



AUSTRALIA'S EXPERIENCE IN THE USE OF THE OIE PVS TOOL TO IMPROVE AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH

- **Geoff Gossel, Y. Hood, K. Gross and R. Perera**
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Biosecurity Services Group, Australia

Australia has a conservative approach to quarantine to protect our favourable disease status and enhance our access to international aquatic animal markets. To maintain our disease status we use OIE standards including the OIE *Aquatic Code* and PVS Tool in conjunction with a process of structured evaluation and assessment of competent authorities with respect to their market access requests.

Over the past five years we have engaged with competent authorities in several countries to evaluate their capacity to provide aquatic animal health certification and sustain animal health controls and systems. We typically engage in evaluation of the disease freedom of countries, zones and compartments.

Australia's system of evaluation is underpinned by the OIE standards and comprehensively covers a wide range of competencies including legislation, infrastructure, investment, training, resourcing, administration and quality management, laboratory services, animal health controls, health management planning and policy, zoning, surveillance, processing and import/export controls - to name a few. This system of evaluation provides us with the means to facilitate trade in healthy aquatic animals and their products without compromising Australia's biosecurity. This approach also provides opportunities for further cooperative relationships with our trading partners through developing innovative real-time responsive risk management models that have the capacity to give quality evidence-based feedback to our trading partners for the continual improvement of sustainable aquatic animal health controls across the entire pre-border, border and post-border biosecurity continuum.

Keywords: OIE – veterinary legislation – PVS Tool – OIE *Aquatic Code*