

ANALYSIS OF THE GLOBAL FISH HEALTH SITUATION, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- **Ricardo Enríquez**
Vice President of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

Fish disease outbreaks are increasing alongside of growing international trade and intensification of aquaculture production. Although local pathogens combined with other factors, such as poor husbandry and inadequate water quality, are the most common causes of disease outbreaks in fish farming, the introduction of 'exotic' pathogens through international trade in live aquatic animals and their products continues to be associated with new epizootics. Some examples of international spread of important fish pathogens will be discussed in the presentation.

Without effective implementation of biosecurity measures, trans-boundary spread of diseases in fish will continue to have serious economic impact. Fish diseases, whether infectious, non-infectious or opportunistic, may present subclinical or clinical effects, accompanied by a net decrease in production. Serious fish diseases may first be seen as massive mortalities and often associated with reduced efficiency of the production process. Some relevant data will be presented.

One of the OIE's main objectives is to ensure the sanitary safety of international trade in live (aquatic) animals and their products. OIE standards address the detection and early notification of listed diseases and new epidemiological events, as well as standards for disease prevention and management, including contingency planning. By implementing the OIE standards, Members can prevent the dissemination of transboundary diseases of fish and facilitate safe and sustainable aquaculture production. The OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission plays a key role in assuring the development of appropriate standards for implementation by OIE Members.

Keywords: OIE standards – transboundary diseases of fish – OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

