make a self-declaration of freedom from SVC if all the areas covered by the shared water are declared SVC free countries or zones (see Article 10.8.5).

1. A country where none of the susceptible species is present may make a self-declaration of freedom from SVC when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A country where the species referred to in Article 10.8.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may make a self-declaration of freedom from SVC when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 10 years.

OR

3. A country where the last observed occurrence of the disease was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may make a self-declaration of freedom from SVC when:
   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and
   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of SVCV.

OR

4. A country that has made a self-declaration of freedom from SVC but in which the disease is subsequently detected may make a self-declaration of freedom from SVC again when the following conditions have been met:
   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and
   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and
   c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of SVCV; and
   d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.

In the meantime, part of the non-affected area may be declared a free zone provided that such part meets the conditions in point 3 of Article 10.8.5.
Article 10.8.5.

Spring viraemia of carp free zone or free compartment

A zone or compartment within the territory of one or more countries not declared free from SVC may be declared free by the Competent Authority(ies) of the country(ies) concerned if the zone or compartment meets the conditions referred to in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a zone or compartment extends over more than one country, it can only be declared an SVC free zone or compartment if all the Competent Authorities confirm that the conditions have been met.

1. A zone or compartment where none of the susceptible species is present may be declared free from SVC when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A zone or compartment where the species referred to in Article 10.8.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may be declared free from SVC when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 10 years.

OR

3. A zone or compartment where the last observed occurrence of the disease was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may be declared free from SVC when:

   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and

   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of SVCV.

OR

4. A zone previously declared free from SVC but in which the disease is detected may be declared free from SVC again when the following conditions have been met:

   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and

   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and

   c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of SVCV; and

   d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.
Article 10.8.6.

Maintenance of free status

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from SVC following the provisions of points 1 or 2 of Articles 10.8.4. or 10.8.5. (as relevant) may maintain its status as SVC free provided that basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from SVC following the provisions of point 3 of Articles 10.8.4. or 10.8.5. (as relevant) may discontinue targeted surveillance and maintain its status as SVC free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of SVC, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, exist and basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free zones or compartments in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of SVC, targeted surveillance needs to be continued at a level determined by the Aquatic Animal Health Service on the basis of the likelihood of infection.

Article 10.8.7.

Importation of live aquatic animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free from spring viraemia of carp

When importing live aquatic animals of the species referred to in Article 10.8.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from SVC, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country certifying that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 10.8.4. or 10.8.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the aquatic animal is a country, zone or compartment declared free from SVC.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 10.8.3.

Article 10.8.8.

Importation of live aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from spring viraemia of carp

1. When importing, for aquaculture, live aquatic animals of the species referred to in Article 10.8.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from SVC, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, apply the following risk mitigation measures:
   a) the direct delivery to and lifelong holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for continuous isolation from the local environment; and
   b) the treatment of all effluent and waste material in a manner that ensures inactivation of SVCV.

2. If the intention of the introduction is the establishment of a new stock, relevant aspects of the Code of Practice on the Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) should be considered.
3. For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, relevant aspects of the ICES Code (full version see: http://www.ices.dk/pubs/Miscellaneous/ICESCodeofPractice.pdf) may be summarised to the following points:

a) identify stock of interest (cultured or wild) in its current location;
b) evaluate stock health/disease history;
c) take and test samples for SVCV, pests and general health/disease status;
d) import and quarantine in a secure facility a founder (F-0) population;
e) produce F-1 generation from the F-0 stock in quarantine;
f) culture F-1 stock and at critical times in its development (life cycle) sample and test for SVCV and perform general examinations for pests and general health/disease status;
g) if SVCV is not detected, pests are not present, and the general health/disease status of the stock is considered to meet the basic biosecurity conditions of the importing country, zone or compartment, the F-1 stock may be defined as SVC free or specific pathogen free (SPF) for SVCV;
h) release SPF F-1 stock from quarantine for aquaculture or stocking purposes in the country, zone or compartment.

4. With respect to point 3e), quarantine conditions should be conducive to multiplication of the pathogen and eventually to clinical expression. If quarantine conditions are not suitable for pathogen multiplication and development, the recommended diagnostic approach might not be sensitive enough to detect low infection level.

This Article does not apply to aquatic animals referred to in point 1 of Article 10.8.3.

Article 10.8.9.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from spring viraemia of carp

When importing, for processing for human consumption, aquatic animals or aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 10.8.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from SVC, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, require that:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in quarantine or containment facilities until processing into one of the products referred to in point 1 of Article 10.8.3., or products described in point 1 of Article 10.8.12., or other products authorised by the Competent Authority; and

2. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of SVCV or is disposed in a manner that prevents contact of waste with susceptible species.

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.
Article 10.8.10.

Importation of live aquatic animals intended for use in animal feed, or for agricultural, industrial or pharmaceutical use from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from spring viraemia of carp

When importing, for use in animal feed, or for agricultural, industrial or pharmaceutical use, live aquatic animals of the species referred to in Article 10.8.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from SVC, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require that:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in quarantine facilities for slaughter and processing to products authorised by the Competent Authority; and
2. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of SVCV.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 10.8.3.

Article 10.8.11.

Importation of aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment declared free from spring viraemia of carp

When importing aquatic animal products of the species referred to in Article 10.8.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from SVC, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country certifying that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 10.8.4. or 10.8.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the commodity is a country, zone or compartment declared free from SVC.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 10.8.3.

Article 10.8.12.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for retail trade for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from spring viraemia of carp

1. Competent Authorities should not require any SVC related conditions, regardless of the SVC 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]) (under study).

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.
2. When importing *aquatic animals* or *aquatic animal products*, other than those referred to in point 1 above, of the species referred to in Article 10.8.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* not declared free from SVC, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should assess the *risk* and apply appropriate *risk mitigation measures*. 
CHAPTER 10.9.

VIRAL HAEMORRHAGIC SEPTICAEMIA

Article 10.9.1.

For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) means infection with VHS virus (VHSV, synonym: Egved virus) of the genus Novirhabdovirus of the family Rhabdoviridae.

Information on methods for diagnosis are provided in the Aquatic Manual.

Article 10.9.2.

Scope

The recommendations in this Chapter apply to: rainbow trout (Oncorhynchus mykiss), brown trout (Salmo trutta), grayling (Thymallus thymallus), white fish (Coregonus spp.), pike (Esox lucius), turbot (Scophthalmus maximus), herring and sprat (Clupea spp.), Pacific salmon (Oncorhynchus spp.), Atlantic cod (Gadus morhua), Pacific cod (G. macrocephalus), haddock (G. aeglefinus) and rockling (Onos mustela). These recommendations also apply to any other susceptible species referred to in the Aquatic Manual when traded internationally.

Article 10.9.3.

Importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for any purpose from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from viral haemorrhagic septicaemia

1. Competent Authorities should not require any RSIVD related conditions, regardless of the RSIVD 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 10.9.2., intended for any purpose and complying with Article 5.3.1.:

   a) commodities treated in a manner that inactivates the disease 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 (under study).

2. When authorising the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products of a species referred to in Article 10.9.2., other than those referred to in point 1 of Article 10.9.3., Competent Authorities should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 10.9.7. to 10.9.12. relevant to the RSIVD status of the exporting country, zone or compartment.

3. When considering the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products from an exporting country, zone or compartment not declared free of RSIVD of a species not covered in Article 10.9.2. but which could reasonably be expected to pose a risk of transmission for RSIVD, Competent Authorities should conduct a risk analysis in accordance with the recommendations in the Aquatic Code. The exporting country should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.
Article 10.9.4.

Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia free country

A country may make a self-declaration of freedom from VHS if it meets the conditions in points 1, 2 or 3 below.

If a country shares a zone with one or more other countries, it can only make a self-declaration of freedom from VHS if all the areas covered by the shared water are declared VHS free countries or zones (see Article 10.9.5).

1. A country where the species referred to in Article 10.9.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may make a self-declaration of freedom from VHS when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 10 years.

OR

2. A country where the last observed occurrence of the disease was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may make a self-declaration of freedom from VHS when:
   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and
   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of VHSV.

OR

3. A country that has made a self-declaration of freedom from VHS but in which the disease is subsequently detected may make a self-declaration of freedom from VHS again when the following conditions have been met:
   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and
   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and
   c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of VHSV; and
   d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.

In the meantime, part of the non-affected area may be declared a free zone provided that such part meets the conditions in point 2 of Article 10.9.5.

Article 10.9.5.

Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia free zone or free compartment

A zone or compartment within the territory of one or more countries not declared free from VHS may be declared free by the Competent Authority(ies) of the country(ies) concerned if the zone or compartment meets the conditions referred to in points 1, 2 or 3 below.
If a zone or compartment extends over more than one country, it can only be declared an VHS free zone or compartment if all the Competent Authorities confirm that the conditions have been met.

1. A zone or compartment where the species referred to in Article 10.9.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may be declared free from VHS when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 10 years.

OR

2. A zone or compartment where the last observed occurrence of the disease was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may be declared free from VHS when:
   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and
   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of VHSV.

OR

3. A zone previously declared free from VHS but in which the disease is detected may be declared free from VHS again when the following conditions have been met:
   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and
   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and
   c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of VHSV; and
   d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.

Article 10.9.6.

Maintenance of free status

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from VHS following the provisions of point 1 of Articles 10.9.4. or 10.9.5. (as relevant) may maintain its status as VHS free provided that basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from VHS following the provisions of point 2 of Articles 10.9.4. or 10.9.5. (as relevant) may discontinue targeted surveillance and maintain its status as VHS free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of VHS, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, exist and basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free zones or compartments in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of VHS, targeted surveillance needs to be continued at a level determined by the Aquatic Animal Health Service on the basis of the likelihood of infection.
Importation of live aquatic animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free from viral haemorrhagic septicaemia

When importing live aquatic animals of the species referred to in Article 10.9.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from VHS, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country certifying that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 10.9.4. or 10.9.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the aquatic animal is a country, zone or compartment declared free from VHS.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 10.9.3.

Importation of live aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from viral haemorrhagic septicaemia

1. When importing, for aquaculture, live aquatic animals of the species referred to in Article 10.9.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from VHS, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, apply the following risk mitigation measures:
   a) [the direct delivery to and lifelong holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for continuous isolation from the local environment; and
   b) the treatment of all effluent and waste material in a manner that ensures inactivation of VHSV] (under study).

2. If the intention of the introduction is the establishment of a new stock, the Code of Practice on the Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) should be considered.

3. For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, the ICES Code (full version see: http://www.ices.dk/indexfla.asp) may be summarised to the following main points:
   a) identify stock of interest (cultured or wild) in its current location;
   b) evaluate stock health/disease history;
   c) take and test samples for VHSV, pests and general health/disease status;
   d) import and quarantine in a secure facility a founder (F-0) population;
   e) produce F-1 generation from the F-0 stock in quarantine;
   f) culture F-1 stock and at critical times in its development (life cycle) sample and test for VHSV and perform general examinations for pests and general health/disease status;
   g) if VHSV is not detected, pests are not present, and the general health/disease status of the stock is considered to meet the basic biosecurity conditions of the importing country, zone or compartment, the F-1 stock may be defined as VHS free or specific pathogen free (SPF) for VHSV;
   h) release SPF F-1 stock from quarantine for aquaculture or stocking purposes in the country, zone or compartment.
4. With respect to point 3e), quarantine conditions should be conducive to multiplication of the pathogen and eventually to clinical expression. If quarantine conditions are not suitable for pathogen multiplication and development, the recommended diagnostic approach might not be sensitive enough to detect low infection level.

This Article does not apply to aquatic animals referred to in point 1 of Article 10.9.3.

Article 10.9.9.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from viral haemorrhagic septicaemia

When importing, for processing for human consumption, aquatic animals or aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 10.9.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from VHS, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, require that:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in quarantine or containment facilities until processing into one of the products referred to in point 1 of Article 10.9.3., or products described in point 1 of Article 10.9.12., or other products authorised by the Competent Authority; and

2. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of VHSV or is disposed in a manner that prevents contact of waste with susceptible species.

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

Article 10.9.10.

Importation of live aquatic animals intended for use in animal feed, or for agricultural, industrial or pharmaceutical use from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from viral haemorrhagic septicaemia

When importing, for use in animal feed, or for agricultural, industrial or pharmaceutical use, live aquatic animals of the species referred to in Article 10.9.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from VHS, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require that:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in quarantine facilities for slaughter and processing to products authorised by the Competent Authority; and

2. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of VHSV.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 10.9.3.
Importation of aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment declared free from viral haemorrhagic septicaemia

When importing aquatic animal products of the species referred to in Article 10.9.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from VHS, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country certifying that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 10.9.4. or 10.9.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the commodity is a country, zone or compartment declared free from VHS.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 10.9.3.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for retail trade for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from viral haemorrhagic septicaemia

1. Competent Authorities should not require any VHS related conditions, regardless of the VHS 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] (under study).

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

2. When importing aquatic animals or aquatic animal products, other than those referred to in point 1 above, of the species referred to in Article 10.9.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from VHS, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and apply appropriate risk mitigation measures.

Importation of disinfected eggs for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from viral haemorrhagic septicaemia

1. When importing disinfected eggs of the species referred to in Article 10.9.2. for aquaculture, from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from ISA, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk associated with at least:
   a) the VHS virus status of the water to be used during the disinfection of the eggs;
   b) the level of infection with VHS virus in broodstock (ovarian fluid and milt); and
   c) the temperature and pH of the water to be used for disinfection.
2. If the Competent Authority of the importing country concludes that the importation is acceptable, it should apply the following risk mitigation measures including:

   a) the eggs should be disinfected prior to importing, according to the methods described in Chapter 1.1.3. of the Aquatic Manual (under study) or those specified by the Competent Authority of the importing country; and

   b) between disinfection and the import, eggs should not come into contact with anything which may affect their health status.

3. When importing disinfected eggs of the species referred to in Article 10.9.2. for aquaculture, from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from VHS, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country attesting that the procedures described in point 2 of Article 10.9.13. have been fulfilled.
SECTION 11.

DISEASES OF MOLLUSCS

CHAPTER 11.1.

INFECTION WITH ABALONE HERPES-LIKE VIRUS

Article 11.1.1.

For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, infection with abalone herpes-like virus means infection with the herpes-like virus known to cause disease in abalone.

Information on methods for diagnosis are provided in the Aquatic Manual.

Article 11.1.2.

Scope

The recommendations in this chapter apply to: Haliotis diversicolor (subspecies aquatilis and supertexta), Haliotis laevigata, H. rubra and hybrids of H. laevigata x H. rubra. These recommendations also apply to any other susceptible species referred to in the Aquatic Manual when traded internationally.

Article 11.1.3.

Importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for any purpose from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from abalone herpes-like virus

1. Competent Authorities should not require any abalone herpes-like virus related conditions, regardless of the abalone herpes-like virus 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 11.1.2. intended for any purpose and complying with Article 5.3.1:
   a) commodity(ties) under study.

2. When authorising the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products of a species referred to in Article 11.1.2., other than those referred to in point 1 of Article 11.1.3., Competent Authorities should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 11.1.7. to 11.1.11. relevant to the abalone herpes-like virus status of the exporting country, zone or compartment.

3. When considering the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products from an exporting country, zone or compartment not declared free of infection with abalone
herpes-like virus of a species not covered in Article 11.1.2. but which could reasonably be expected to pose a risk of transmission for abalone herpes-like virus, Competent Authorities should conduct a risk analysis in accordance with the recommendations in the Aquatic Code. The exporting country should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.

Article 11.1.4.

Abalone herpes-like virus free country

A country may make a self-declaration of freedom from abalone herpes-like virus if it meets the conditions in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a country shares a zone with one or more other countries, it can only make a self-declaration of freedom from abalone herpes-like virus if all the areas covered by the shared water are declared abalone herpes-like virus free zones (see Article 11.1.5).

1. A country where none of the susceptible species referred to in Article 11.1.2. is present may make a self-declaration of freedom from abalone herpes-like virus when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A country where any susceptible species referred to in Article 11.1.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions – in all areas where the species are present – that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may make a self-declaration of freedom from abalone herpes-like virus when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 2 years and infection with abalone herpes-like virus is not known to be established in wild populations.

OR

3. A country where the last known clinical occurrence was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may make a self-declaration of freedom from abalone herpes-like virus when:

a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and

b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of abalone herpes-like virus.

OR

4. A country that has previously made a self-declaration of freedom from abalone herpes-like virus but in which the disease is subsequently detected may again make a self-declaration of freedom from abalone herpes-like virus when the following conditions have been met:

a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and

b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and

b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of abalone herpes-like virus; and
Basic Biosecurity Conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.

In the meantime, part of the non-affected area may be declared a free zone provided that such part meets the conditions in point 3 of Article 11.1.5.

Article 11.1.5.

Abalone herpes-like virus free zone or free compartment

A zone or compartment free from abalone herpes-like virus may be established within the territory of one or more countries of infected or unknown status for infection with abalone herpes-like virus and declared free by the Competent Authority(ies) of the country(ies) concerned if the zone or compartment meets the conditions referred to in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a zone or compartment extends over more than one country, it can only be declared an abalone herpes-like virus free zone or compartment if the conditions outlined below apply to all areas of the zone or compartment.

1. In a country of unknown status for abalone herpes-like virus, a zone or compartment where none of the susceptible species referred to in Article 11.1.2 is present may be declared free from abalone herpes-like virus when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. In a country of unknown status for abalone herpes-like virus, a zone or compartment where any susceptible species referred to in Article 11.1.2 are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions – in all areas where the species are present – that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may be declared free from abalone herpes-like virus when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 2 years and infection with abalone herpes-like virus is not known to be established in wild populations.

OR

3. A zone or compartment where the last known clinical occurrence was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may be declared free from abalone herpes-like virus when:

   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and

   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of abalone herpes-like virus.

OR

4. A zone previously declared free from abalone herpes-like virus but in which the disease is detected may again be declared free from abalone herpes-like virus when the following conditions have been met:

   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and
b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and

c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of abalone herpes-like virus; and

d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.

Article 11.1.6.

Maintenance of free status

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from abalone herpes-like virus following the provisions of points 1 or 2 of Articles 11.1.4. or 11.1.5. (as relevant) may maintain its status as abalone herpes-like virus free provided that basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from abalone herpes-like virus following the provisions of point 3 of Articles 11.1.4. or 11.1.5. (as relevant) may discontinue targeted surveillance and maintain its status as abalone herpes-like virus free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of infection with abalone herpes-like virus, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, exist and basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free zones or compartments in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of infection with abalone herpes-like virus, targeted surveillance needs to be continued at a level determined by the Aquatic Animal Health Service on the basis of the likelihood of infection.

Article 11.1.7.

Importation of live aquatic animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free from abalone herpes-like virus

When importing live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 11.1.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from abalone herpes-like virus, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country.

This certificate should certify, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 11.1.4. or 11.1.5. (as applicable), whether the place of production of the aquatic animal is a country, zone or compartment declared free from abalone herpes-like virus.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 11.1.3.
Article 11.1.8.

Importation of live aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from abalone herpes-like virus

1. When importing, for aquaculture, live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 11.1.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from abalone herpes-like virus, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, apply the following risk mitigation measures:

   a) the direct delivery to and lifelong holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for continuous isolation from the local environment; and

   b) the treatment of all effluent and waste materials in a manner that ensures inactivation of abalone herpes-like virus.

2. If the intention of the introduction is the establishment of a new stock, relevant aspects of the Code of Practice on the Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) should be considered.

3. For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, relevant aspects of the ICES Code (full version see: http://www.ices.dk/pubs/Miscellaneous/ICESCodeofPractice.pdf) may be summarised to the following points:

   a) identify stock of interest (cultured or wild) in its current location;

   b) evaluate stock health/disease history;

   c) take and test samples for abalone herpes-like virus, pests and general health/disease status;

   d) import and quarantine in a secure facility a founder (F-0) population;

   e) produce F-1 generation from the F-0 stock in quarantine;

   f) culture F-1 stock and at critical times in its development (life cycle) sample and test for abalone herpes-like virus and perform general examinations for pests and general health/disease status;

   g) if abalone herpes-like virus is not detected, pests are not present, and the general health/disease status of the stock is considered to meet the basic biosecurity conditions of the importing country, zone or compartment, the F-1 stock may be defined as free of infection with abalone herpes-like virus or specific pathogen free (SPF) for abalone herpes-like virus;

   h) release SPF F-1 stock from quarantine for aquaculture or stocking purposes in the country, zone or compartment.

4. With respect to point 3e), quarantine conditions should be conducive to multiplication of the pathogen and eventually to clinical expression. If quarantine conditions are not suitable for pathogen multiplication and development, the recommended diagnostic approach might not be sensitive enough to detect low infection level.

This Article does not apply to aquatic animals listed in point 1 of Article 11.1.3.
Article 11.1.9.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from abalone herpes-like virus

When importing, for processing for human consumption, aquatic animals or aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 11.1.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from abalone herpes-like virus, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, require that:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in quarantine or containment facilities until processing into one of the products referred to in point 1 of Article 11.1.3., or products described in point 1 of Article 11.1.11., or other products authorised by the Competent Authority; and

2. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of abalone herpes-like virus or is disposed in a manner that prevents contact of waste with susceptible species.

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

Article 11.1.10.

Importation of aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment declared free from abalone herpes-like virus

When importing aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 11.1.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from abalone herpes-like virus, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require that the consignment be accompanied by an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country.

This certificate should certify, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 11.1.4. or 11.1.5. (as applicable), whether or not the place of production of the consignment is a country, zone or compartment declared free from abalone herpes-like virus.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities listed in point 1 of Article 11.1.3.

Article 11.1.11.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for retail trade for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from abalone herpes-like virus

1. Competent Authorities should not require any abalone herpes-like virus related conditions, regardless of the abalone herpes-like virus 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) [commodity(ties)] under study.
For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

2. When importing aquatic animals or aquatic animal products, other than those referred to in point 1 above, of the species referred to in Article 11.1.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from abalone herpes-like virus, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and apply appropriate risk mitigation measures.
CHAPTER 11.2.

INFECTION WITH BONAMIA EXITIOSA

Article 11.2.1.

For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, infection with Bonamia exitiosa means infection only with B. exitiosa.

Information on methods for diagnosis are provided in the Aquatic Manual.

Article 11.2.2.

Scope

The recommendations in this chapter apply to: Australian mud oyster (Ostrea angasi) and Chilean flat oyster (O. chilensis). These recommendations also apply to any other susceptible species referred to in the Aquatic Manual when traded internationally.

Article 11.2.3.

Importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for any purpose from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from B. exitiosa

1. Competent Authorities should not require any B. exitiosa related conditions, regardless of the B. exitiosa 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 11.2.2. intended for any purpose and complying with Article 5.3.1.:

   a) [commodities treated in a manner that inactivates the pathogenic agent e.g. canned or pasteurised products] (under study).

2. When authorising the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products of a species referred to in Article 11.2.2., other than those referred to in point 1 of Article 11.2.3., Competent Authorities should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 11.2.7. to 11.2.11. relevant to the B. exitiosa status of the exporting country, zone or compartment.

3. When considering the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products from an exporting country, zone or compartment not declared free of B. exitiosa of a species not covered in Article 11.2.2. but which could reasonably be expected to pose a risk of transmission for B. exitiosa, Competent Authorities should conduct a risk analysis in accordance with the recommendations in the Aquatic Code. The exporting country should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.
Article 11.2.4.

B. exitiosa free country

A country may make a self-declaration of freedom from B. exitiosa if it meets the conditions in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a country shares a zone with one or more other countries, it can only make a self-declaration of freedom from B. exitiosa if all the areas covered by the shared water are declared B. exitiosa free zones (see Article 11.2.5).

1. A country where none of the susceptible species referred to in Article 11.2.2. is present may make a self-declaration of freedom from B. exitiosa when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A country where any susceptible species referred to in Article 11.2.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions – in all areas where the species are present – that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may make a self-declaration of freedom from B. exitiosa when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 2 years and infection with B. exitiosa is not known to be established in wild populations.

OR

3. A country where the last known clinical occurrence was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may make a self-declaration of freedom from B. exitiosa when:
   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and
   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of B. exitiosa.

OR

4. A country that has previously made a self-declaration of freedom from B. exitiosa but in which the disease is subsequently detected may make a self-declaration of freedom from B. exitiosa again when the following conditions have been met:
   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and
   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and
   c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of B. exitiosa; and
   d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.

In the meantime, part of the non-affected area may be declared a free zone provided that such part meets the conditions in point 3 of Article 11.2.5.
Article 11.2.5.

**B. exitiosa** free zone or free compartment

A zone or compartment free from *B. exitiosa* may be established within the territory of one or more countries of infected or unknown status for infection with *B. exitiosa* and declared free by the Competent Authority(ies) of the country(ies) concerned if the zone or compartment meets the conditions referred to in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a zone or compartment extends over more than one country, it can only be declared a *B. exitiosa* free zone or compartment if the conditions outlined below apply to all areas of the zone or compartment.

1. In a country of unknown status for *B. exitiosa*, a zone or compartment where none of the susceptible species referred to in Article 11.2.2. is present may be declared free from *B. exitiosa* when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. In a country of unknown status for *B. exitiosa*, a zone or compartment where any susceptible species referred to in Article 11.2.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions – in all areas where the species are present – that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the *Aquatic Manual*, may be declared free from *B. exitiosa* when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 2 years and infection with *B. exitiosa* is not known to be established in wild populations.

OR

3. A zone or compartment where the last known clinical occurrence was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the *Aquatic Manual*) may be declared free from *B. exitiosa* when:
   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and
   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the *Aquatic Code*, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of *B. exitiosa*.

OR

4. A zone previously declared free from *B. exitiosa* but in which the disease is detected may again be declared free from *B. exitiosa* when the following conditions have been met:
   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and
   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see *Aquatic Manual*) have been completed; and
   c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the *Aquatic Code*, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of *B. exitiosa*; and
   d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.
Article 11.2.6.

Maintenance of free status

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from *B. exitiosa* following the provisions of points 1 or 2 of Articles 11.2.4. or 11.2.5. (as relevant) may maintain its status as *B. exitiosa* free provided that basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from *B. exitiosa* following the provisions of point 3 of Articles 11.2.4. or 11.2.5. (as relevant) may discontinue targeted surveillance and maintain its status as *B. exitiosa* free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of infection with *B. exitiosa*, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, exist and basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free zones or compartments in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of infection with *B. exitiosa*, targeted surveillance needs to be continued at a level determined by the Aquatic Animal Health Service on the basis of the likelihood of infection.

Article 11.2.7.

Importation of live aquatic animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free from *B. exitiosa*

When importing live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 11.2.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from *B. exitiosa*, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country.

This certificate must certify, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 11.2.4. or 11.2.5. (as applicable), whether the place of production of the aquatic animal is a country, zone or compartment declared free from *B. exitiosa*.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 11.2.3.

Article 11.2.8.

Importation of live aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *B. exitiosa*

1. When importing, for aquaculture, live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 11.2.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *B. exitiosa*, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, apply the following risk mitigation measures:
   a) the direct delivery to and lifelong holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for continuous isolation from the local environment; and
   b) the treatment of all effluent and waste material in a manner that ensures inactivation of *B. exitiosa*.
2. If the intention of the introduction is the establishment of a new stock, relevant aspects of the Code of Practice on the Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) should be considered.

3. For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, relevant aspects of the ICES Code (full version see: http://www.ices.dk/pubs/Miscellaneous/ICESCodeofPractice.pdf) may be summarised to the following points:

   a) identify stock of interest (cultured or wild) in its current location;
   b) evaluate stock health/disease history;
   c) take and test samples for B. exitiosa, pests and general health/disease status;
   d) import and quarantine in a secure facility a founder (F-0) population;
   e) produce F-1 generation from the F-0 stock in quarantine;
   f) culture F-1 stock and at critical times in its development (life cycle) sample and test for B. exitiosa and perform general examinations for pests and general health/disease status;
   g) if B. exitiosa is not detected, pests are not present, and the general health/disease status of the stock is considered to meet the basic biosecurity conditions of the importing country, zone or compartment, the F-1 stock may be defined as free of infection with B. exitiosa or specific pathogen free (SPF) for B. exitiosa;
   h) release SPF F-1 stock from quarantine for aquaculture or stocking purposes in the country, zone or compartment.

4. With respect to point 3e), quarantine conditions should be conducive to multiplication of the pathogen and eventually to clinical expression. If quarantine conditions are not suitable for pathogen multiplication and development, the recommended diagnostic approach might not be sensitive enough to detect low infection level.

This Article does not apply to aquatic animals referred to in point 1 of Article 11.2.3.

Article 11.2.9.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from B. exitiosa

When importing, for processing for human consumption, aquatic animals or aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 11.2.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from B. exitiosa, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, require that:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in quarantine or containment facilities until processing into one of the products referred to in point 1 of Article 11.2.3., or products described in point 1 of Article 11.2.11., or other products authorised by the Competent Authority; and

2. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of B. exitiosa or is disposed in a manner that prevents contact of waste with susceptible species.

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.
Article 11.2.10.

Importation of aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment declared free from B. exitiosa

When importing aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 11.2.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from B. exitiosa, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require that the consignment be accompanied by an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country.

This certificate must certify, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 11.2.4. or 11.2.5. (as applicable), whether or not the place of production of the consignment is a country, zone or compartment declared free from B. exitiosa.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 11.2.3.

Article 11.2.11.

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

1. Competent Authorities should not require any B. exitiosa related conditions, regardless of the B. exitiosa 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) [off the shell (chilled or frozen);]

   b) half-shell (chilled) (under study).

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

2. When importing aquatic animals or aquatic animal products, other than those referred to in point 1 above, of the species referred to in Article 11.2.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from B. exitiosa, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and apply appropriate risk mitigation measures.
CHAPTER 11.3.

INFECTION WITH BONAMIA OSTREAE

Article 11.3.1.

For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, infection with Bonamia ostreae means infection only with B. ostreae.

Information on methods for diagnosis are provided in the Aquatic Manual.

Article 11.3.2.

Scope

The recommendations in this chapter apply to: European flat oyster (Ostrea edulis), Australian mud oyster (O. angasi), Argentinean flat oyster (O. puelchana), Chilean flat oyster (O. chilensis), Asiatic oyster (O. denselamellata) and Suminoe oyster (Crasostrea ariakensis). These recommendations also apply to any other susceptible species referred to in the Aquatic Manual when traded internationally.

Article 11.3.3.

Importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for any purpose 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 aquatic animals and aquatic animal products from the species referred to in Article 11.3.2. intended for any purpose and complying with Article 5.3.1.:

   a) frozen oyster meat;
   
   b) frozen half-shell oysters.

2. When authorising the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products of a species referred to in Article 11.3.2., other than those referred to in point 1 of Article 11.3.3., Competent Authorities should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 11.3.7. to 11.3.11. relevant to the B. ostreae status of the exporting country, zone or compartment.

3. When considering the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products from an exporting country, zone or compartment not declared free of B. ostreae of a species not covered in Article 11.3.2. but which could reasonably be expected to pose a risk of transmission for B. ostreae, Competent Authorities should conduct a risk analysis in accordance with the recommendations in the Aquatic Code. The exporting country should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.
Article 11.3.4.

**B. ostreae free country**

A country may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *B. ostreae* if it meets the conditions in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a country shares a *zone* with one or more other countries, it can only make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *B. ostreae* if all the areas covered by the shared water are declared *B. ostreae free zones* (see Article 11.3.5).

1. A country where none of the *susceptible species* referred to in Article 11.3.2. is present may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *B. ostreae* when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A country where any *susceptible species* referred to in Article 11.3.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the *disease* for at least the past 10 years despite conditions – in all areas where the species are present – that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the *Aquatic Manual*, may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *B. ostreae* when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 2 years and infection with *B. ostreae* is not known to be established in wild populations.

OR

3. A country where the last known clinical occurrence was within the past 10 years or where the *infection status prior to targeted surveillance* was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the *Aquatic Manual*) may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *B. ostreae* when:

   a) *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and

   b) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the *Aquatic Code*, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of *B. ostreae*.

OR

4. A country that has previously made a *self-declaration of freedom* from *B. ostreae* but in which the *disease* is subsequently detected may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *B. ostreae* again when the following conditions have been met:

   a) on detection of the *disease*, the affected area was declared an *infected zone* and a *protection zone* was established; and

   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the *infected zone* by means that minimise the *risk of further spread of the disease*, and the appropriate *disinfection procedures* (see *Aquatic Manual*) have been completed; and

   c) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the *Aquatic Code*, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of *B. ostreae*; and

   d) previously existing *basic biosecurity conditions* have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.

In the meantime, part of the non-affected area may be declared a free *zone* provided that such part meets the conditions in point 3 of Article 11.3.5.
B. ostreae free zone or free compartment

A zone or compartment free from B. ostreae may be established within the territory of one or more countries of infected or unknown status for infection with B. ostreae and declared free by the Competent Authority(ies) of the country(ies) concerned if the zone or compartment meets the conditions referred to in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a zone or compartment extends over more than one country, it can only be declared a B. ostreae free zone or compartment if the conditions outlined below apply to all areas of the zone or compartment.

1. In a country of unknown status for B. ostreae, a zone or compartment where none of the susceptible species referred to in Article 11.3.2. is present may be declared free from B. ostreae when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. In a country of unknown status for B. ostreae, a zone or compartment where any susceptible species referred to in Article 11.3.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions – in all areas where the species are present – that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may be declared free from B. ostreae when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 2 years and infection with B. ostreae is not known to be established in wild populations.

OR

3. A zone or compartment where the last known clinical occurrence was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may be declared free from B. ostreae when:

   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and

   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of B. ostreae.

OR

4. A zone previously declared free from B. ostreae but in which the disease is detected may again be declared free from B. ostreae when the following conditions have been met:

   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and

   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and

   c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of B. ostreae; and

   d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.
Article 11.3.6.

Maintenance of free status

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from *B. ostreae* following the provisions of points 1 or 2 of Articles 11.3.4. or 11.3.5. (as relevant) may maintain its status as *B. ostreae* free provided that basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from *B. ostreae* following the provisions of point 3 of Articles 11.3.4. or 11.3.5. (as relevant) may discontinue targeted surveillance and maintain its status as *B. ostreae* free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of infection with *B. ostreae*, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, exist and basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free zones or compartments in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of infection with *B. ostreae*, targeted surveillance needs to be continued at a level determined by the Aquatic Animal Health Service on the basis of the likelihood of infection.

Article 11.3.7.

Importation of live aquatic animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free from *B. ostreae*

When importing live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 11.3.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from *B. ostreae*, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country.

This certificate must certify, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 11.3.4. or 11.3.5. (as applicable), whether the place of production of the aquatic animal is a country, zone or compartment declared free from *B. ostreae*.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 11.3.3.

Article 11.3.8.

Importation of live aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *B. ostreae*

1. When importing, for aquaculture, live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 11.3.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *B. ostreae*, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, apply the following risk mitigation measures:
   a) the direct delivery to and lifelong holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for continuous isolation from the local environment; and
   b) the treatment of all effluent and waste material in a manner that ensures inactivation of *B. ostreae*. 
2. If the intention of the introduction is the establishment of a new stock, relevant aspects of the Code of Practice on the Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) should be considered.

3. For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, relevant aspects of the ICES Code (full version see: http://www.ices.dk/pubs/Miscellaneous/ICESCodeofPractice.pdf) may be summarised to the following points:
   
a) identify stock of interest (cultured or wild) in its current location;
   
b) evaluate stock health/disease history;
   
c) take and test samples for B. ostraeae, pests and general health/disease status;
   
d) import and quarantine in a secure facility a founder (F-0) population;
   
e) produce F-1 generation from the F-0 stock in quarantine;
   
f) culture F-1 stock and at critical times in its development (life cycle) sample and test for B. ostraeae and perform general examinations for pests and general health/disease status;
   
g) if B. ostraeae is not detected, pests are not present, and the general health/disease status of the stock is considered to meet the basic biosecurity conditions of the importing country, zone or compartment, the F-1 stock may be defined as free of infection with B. ostraeae or specific pathogen free (SPF) for B. ostraeae;
   
h) release SPF F-1 stock from quarantine for aquaculture or stocking purposes in the country, zone or compartment.
   
4. With respect to point 3e), quarantine conditions should be conducive to multiplication of the pathogen and eventually to clinical expression. If quarantine conditions are not suitable for pathogen multiplication and development, the recommended diagnostic approach might not be sensitive enough to detect low infection level.

This Article does not apply to aquatic animals referred to in point 1 of Article 11.3.3.

Article 11.3.9.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from B. ostraeae

When importing, for processing for human consumption, aquatic animals or aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 11.3.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from B. ostraeae, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, require that:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in quarantine or containment facilities until processing into one of the products referred to in point 1 of Article 11.3.3., or products described in point 1 of Article 11.3.11., or other products authorised by the Competent Authority; and

2. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of B. ostraeae or is disposed in a manner that prevents contact of waste with susceptible species.

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.
Article 11.3.10.

Importation of aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment declared free from B. ostrea

When importing aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 11.3.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from B. ostrea, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require that the consignment be accompanied by an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country.

This certificate must certify, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 11.3.4. or 11.3.5. (as applicable), whether or not the place of production of the consignment is a country, zone or compartment declared free from B. ostrea.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 11.3.3.

Article 11.3.11.

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

1. Competent Authorities should not require any B. ostrea related conditions, regardless of the B. ostrea 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) chilled oyster meat;
   b) chilled half-shell oysters.

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

2. When importing aquatic animals or aquatic animal products, other than those referred to in point 1 above, of the species referred to in Article 11.3.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from B. ostrea, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and apply appropriate risk mitigation measures.
CHAPTER 11.4.

INFECTION WITH MARTEILIA REFRINGENS

Article 11.4.1.

For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, infection with Marteilia refringens means infection only with *M. refringens*.

Information on methods for diagnosis are provided in the Aquatic Manual.

Article 11.4.2.

Scope

The recommendations in this chapter apply to: European flat oyster (*Ostrea edulis*), Australian mud oyster (*O. angasi*), Argentinean oyster (*O. puelchana*), Chilean flat oyster (*O. chilenis*), blue mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) and Mediterranean mussel (*M. galloprovincialis*). These recommendations also apply to any other susceptible species referred to in the Aquatic Manual when traded internationally.

Article 11.4.3.

Importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for any purpose from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *M. refringens*

1. **Competent Authorities** should not require any *M. refringens* related conditions, regardless of the *M. refringens* 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 11.4.2. intended for any purpose and complying with Article 5.3.1.:

   a) [commodities treated in a manner that inactivates the pathogenic agent e.g. canned or pasteurised products] (under study).

2. When authorising the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products of a species referred to in Article 11.4.2., other than those referred to in point 1 of Article 11.4.3., **Competent Authorities** should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 11.4.7. to 11.4.11. relevant to the *M. refringens* status of the exporting country, zone or compartment.

3. When considering the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products from an exporting country, zone or compartment not declared free of *M. refringens* of a species not covered in Article 11.4.2. but which could reasonably be expected to pose a risk of transmission for *M. refringens*, **Competent Authorities** should conduct a risk analysis in accordance with the recommendations in the Aquatic Code. The exporting country should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.
Article 11.4.4.

*M. refringens* free country

A country may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *M. refringens* if it meets the conditions in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a country shares a *zone* with one or more other countries, it can only make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *M. refringens* if all the areas covered by the shared water are declared *M. refringens* free *zones* (see Article 11.4.5.).

1. A country where none of the *susceptible species* referred to in Article 11.4.2. is present may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *M. refringens* when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 3 years.

OR

2. A country where any *susceptible species* referred to in Article 11.4.2. is present but there has been no observed occurrence of the *disease* for at least the past 10 years despite conditions – in all areas where the species are present – that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the *Aquatic Manual*, may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *M. refringens* when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 3 years and infection with *M. refringens* is not known to be established in wild populations.

OR

3. A country where the last known clinical occurrence was within the past 10 years or where the *infection* status prior to *targeted surveillance* was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the *Aquatic Manual*) may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *M. refringens* when:

   a) *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met for at least the past 3 years; and

   b) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the *Aquatic Code*, has been in place for at least the last 2 of the past 3 years without detection of *M. refringens*.

OR

4. A country that has previously made a *self-declaration of freedom* from *M. refringens* but in which the *disease* is subsequently detected may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *M. refringens* again when the following conditions have been met:

   a) on detection of the *disease*, the affected area was declared an *infected zone* and a *protection zone* was established; and

   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the *infected zone* by means that minimise the *risk* of further spread of the *disease*, and the appropriate *disinfection* procedures (see *Aquatic Manual*) have been completed; and

   c) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the *Aquatic Code*, has been in place for at least the last 2 of the past 3 years without detection of *M. refringens* and

   d) previously existing *basic biosecurity conditions* have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 3 years.

In the meantime, part of the non-affected area may be declared a free *zone* provided that such part meets the conditions in point 3 of Article 11.4.5.
**Article 11.4.5.**

*M. refringens* free zone or free compartment

A *zone* or *compartment* free from *M. refringens* may be established within the *territory* of one or more countries of infected or unknown status for infection with *M. refringens* and declared free by the Competent Authority(ies) of the country(ies) concerned if the *zone* or *compartment* meets the conditions referred to in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a *zone* or *compartment* extends over more than one country, it can only be declared a *M. refringens* free *zone* or *compartment* if the conditions outlined below apply to all areas of the *zone* or *compartment*.

1. In a country of unknown status for *M. refringens*, a *zone* or *compartment* where none of the *susceptible species* referred to in Article 11.4.2. is present may be declared free from *M. refringens* when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met in the *zone* or *compartment* for at least the past 3 years.

OR

2. In a country of unknown status for *M. refringens*, a *zone* or *compartment* where any *susceptible species* referred to in Article 11.4.2. is present but there has been no observed occurrence of the *disease* for at least the past 10 years despite conditions – in all areas where the species are present – that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the *Aquatic Manual*, may be declared free from *M. refringens* when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met in the *zone* or *compartment* for at least the past 3 years and *infection* with *M. refringens* is not known to be established in wild populations.

OR

3. A *zone* or *compartment* where the last known clinical occurrence was within the past 10 years or where the *infection* status prior to *targeted surveillance* was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the *Aquatic Manual*) may be declared free from *M. refringens* when:
   a) *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met for at least the past 3 years; and
   b) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the *Aquatic Code*, has been in place for at least the last 2 of the past 3 years without detection of *M. refringens*.

OR

4. A *zone* previously declared free from *M. refringens* but in which the *disease* is detected may again be declared free from *M. refringens* when the following conditions have been met:
   a) on detection of the *disease*, the affected area was declared an *infected zone* and a *protection zone* was established; and
   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the *infected zone* by means that minimise the *risk* of further spread of the *disease*, and the appropriate *disinfection* procedures (see *Aquatic Manual*) have been completed; and
   c) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the *Aquatic Code*, has been in place for at least the last 2 of the past 3 years without detection of *M. refringens*; and
   d) previously existing *basic biosecurity conditions* have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 3 years.
Article 11.4.6.

Maintenance of free status

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from *M. refringens* following the provisions of points 1 or 2 of Articles 11.4.4. or 11.4.5. (as relevant) may maintain its status as *M. refringens* free provided that basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from *M. refringens* following the provisions of point 3 of Articles 11.4.4. or 11.4.5. (as relevant) may discontinue targeted surveillance and maintain its status as *M. refringens* free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of infection with *M. refringens*, as described in the corresponding chapter of the *Aquatic Manual*, exist and basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free zones or compartments in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of infection with *M. refringens*, targeted surveillance needs to be continued at a level determined by the *Aquatic Animal Health Service* on the basis of the likelihood of infection.

Article 11.4.7.

Importation of live aquatic animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free from *M. refringens*

When importing live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 11.4.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from *M. refringens*, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country.

This certificate must certify, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 11.4.4. or 11.4.5. (as applicable), whether the place of production of the aquatic animal is a country, zone or compartment declared free from *M. refringens*.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 11.4.3.

Article 11.4.8.

Importation of live aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *M. refringens*

1. When importing, for aquaculture, live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 11.4.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *M. refringens*, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, apply the following risk mitigation measures:
   a) the direct delivery to and lifelong holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for continuous isolation from the local environment; and
   b) the treatment of all effluent and waste material in a manner that ensures inactivation of *M. refringens*.
2. If the intention of the introduction is the establishment of a new stock, relevant aspects of the Code of Practice on the Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) should be considered.

3. For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, relevant aspects of the ICES Code (full version see: http://www.ices.dk/pubs/Miscellaneous/ICESCodeofPractice.pdf) may be summarised to the following points:
   a) identify stock of interest (cultured or wild) in its current location;
   b) evaluate stock health/disease history;
   c) take and test samples for *M. refringens*, pests and general health/disease status;
   d) import and quarantine in a secure facility a founder (F-0) population;
   e) produce F-1 generation from the F-0 stock in quarantine;
   f) culture F-1 stock and at critical times in its development (life cycle) sample and test for *M. refringens* and perform general examinations for pests and general health/disease status;
   g) if *M. refringens* is not detected, pests are not present, and the general health/disease status of the stock is considered to meet the basic biosecurity conditions of the importing country, zone or compartment, the F-1 stock may be defined as free of infection with *M. refringens* or specific pathogen free (SPF) for *M. refringens*;
   h) release SPF F-1 stock from quarantine for aquaculture or stocking purposes in the country, zone or compartment.

4. With respect to point 3e), quarantine conditions should be conducive to multiplication of the pathogen and eventually to clinical expression. If quarantine conditions are not suitable for pathogen multiplication and development, the recommended diagnostic approach might not be sensitive enough to detect low infection level.

This Article does not apply to aquatic animals referred to in point 1 of Article 11.4.3.

**Article 11.4.9.**

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *M. refringens*

When importing, for processing for human consumption, aquatic animals or aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 11.4.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *M. refringens*, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, require that:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in quarantine or containment facilities until processing into one of the products referred to in point 1 of Article 11.4.3., or products described in point 1 of Article 11.4.11., or other products authorised by the Competent Authority; and
2. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of *M. refringens* or is disposed in a manner that prevents contact of waste with susceptible species.

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.
Article 11.4.10.

Importation of aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment declared free from *M. refringens*

When importing *aquatic animal products* of species referred to in Article 11.4.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from *M. refringens*, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require that the consignment be accompanied by an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country.

This *certificate* must certify, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 11.4.4. or 11.4.5. (as applicable), whether or not the place of production of the consignment is a country, zone or compartment declared free from *M. refringens*.

The *certificate* should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 11.4.3.

Article 11.4.11.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for retail trade for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *M. refringens*

1. *Competent Authorities* should not require any *M. refringens* related conditions, regardless of the *M. refringens* 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) [off the shell (chilled or frozen)];

   b) half-shell (chilled) (under study).

For these *commodities* Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the *risks* associated with the *commodity* being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

2. When importing *aquatic animals* or *aquatic animal products*, other than those referred to in point 1 above, of the species referred to in Article 11.4.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *M. refringens*, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the *risk* and apply appropriate *risk mitigation* measures.
CHAPTER 11.5.

INFECTION WITH PERKINSUS MARINUS

Article 11.5.1.

For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, infection with Perkinsus marinus means infection only with P. marinus.

Information on methods for diagnosis are provided in the Aquatic Manual.

Article 11.5.2.

Scope

The recommendations in this chapter apply to: Eastern oyster (Crassostrea virginica), Pacific oyster (C. gigas), Suminoe oyster (C. ariakensis), soft shell clam (Mya arenaria), Baltic clam (Macoma balthica) and hard shell clam (Mercenaria mercenaria). These recommendations also apply to any other susceptible species referred to in the Aquatic Manual when traded internationally.

Article 11.5.3.

Importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for any purpose from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from P. marinus

1. Competent Authorities should not require any P. marinus related conditions, regardless of the P. marinus 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 11.5.2. intended for any purpose and complying with Article 5.3.1.:

   a) [commercially sterile canned or other heat treated products] (under study).

2. When authorising the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products of a species referred to in Article 11.5.2., other than those referred to in point 1 of Article 11.5.3., Competent Authorities should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 11.5.7. to 11.5.11. relevant to the P. marinus status of the exporting country, zone or compartment.

3. When considering the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products from an exporting country, zone or compartment not declared free of P. marinus of a species not covered in Article 11.5.2. but which could reasonably be expected to pose a risk of transmission for P. marinus, Competent Authorities should conduct a risk analysis in accordance with the recommendations in the Aquatic Code. The exporting country should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.
Article 11.5.4.

**P. marinus** free country

A country may make a self-declaration of freedom from *P. marinus* if it meets the conditions in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a country shares a zone with one or more other countries, it can only make a self-declaration of freedom from *P. marinus* if all the areas covered by the shared water are declared *P. marinus* free zones (see Article 11.5.5.).

1. A country where none of the susceptible species referred to in Article 11.5.2. is present may make a self-declaration of freedom from *P. marinus* when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 3 years.

OR

2. A country where any susceptible species referred to in Article 11.5.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions – in all areas where the species are present – that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may make a self-declaration of freedom from *P. marinus* when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 3 years and infection with *P. marinus* is not known to be established in wild populations.

OR

3. A country where the last known clinical occurrence was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may make a self-declaration of freedom from *P. marinus* when:

   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 3 years; and
   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the past 3 years without detection of *P. marinus*.

OR

4. A country that has previously made a self-declaration of freedom from *P. marinus* but in which the disease is subsequently detected may not make a self-declaration of freedom from *P. marinus* again until the following conditions have been met:

   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and
   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and
   c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the past 3 years without detection of *P. marinus*; and
   d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 3 years.

In the meantime, part of the non-affected area may be declared a free zone provided that such part meets the conditions in point 3 of Article 11.5.5.
Article 11.5.5.

**P. marinus** free zone or free compartment

A zone or compartment free from *P. marinus* may be established within the territory of one or more countries of infected or unknown status for infection with *P. marinus* and declared free by the Competent Authority(ies) of the country(ies) concerned if the zone or compartment meets the conditions referred to in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a zone or compartment extends over more than one country, it can only be declared a *P. marinus* free zone or compartment if the conditions outlined below apply to all areas of the zone or compartment.

1. In a country of unknown status for *P. marinus*, a zone or compartment where none of the susceptible species referred to in Article 11.5.2. is present may be declared free from *P. marinus* when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 3 years.

OR

2. In a country of unknown status for *P. marinus*, a zone or compartment where any susceptible species referred to in Article 11.5.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions — in all areas where the species are present — that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the *Aquatic Manual*, may be declared free from *P. marinus* when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 3 years and infection with *P. marinus* is not known to be established in wild populations.

OR

3. A zone or compartment where the last known clinical occurrence was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the *Aquatic Manual*) may be declared free from *P. marinus* when:
   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 3 years; and
   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the *Aquatic Code*, has been in place for at least the past 3 years without detection of *P. marinus*.

OR

4. A zone previously declared free from *P. marinus* but in which the disease is detected may not be declared free from *P. marinus* again until the following conditions have been met:
   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and
   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see *Aquatic Manual*) have been completed; and
   c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the *Aquatic Code*, has been in place for at least the past 3 years without detection of *P. marinus*; and
   d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 3 years.
Article 11.5.6.

Maintenance of free status

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from *P. marinus* following the provisions of points 1 or 2 of Articles 11.5.4. or 11.5.5. (as relevant) may maintain its status as *P. marinus* free provided that basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from *P. marinus* following the provisions of point 3 of Articles 11.5.4. or 11.5.5. (as relevant) may discontinue targeted surveillance and maintain its status as *P. marinus* free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of infection with *P. marinus*, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, exist and basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free zones or compartments in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of infection with *P. marinus*, targeted surveillance needs to be continued at a level determined by the Aquatic Animal Health Service on the basis of the likelihood of infection.

Article 11.5.7.

Importation of live aquatic animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free from *P. marinus*

When importing live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 11.5.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from *P. marinus*, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country.

This certificate must certify, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 11.5.4. or 11.5.5. (as applicable), whether the place of production of the aquatic animal is a country, zone or compartment declared free from *P. marinus*.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 11.5.3.

Article 11.5.8.

Importation of live aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *P. marinus*

1. When importing, for aquaculture, live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 11.5.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *P. marinus*, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, apply the following risk mitigation measures:
   a) the direct delivery to and lifelong holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for continuous isolation from the local environment; and
   b) the treatment of all effluent and waste material in a manner that ensures inactivation of *P. marinus*.
2. If the intention of the introduction is the establishment of a new stock, relevant aspects of the Code of Practice on the Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) should be considered.

3. For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, relevant aspects of the ICES Code (full version see: http://www.ices.dk/pubs/Miscellaneous/ICESCodeofPractice.pdf) may be summarised to the following points:
   a) identify stock of interest (cultured or wild) in its current location;
   b) evaluate stock health/disease history;
   c) take and test samples for *P. marinus*, pests and general health/disease status;
   d) import and quarantine in a secure facility a founder (F-0) population;
   e) produce F-1 generation from the F-0 stock in quarantine;
   f) culture F-1 stock and at critical times in its development (life cycle) sample and test for *P. marinus* and perform general examinations for pests and general health/disease status;
   g) if *P. marinus* is not detected, pests are not present, and the general health/disease status of the stock is considered to meet the basic biosecurity conditions of the importing country, zone or compartment, the F-1 stock may be defined as free of infection with *P. marinus* or specific pathogen free (SPF) for *P. marinus*;
   h) release SPF F-1 stock from quarantine for aquaculture or stocking purposes in the country, zone or compartment.

4. With respect to point 3e), quarantine conditions should be conducive to multiplication of the pathogen and eventually to clinical expression. If quarantine conditions are not suitable for pathogen multiplication and development, the recommended diagnostic approach might not be sensitive enough to detect low infection level.

This Article does not apply to aquatic animals referred to in point 1 of Article 11.5.3.

Article 11.5.9.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *P. marinus*

When importing, for processing for human consumption, aquatic animals or aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 11.5.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *P. marinus*, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, require that:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in quarantine or containment facilities until processing into one of the products referred to in point 1 of Article 11.5.3., or products described in point 1 of Article 11.5.11., or other products authorised by the Competent Authority; and
2. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of *P. marinus* or is disposed in a manner that prevents contact of waste with susceptible species.

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.
Article 11.5.10.

Importation of aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment declared free from *P. marinus*

When importing *aquatic animal products* of species referred to in Article 11.5.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* declared free from *P. marinus*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require that the consignment be accompanied by an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued by the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* or a *certifying official* approved by the *importing country*.

This *certificate* must certify, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 11.5.4. or 11.5.5. (as applicable), whether or not the place of production of the consignment is a country, *zone* or *compartment* declared free from *P. marinus*.

The *certificate* should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1 of Article 11.5.3.

Article 11.5.11.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for retail trade for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *P. marinus*

1. *Competent Authorities* should not require any *P. marinus* related conditions, regardless of the *P. marinus* 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) [chemically preserved products (e.g. smoked, salted, pickled, marinated);]

   b) non commercially sterile products (e.g. ready prepared meals) that have been heat treated in a manner to ensure the inactivation of the parasite] (under study).

   For these *commodities* Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the *risks* associated with the *commodity* being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

2. When importing *aquatic animals* or *aquatic animal products*, other than those referred to in point 1 above, of the species referred to in Article 11.5.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* not declared free from *P. marinus*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should assess the *risk* and apply appropriate *risk mitigation* measures.


CHAPTER 11.6.  

INFECTION WITH PERKINSUS OLSENI

Article 11.6.1.

For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, infection with *Perkinsus olseni* means infection only with *P. olseni*.

Information on methods for diagnosis are provided in the Aquatic Manual.

Article 11.6.2.

Scope

The recommendations in this chapter apply to: primarily venerid clams (*Austrovenus dutchburyi, Venerupis pullastri, V. aurea, Ruditapes decussatus* and *R. philippinarum*), abalone (*Haliotis rubra, H. laevigata, H. Cyclobates* and *H. scalaris*) and other species (*Anadara trapezia, Barbatia novaeglandiae, Macomona liliana, Paphies australis, Crassostrea gigas* and *C. ariakensis*). These recommendations also apply to any other susceptible species referred to in the Aquatic Manual when traded internationally.

Article 11.6.3.

Importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for any purpose from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *P. olseni*

1. Competent Authorities should not require any *P. olseni* related conditions, regardless of the *P. olseni* 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 11.6.2. intended for any purpose and complying with Article 5.3.1.:
   a) [commercially sterile canned or other heat treated products] (under study).

2. When authorising the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products of a species referred to in Article 11.6.2., other than those referred to in point 1 of Article 11.6.3., Competent Authorities should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 11.6.7. to 11.6.11. relevant to the *P. olseni* status of the exporting country, zone or compartment.

3. When considering the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products from an exporting country, zone or compartment not declared free of *P. olseni* of a species not covered in Article 11.6.2. but which could reasonably be expected to pose a risk of transmission for *P. olseni*, Competent Authorities should conduct a risk analysis in accordance with the recommendations in the Aquatic Code. The exporting country should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.
Article 11.6.4.

**P. olseni** free country

A country may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *P. olseni* if it meets the conditions in points 1, 2 or 3 below.

If a country shares a *zone* with one or more other countries, it can only make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *P. olseni* if all the areas covered by the shared water are declared *P. olseni* free *zones* (see Article 11.6.5).

1. A country where the *susceptible species* referred to in Article 11.6.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the *disease* for at least the past 10 years despite conditions — in all areas where the species are present — that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the *Aquatic Manual*, may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *P. olseni* when:
   a) *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met for at least the past 3 years; and
   b) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the *Aquatic Code*, has been in place for at least the past 3 years without detection of *P. olseni*.

OR

2. A country where the last known clinical occurrence was within the past 10 years or where the *infection* status prior to *targeted surveillance* was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the *Aquatic Manual*) may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *P. olseni* when:
   a) *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met for at least the past 3 years; and
   b) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the *Aquatic Code*, has been in place for at least the past 3 years without detection of *P. olseni*.

OR

3. A country that has previously made a *self-declaration of freedom* from *P. olseni* but in which the *disease* is subsequently detected may not make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *P. olseni* again until the following conditions have been met:
   a) on detection of the *disease*, the affected area was declared an *infected zone* and a *protection zone* was established; and
   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the *infected zone* by means that minimise the *risk* of further spread of the *disease*, and the appropriate *disinfection* procedures (see *Aquatic Manual*) have been completed; and
   c) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the *Aquatic Code*, has been in place for at least the past 3 years without detection of *P. olseni*; and
   d) previously existing *basic biosecurity conditions* have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 3 years.

In the meantime, part of the non-affected area may be declared a free *zone* provided that such part meets the conditions in point 2 of Article 11.6.5.

Article 11.6.5.

**P. olseni** free zone or free compartment

A *zone or compartment* free from *P. olseni* may be established within the *territory* of one or more countries of infected or unknown status for infection with *P. olseni* and declared free by the
Competent Authority(ies) of the country(ies) concerned if the zone or compartment meets the conditions referred to in points 1, 2 or 3 below.

If a zone or compartment extends over more than one country, it can only be declared a P. olseni free zone or compartment if the conditions outlined below apply to all areas of the zone or compartment.

1. In a country of unknown status for P. olseni, a zone or compartment where the susceptible species referred to in Article 11.6.2 are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions – in all areas where the species are present – that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may be declared free from P. olseni when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 3 years and infection with P. olseni is not known to be established in wild populations.

OR

2. A zone or compartment where the last known clinical occurrence was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may be declared free from P. olseni when:
   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 3 years; and
   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the past 3 years without detection of P. olseni.

OR

3. A zone previously declared free from P. olseni but in which the disease is detected may not be declared free from P. olseni again until the following conditions have been met:
   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and
   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and
   c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the past 3 years without detection of P. olseni; and
   d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 3 years.

Article 11.6.6.

Maintenance of free status

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from P. olseni following the provisions of point 1 of Articles 11.6.4. or 11.6.5. (as relevant) may maintain its status as P. olseni free provided that basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from P. olseni following the provisions of point 2 of Articles 11.6.4. or 11.6.5. (as relevant) may discontinue targeted surveillance and maintain its status as P. olseni free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of infection with P. olseni, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, exist and basic biosecurity conditions are continuously maintained.
However, for declared free zones or compartments in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of infection with *P. olseni*, targeted surveillance needs to be continued at a level determined by the Aquatic Animal Health Service on the basis of the likelihood of infection.

**Article 11.6.7.**

**Importation of live aquatic animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free from *P. olseni***

When importing live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 11.6.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from *P. olseni*, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country.

This certificate must certify, on the basis of the procedures described in Article 11.6.4. or 11.6.5. (as applicable), whether the place of production of the aquatic animal is a country, zone or compartment declared free from *P. olseni*.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 11.6.3.

**Article 11.6.8.**

**Importation of live aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *P. olseni***

1. When importing, for aquaculture, live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 11.6.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *P. olseni*, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, apply the following risk mitigation measures:
   a) the direct delivery to and lifelong holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for continuous isolation from the local environment; and
   b) the treatment of all effluent and waste material in a manner that ensures inactivation of *P. olseni*.

2. If the intention of the introduction is the establishment of a new stock, relevant aspects of the Code of Practice on the Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) should be considered.

3. For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, relevant aspects of the ICES Code (full version see: http://www.ices.dk/pubs/Miscellaneous/ICESCodeofPractice.pdf) may be summarised to the following points:
   a) identify stock of interest (cultured or wild) in its current location;
   b) evaluate stock health/disease history;
   c) take and test samples for *P. olseni*, pests and general health/disease status;
   d) import and quarantine in a secure facility a founder (F-0) population;
   e) produce F-1 generation from the F-0 stock in quarantine;
f) culture F-1 stock and at critical times in its development (life cycle) sample and test for *P. olseni* and perform general examinations for pests and general health/disease status;

g) if *P. marinus* is not detected, pests are not present, and the general health/disease status of the stock is considered to meet the basic biosecurity conditions of the importing country, zone or compartment, the F-1 stock may be defined as free of infection with *P. olseni* or specific pathogen free (SPF) for *P. olseni*;

h) release SPF F-1 stock from quarantine for aquaculture or stocking purposes in the country, zone or compartment.

4. With respect to point 3e), quarantine conditions should be conducive to multiplication of the pathogen and eventually to clinical expression. If quarantine conditions are not suitable for pathogen multiplication and development, the recommended diagnostic approach might not be sensitive enough to detect low infection level.

This Article does not apply to aquatic animals referred to in point 1 of Article 11.6.3.

**Article 11.6.9.**

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *P. olseni*

When importing, for processing for human consumption, aquatic animals or aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 11.6.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *P. olseni*, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, require that:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in quarantine or containment facilities until processing into one of the products referred to in point 1 of Article 11.6.3., or products described in point 1 of Article 11.6.11., or other products authorised by the Competent Authority; and

2. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of *P. olseni* or is disposed in a manner that prevents contact of waste with susceptible species.

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

**Article 11.6.10.**

Importation of aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment declared free from *P. olseni*

When importing aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 11.6.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from *P. olseni*, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require that the consignment be accompanied by an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country.

This certificate must certify, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 11.6.4. or 11.6.5. (as applicable), whether or not the place of production of the consignment is a country, zone or compartment declared free from *P. olseni*.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.
This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 11.6.3.

Article 11.6.11.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for retail trade for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *P. olseni*

1. **Competent Authorities** should not require any *P. olseni* related conditions, regardless of the *P. olseni* 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) [chemically preserved products (e.g. smoked, salted, pickled, marinated);

   b) non commercially sterile products (e.g. ready prepared meals) that have been heat treated in a manner to ensure the inactivation of the parasite] (under study).

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

2. When importing aquatic animals or aquatic animal products, other than those referred to in point 1 above, of the species referred to in Article 11.6.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *P. olseni*, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and apply appropriate risk mitigation measures.
CHAPTER 11.7.

INFECTION WITH XENOHALIOTIS CALIFORNIENSIS

Article 11.7.1.

For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, infection with *Xenohaliotis californiensis* means infection only with *X. californiensis*.

Information on methods for diagnosis are provided in the Aquatic Manual.

Article 11.7.2.

Scope

The recommendations in this chapter apply to: black abalone (*Haliotis cracherodii*), white abalone (*H. sorenseni*), red abalone (*H. rufescens*), pink abalone (*H. corrugata*), green abalone (*H. tuberculata* and *H. fulgens*), flat abalone (*H. wallalensis*) and Japanese abalone (*H. discus-hannah*). These recommendations also apply to any other susceptible species referred to in the Aquatic Manual when traded internationally.

Article 11.7.3.

Importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for any purpose from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *X. californiensis*

1. Competent Authorities should not require any *X. californiensis* related conditions, regardless of the *X. californiensis* 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 11.7.2. intended for any purpose and complying with Article 5.3.1:

   a) [commodities treated in a manner that inactivates the disease agent e.g. canned or pasteurised products] (under study).

2. When authorising the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products of a species referred to in Article 11.7.2., other than those referred to in point 1 of Article 11.7.3., Competent Authorities should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 11.7.7. to 11.7.11. relevant to the *X. californiensis* status of the exporting country, zone or compartment.

3. When considering the importation or transit of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products from an exporting country, zone or compartment not declared free of *X. californiensis* of a species not covered in Article 11.7.2. but which could reasonably be expected to pose a risk of transmission for *X. californiensis*, Competent Authorities should conduct a risk analysis in accordance with the recommendations in the Aquatic Code. The exporting country should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.
Article 11.7.4.

**X. californiensis free country**

A country may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *X. californiensis* if it meets the conditions in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a country shares a *zone* with one or more other countries, it can only make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *X. californiensis* if all the areas covered by the shared water are declared *X. californiensis* free *zones* (see Article 11.7.5).

1. A country where none of the *susceptible species* referred to in Article 11.7.2. is present may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *X. californiensis* when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 3 years.

OR

2. A country where any *susceptible species* referred to in Article 11.7.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the *disease* for at least the past 10 years despite conditions – in all areas where the species are present – that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the *Aquatic Manual*, may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *X. californiensis* when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 3 years and infection with *X. californiensis* is not known to be established in wild populations.

OR

3. A country where the last known clinical occurrence was within the past 10 years or where the *infection* status prior to *targeted surveillance* was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the *Aquatic Manual*), may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *X. californiensis* when:
   a) *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met for at least the past 3 years; and
   b) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the *Aquatic Code*, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of *X. californiensis*.

OR

4. A country that has previously made a *self-declaration of freedom* from *X. californiensis* but in which the *disease* is subsequently detected may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *X. californiensis* again when the following conditions have been met:
   a) on detection of the *disease*, the affected area was declared an *infected zone* and a *protection zone* was established; and
   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the *infected zone* by means that minimise the *risk* of further spread of the *disease*, and the appropriate *disinfection* procedures *(see Aquatic Manual)* have been completed; and
   c) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the *Aquatic Code*, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of *X. californiensis*; and
   d) previously existing *basic biosecurity conditions* have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 3 years.

In the meantime, part of the non-affected area may be declared a free *zone* provided that such part meets the conditions in point 3 of Article 11.7.5.
Article 11.7.5.

X. californiensis free zone or free compartment

A zone or compartment free from X. californiensis may be established within the territory of one or more countries of infected or unknown status for infection with X. californiensis and declared free by the Competent Authority(ies) of the country(ies) concerned if the zone or compartment meets the conditions referred to in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a zone or compartment extends over more than one country, it can only be declared a X. californiensis free zone or compartment if the conditions outlined below apply to all areas of the zone or compartment.

1. In a country of unknown status for X. californiensis, a zone or compartment where none of the susceptible species referred to in Article 11.7.2. is present may be declared free from X. californiensis when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 3 years.

OR

2. In a country of unknown status for X. californiensis, a zone or compartment where any susceptible species referred to in Article 11.7.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions – in all areas where the species are present – that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual, may be declared free from X. californiensis when basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met in the zone or compartment for at least the past 3 years and infection with X. californiensis is not known to be established in wild populations.

OR

3. A zone or compartment where the last known clinical occurrence was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to targeted surveillance was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression as described in the corresponding chapter of the Aquatic Manual) may be declared free from X. californiensis when:

   a) basic biosecurity conditions have been continuously met for at least the past 3 years; and

   b) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of X. californiensis.

OR

4. A zone previously declared free from X. californiensis but in which the disease is detected may again be declared free from X. californiensis when the following conditions have been met:

   a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an infected zone and a protection zone was established; and

   b) infected populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate disinfection procedures (see Aquatic Manual) have been completed; and

   c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4. of the Aquatic Code, has been in place for at least the past 2 years without detection of X. californiensis; and

   d) previously existing basic biosecurity conditions have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 3 years.
Article 11.7.6.

Maintenance of free status

A country, \textit{zone} or \textit{compartment} that is declared free from \textit{X. californiensis} following the provisions of points 1 or 2 of Articles 11.7.4. or 11.7.5. (as relevant) may maintain its status as \textit{X. californiensis} free provided that \textit{basic biosecurity conditions} are continuously maintained.

A country, \textit{zone} or \textit{compartment} that is declared free from \textit{X. californiensis} following the provisions of point 3 of Articles 11.7.4. or 11.7.5. (as relevant) may discontinue \textit{targeted surveillance} and maintain its status as \textit{X. californiensis} free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of infection with \textit{X. californiensis}, as described in the corresponding chapter of the \textit{Aquatic Manual}, exist and \textit{basic biosecurity conditions} are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free \textit{zones} or \textit{compartments} in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of infection with \textit{X. californiensis}, \textit{targeted surveillance} needs to be continued at a level determined by the \textit{Aquatic Animal Health Service} on the basis of the likelihood of infection.

Article 11.7.7.

Importation of live aquatic animals from a country, \textit{zone} or \textit{compartment} declared free from \textit{X. californiensis}

When importing live \textit{aquatic animals} of species referred to in Article 11.7.2. from a country, \textit{zone} or \textit{compartment} declared free from \textit{X. californiensis}, the \textit{Competent Authority} of the importing country should require an \textit{international aquatic animal health certificate} issued by the \textit{Competent Authority} of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country.

This \textit{certificate} must certify, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 11.7.4. or 11.7.5. (as applicable), whether the place of production of the \textit{aquatic animal} is a country, \textit{zone} or \textit{compartment} declared free from \textit{X. californiensis}.

The \textit{certificate} should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to \textit{commodities} referred to in point 1 of Article 11.7.3.

Article 11.7.8.

Importation of live aquatic animals for aquaculture from a country, \textit{zone} or \textit{compartment} not declared free from \textit{X. californiensis}

1. When importing, for \textit{aquaculture}, live \textit{aquatic animals} of species referred to in Article 11.7.2. from a country, \textit{zone} or \textit{compartment} not declared free from \textit{X. californiensis}, the \textit{Competent Authority} of the importing country should assess the \textit{risk} and, if justified, apply the following \textit{risk mitigation measures}:

   a) the direct delivery to and lifelong holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for continuous isolation from the local environment; and

   b) the treatment of all effluent and waste material in a manner that ensures inactivation of \textit{X. californiensis}.  

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2. If the intention of the introduction is the establishment of a new stock, relevant aspects of the Code of Practice on the Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) should be considered.

3. For the purposes of the Aquatic Code, relevant aspects of the ICES Code (full version see: http://www.ices.dk/pubs/Miscellaneous/ICESCodeofPractice.pdf) may be summarised to the following points:
   a) identify stock of interest (cultured or wild) in its current location;
   b) evaluate stock health/disease history;
   c) take and test samples for *X. californiensis*, pests and general health/disease status;
   d) import and quarantine in a secure facility a founder (F-0) population;
   e) produce F-1 generation from the F-0 stock in quarantine;
   f) culture F-1 stock and at critical times in its development (life cycle) sample and test for *X. californiensis* and perform general examinations for pests and general health/disease status;
   g) if *X. californiensis* is not detected, pests are not present, and the general health/disease status of the stock is considered to meet the basic biosecurity conditions of the importing country, zone or compartment, the F-1 stock may be defined as free of infection with *X. californiensis* or specific pathogen free (SPF) for *X. californiensis*;
   h) release SPF F-1 stock from quarantine for aquaculture or stocking purposes in the country, zone or compartment.

4. With respect to point 3e), quarantine conditions should be conducive to multiplication of the pathogen and eventually to clinical expression. If quarantine conditions are not suitable for pathogen multiplication and development, the recommended diagnostic approach might not be sensitive enough to detect low infection level.

This Article does not apply to aquatic animals referred to in point 1 of Article 11.7.3.

**Article 11.7.9.**

**Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *X. californiensis***

When importing, for processing for human consumption, aquatic animals or aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 11.7.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *X. californiensis*, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and, if justified, require that:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in quarantine or containment facilities until processing into one of the products referred to in point 1 of Article 11.7.3., or products described in point 1 of Article 11.7.11., or other products authorised by the Competent Authority; and

2. all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of *X. californiensis* or is disposed in a manner that prevents contact of waste with susceptible species.

For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.
Importation of aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment declared free from *X. californiensis*

When importing aquatic animal products of species referred to in Article 11.7.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from *X. californiensis*, the Competent Authority of the importing country should require that the consignment be accompanied by an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country or a certifying official approved by the importing country.

This certificate must certify, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 11.7.4. or 11.7.5. (as applicable), whether or not the place of production of the consignment is a country, zone or compartment declared free from *X. californiensis*.

The certificate should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Chapter 5.10.

This Article does not apply to commodities referred to in point 1 of Article 11.7.3.

Importation of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for retail trade for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *X. californiensis*

1. Competent Authorities should not require any *X. californiensis* related conditions, regardless of the *X. californiensis* 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) [off the shell, eviscerated abalone (chilled or frozen)] (under study).

   For these commodities Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to address the risks associated with the commodity being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

2. When importing aquatic animals or aquatic animal products, other than those referred to in point 1 above, of the species referred to in Article 11.7.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *X. californiensis*, the Competent Authority of the importing country should assess the risk and apply appropriate risk mitigation measures.
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