CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES & EXPECTATIONS

Bernard Vallat
OIE Director General
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Importance of Aquaculture

Aquaculture and aquatic animal health are increasingly important to food security.

Aquaculture:

- is one of the world’s fastest growing food producing sectors;
- provides affordable high quality animal protein;
- employs approx. 23 million workers (directly and indirectly);
- represents close to 50% of aquatic animal global consumption.
Aquaculture and global trade

- Aquaculture is increasingly important as a source of export income;
- 36% of seafood production is traded internationally;
- 10% of terrestrial meat production is traded internationally;
- In 2012, developing economies exported 54% (by value) and > 60% by quantity of total fishery exports.
Aquaculture is changing rapidly

The growth in aquaculture is unprecedented in the history of animal production:

- over 500 species are farmed;
- production in new geographical areas;
- new production technologies;
- sustained genetic improvement.
Challenges facing aquaculture

Disease outbreaks continue to be a growing threat…

- many examples of new diseases with significant impacts on aquaculture;
- transboundary diseases may cause direct losses, but often cause ongoing decreased productivity and profitability;
- in severe cases, production areas may be completely lost for some species;
- to investment decisions because of perceived animal heath risks.
Challenges facing aquaculture

➢ Lack of efficient aquatic animal health programmes to ensure production of safe products in an environmentally sustainable way and to participate fully in international trade.

➢ Aquatic Animal Health Services (AAHS) may be part of the Veterinary Services (VS) or not. In either case, they often lack financial resources and infrastructure, including legislation, to implement aquatic animal health programs efficiently.

➢ Veterinarians and other aquatic animal health professionals play a key role in aquatic animal health programs but professionals with appropriate educational qualifications and experience in aquatic animal health are not readily available worldwide.
The ‘Global Public Good’ Concept

- the benefits of control and eradication of infectious diseases are international and inter-generational in scope.

- countries depend on each other – the failure of one endangers the whole region, if not the world.

- aquatic animal health systems are not a strictly commercial or agricultural good. They are fully eligible for investment of global and national public resources.

Supporting aquatic animal health systems must be a national and global priority
Good governance is needed by all countries

AAHS (whether they are part of VS or not) need adequate infrastructure, up to date legislation, and resources to support effective implementation of Aquatic Animal Health Systems in the national territory, including:

- disease surveillance, early detection, transparency
- rapid response to disease outbreaks
- biosecurity measures
- compensation

Deregulation and inadequate funding for VS and AAHS can lead to biological disasters
The OIE Role in Standard Setting

The ‘3 sisters’

- **food safety**
  - CODEX
- **animal health and zoonoses**
  - OIE
- **plant health**
  - IPPC

The WTO SPS Agreement recognises the OIE standards as references for animal health including zoonoses
The OIE mandate has included aquatic animals for over 50 years.
Standards are adopted by consensus by the World Assembly of Delegates.
Recent achievements - Aquatic Commission

The Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission is responsible for the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual*.

‘Criteria for listing species as susceptible to infection with a specific pathogen’ (Ch 1.5. *Aquatic Code*)
- adopted 2014;
- important in the aquaculture context, given the large number of existing and new aquaculture species;

Emerging diseases
- revised definition for emerging disease (adopted 2014);
- criteria for listing an emerging disease was deleted from the *Aquatic Code* (2014);
- new Article (1.1.4.) on notification of an emerging disease (2014);
- harmonised with *Terrestrial Code*. 
Infection with infectious salmon anaemia virus:
- first application of the concept of pathogen differentiation.

Infection with salmonid alphavirus:
- new OIE listed disease; new *Aquatic Code* and *Manual* chapters; new Reference Laboratory designated.

Antimicrobial use in aquatic animals
- 3 new chapters: prudent use, monitoring of use and surveillance for antimicrobial resistance.
Work underway - Aquatic Commission

**Aquatic Code**

‘General recommendations on disinfection’ (Ch 4.3)
- under revision to better address this topic.

‘Control of hazards in aquatic animal feed’ (Ch 4.7)
- revised draft circulated for Member comments (Sept 2014).

Acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease (AHPND)
- re-considered for OIE listing (Sept 2014);

‘Risk analysis for antimicrobial resistance arising from the use of antimicrobial agents in aquatic animals’ (Ch 6.5)
- draft circulated for Members’ comments (Sept 2014).
50 years experience in disease data collection and sharing in aquatic diseases

- Fish diseases added to OIE list
- Mollusc and crustacean diseases added to OIE list
- Amphibian diseases added to OIE list

+ Emerging diseases
Aquatic animal diseases listed by the OIE (Ch 1.3.)

DISEASES OF FISH (10)

- Epizootic haematopoietic necrosis
- Infection with *Aphanomyces invadans*
- Infection with *Gyrodactylus salaris*
- Infection with HPR-deleted or HPR0 infectious salmon anaemia
- Infection with salmonid alphavirus
- Infectious haematopoietic necrosis
- Koi herpesvirus disease
- Red sea bream iridoviral disease
- Spring viraemia of carp
- Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia

DISEASES OF MOLLUSCS (7)

Infection with abalone herpesvirus
Infection with *Bonamia ostreae*
Infection with *Bonamia exitiosa*
Infection with *Marteilia refringens*
Infection with *Perkinsus marinus*
Infection with *Perkinsus olseni*
Infection with *Xenohaliotis californiensis*

DISEASES OF CRUSTACEANS (8)

- Crayfish plague
- Infection with yellow head virus
- Infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis
- Infectious myonecrosis
- Necrotising hepatopancreatitis
- Taura syndrome
- White spot disease
- White tail disease

DISEASES OF AMPHIBIANS (2)

- Infection with *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*
- Infection with ranavirus
Approx. 70% of OIE Member Countries regularly provide information on aquatic animal diseases (2003-2013)
OIE Scientific Network of expertise

42 Aquatic Ref Labs; 33 aquatic diseases or topics; 31 experts
OIE Scientific Network of expertise

World Distribution of OIE Collaborating Centres

2 Aquatic Animal CC: Epidemiology and Risk Assessment of Aquatic Animal Diseases (Norway/Canada); and Information on Aquatic Animal Diseases (UK)
OIE Initiatives to build capacities of Member Countries in aquatic animal health

- PVS Pathway, including PVS Evaluation, Gap Analysis, Veterinary Legislation Support Programme and PVS Follow-Up mission;
- Seminars for New Delegates and national Aquatic Animal Focal Points;
- Laboratory Twinning initiative;
- Guidelines on Veterinary Education;
- Veterinary education twinning projects;
- Global Conferences and other activities;
- Scientific publications.
Objectives of the conference (1)

- provide practical advice on how to implement the OIE standards published in the *Aquatic Code* and *Manual* to ensure effective prevention and control of aquatic animal diseases;

- raise international awareness of OIE recommendations relevant to good governance in aquatic animal health including the quality and performance of VS and AAHS;

- discuss current challenges and opportunities for the future of aquaculture and develop strategies with other organisations such as FAO;
Objectives of the conference (2)

- identify future needs and priorities for the work of the Aquatic Animals Commission and the OIE;

- discuss how OIE Member Countries can improve VS and AAHS using elements of the OIE PVS Pathway;

- discuss implementation of aquatic animal health programmes (prevention, detection and control) including challenges;

- identify practical steps to improve aquatic animal disease prevention and control (e.g. biosecurity systems, surveillance, zoning and compartmentalisation).
Objectives of the conference (3)

- raise awareness of the role of veterinarians and aquatic animal health professionals in both the public and private sector and their role in strengthening aquatic animal health policies and programmes;

- provide practical guidance on how OIE Members can mobilise governments and donors to improve AAHS, including the role of VS (as appropriate), to meet the OIE standards for quality of VS and AAHS, good governance, and aquatic animal disease prevention and control methods.
Desired outcomes (1)

- adopt recommendations for governments and the OIE aiming to minimise the disease risks for aquatic animal production.
- active engagement by all participants including accepting responsibility to inform national governments on key messages;
- recommendations of this Conference will provide guidance to the Aquatic Animal Health Commission on its future work programme.
- closer collaboration between national Veterinary Services and other national Authorities responsible for aquatic animal health;
Desired outcomes (2)

- improved compliance with OIE standards and guidelines;
- more active participation by Member Countries in the OIE standard setting process;
- stronger commitment to respect obligations relating to aquatic animal health consistent with the WTO SPS Agreement;
- all Delegates nominate appropriate experts as Focal Points for Aquatic Animals.
Desired outcomes (3)

- increased participation in all OIE global initiatives to strengthen VSs and AAHS;
- increased support from OIE partners and donors for the PVS Pathway and other initiatives, including the OIE laboratory twinning initiative;
- increased requests from Member countries for PVS evaluations of AAHS;
- renewed emphasis on the importance of initial and continuing education in aquatic animal health as a key component of efficient aquatic animal health programs.
Conclusions (1)

The Recommendations of the Conference will guide the OIE as it develops new initiatives and programmes to support Member Countries in strengthening their compliance with the OIE aquatic animal health standards;

The OIE will continue to revise and develop OIE standards for aquatic animal health, taking account recommendations from this conference;
Conclusions (2)

The OIE will continue to cooperate with relevant international and regional organisations to increase awareness of the need for aquatic animal health programmes, improving early diagnosis and reporting of aquatic animal diseases and foster cooperation between veterinary and other relevant authorities at the national, regional and international level.

The OIE will continue to raise awareness of the benefits to Member Countries of engaging in the OIE PVS Pathway and associated initiatives to strengthen their Aquatic Animal Health Services.
Conclusions (3)

It is essential that the OIE continue to advocate on behalf of VS/AAHS as a Global Public Good, which deserve investment by governments and donors;

The OIE will also provide communications that help VS/AAHS to convince decision-makers of the need for investment in good governance and aquatic animal health programmes.
Conclusions (4)

Your ongoing support for the OIE and active involvement with our activities are vital to achieve these important goals.
Thank you