The report of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission – why is it important?

Aquatic Focal Point meeting, Qingdoa, China, December 12-14
Outline

- Who are the Aquatic Animals Commission
- What do they do?
- Where to find the report
- Development of a new chapter
- The importance of AAC scrutiny
Who are the Aquatic Animals Commission?

- Elected at the General Assembly
- Serve three year term
- Meet twice a year (September and February)
- Can serve a maximum of 3 terms
- Members from different regions but service as independent experts
Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission
‘Aquatic Animals Commission’

- Update the Aquatic Code and Aquatic Manual annually;
- Work with experts to prepare new and revised texts for the Aquatic Code and Aquatic Manual;
- Propose new and revised texts for adoption by the World Assembly of Delegates;
- Responsible for ensuring that the Code and Manual reflects current scientific information;
- Review applications for ‘aquatic’ Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres;
- Collaborate with other Commissions.

Members

Dr. Joanne Constantine
Dr. Edmund Peeler
Prof. Mohamed Shariff Bin Mohamed Din
Dr. Alicia Gallardo Lagno
Dr. Maxwell Barson
Dr. Ingo Ernst
Aquatic Animals Commission - Terms of reference

- Develop new / revised texts for the Aquatic Code & Manual taking into account MC comments
- Propose new and revised texts for adoption by the World Assembly
- Ensure the Aquatic Code & Manual reflect current scientific information
- Collaborate with other Commissions
- Review applications for ‘Aquatic’ Ref Labs & ‘Aquatic’ Collaborating Centres
- Assess cases for disease listing
Other OIE Specialist Commissions

• Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission
  ▪ responsible for ensuring that the *Terrestrial Code* reflects current scientific information.

• Biological Standards Commission
  ▪ developing internationally agreed standards for laboratory diagnostic tests and vaccines for OIE-listed terrestrial animal diseases (*Terrestrial Manual*)

• Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases
  ▪ identifying the most appropriate strategies and measures for disease prevention and control
  ▪ examines voluntary requests from OIE Members regarding official disease status.
Overview

The Aquatic Animals Health Standards Commission (the Aquatic Animals Commission) is responsible for ensuring that the Aquatic Animal Health Code (the Aquatic Code) and Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals (the Aquatic Manual) reflect current scientific information. The Aquatic Code and Aquatic Manual provide standards for the improvement of aquatic animal health worldwide, including standards for safe international trade in aquatic animals (amphibians, crustaceans, molluscs and fish) and their products.

The Aquatic Animals Commission, which comprises six elected members, who are internationally renowned experts in the prevention and control of pathogenic agents of aquatic animals, meets twice yearly to address its work programme. It works with internationally renowned specialists to draft texts for new articles of the Aquatic Code and Aquatic Manual and to revise existing articles in light of advances in science. The Aquatic Animals Commission also collaborates closely with the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission on issues requiring a harmonised approach.

The views of the Delegates of Member Countries are routinely sought through the circulation of draft and revised texts and, at each General Session, the Delegates discuss and formally adopt the draft texts as OIE standards. These texts are then incorporated into the next editions of the Aquatic Code and Aquatic Manual.

Members of the Aquatic Animals Commission are elected by the World Assembly of Delegates for a period of three years.

Internal Rules, Terms of Reference and Qualifications of their Members

Internal Rules
(Applicable to all Specialist Commissions)

Article 1
The OIE Specialist Commissions shall be established by the Assembly in accordance with Chapter 5 of the General Rules.
The code and manual

- Notification
- Trade
- Antimicrobial usage
- Biosecurity
- Welfare
- Disease control
- Quality of veterinary services
- Disease-specific chapters

- Quality management in laboratories
- Validation of diagnostic assays
- Disease-specific chapters
Development of a new chapter

AAC  → TOR  → Draft new chapter  → ad hoc group  → comments  → Member countries  → New chapter for comment  → New chapter for adoption  → Ad hoc group report – for information

- Development process:
  1. TOR initiates the process.
  2. AAC develops the draft new chapter.
  3. The draft is submitted to the ad hoc group for comments.
  4. Comments are gathered and considered.
  5. The new chapter is prepared for adoption by Member countries.
  6. A report is prepared for information purposes.
**Scrutiny by Member Countries**

- Changes to Code and Manual chapters are usually submitted at least twice for Member comments before being proposed for adoption at the General Assembly.
- Proposed texts are circulated in the Commission’s February meeting report.
REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE OIE
AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION

Paris, 13–20 September 2017

The OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (Aquatic Animals Commission) met at OIE Headquarters in Paris from 13 to 20 September 2017. The list of participants is presented in Annex 1.

The Aquatic Animals Commission thanked the following Member Countries for providing written comments: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China (People’s Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, Cook Islands, Japan, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Singapore, Switzerland, United States of America (USA), Thailand, the Member States of the European Union (EU), and the African Union InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) on behalf of African Member Countries of the OIE.

The Aquatic Animals Commission reviewed Member Country comments and amended relevant chapters of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code (the Aquatic Code) and OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals (the Aquatic Manual) where appropriate. The amendments are shown in the usual manner by ‘double underline’ and ‘strike-through’, and are presented in the Annexes to this report. In Annexes, amendments proposed at this meeting are highlighted with a coloured background in order to distinguish them from those proposed previously.
Comments from Member Countries matter

- The AAC relies on comments to apply the expertise at its disposal to:
  - to scrutinise the logic, consistency and robustness of the new or revised standards
  - make the AAC aware of new developments
    - New and emerging diseases
    - Changes to host susceptibility
    - New diagnostic tests, performance of tests
Everything is in the report

- **Text:** detailed explanation of what was done during the meeting, comments from Members and AAC response, some background and what is expected of Members’

- **Annexes**

  - **Part A:** texts proposed for *adoption* at next General Session

  - **Part B:** texts for Members’ comments.

  - **Part B:** Reports of Working Groups and *ad hoc* Groups, AAC work plan for Members’ information
Annual Cycle of AAC Reports

1. **February**: Report of the Aquatic Animals Commission Meeting includes:
   - Amended chapters in the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual* being proposed for adoption at OIE General Session in May
   - Amended chapters circulated for Member comments
   - Annexes for Member information, e.g. *ad hoc* Group reports

2. **May**: OIE General Session - Report of the Aquatic Animals Commission
   - **Adoption** of amended chapters in the *Aquatic Code* and *Aquatic Manual*.
   - **Resolutions** record details of adopted texts

3. **September**: Report of the Aquatic Animals Commission Meeting includes:
   - Amended chapters circulated for Member comments
   - Annexes for Member information, e.g. *ad hoc* Group reports
A. MEETING WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
C. MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT OF CODE COMMISSION
D. MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT OF BIOLOGICAL COMMISSION
E. OIE AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH CODE
F. MANUAL OF DIAGNOSTIC TESTS FOR AQUATIC ANIMALS
G. OIE REFERENCE CENTRES
H. OTHER ISSUES.
I. WORK PLAN OF THE OIE AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION FOR 2017/2018
J. ACTIVITIES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE OIE AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION
Susceptibility of *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* to IHHNV

- A Member Country made the AAC aware of new scientific information regarding susceptibility of *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* to IHHNV
- The AAC requested that the *ad hoc* Group on Susceptibility of Crustacean Species to Infection with OIE Listed Diseases re-assess the susceptibility of *M. rosenbergii* to infection with IHHNV
- The *ad hoc* Group concluded that location of lesions (hepatopancreas) and controls for *in situ* hybridization (ISH) were
  - inconsistent for infection with IHHNV.
  - other viruses infecting the hepatopancreas of *M. rosenbergii* can cause similar histopathology
  - cannot be conclusively demonstrated that the lesions were the result of infection with IHHNV.
- *Ad hoc* Group agreed that *M. rosenbergii* does not fully fulfil categories C and D (pathology and location),
- Conclusion: *M. rosenbergii* did not meet the criteria in Chapter 1.5. for listing in the *Aquatic Code* but a should be included in Section 2.2.2 (Species with incomplete evidence for susceptibility) of Chapter 2.2.4. Infection with IHHNV of the *Aquatic Manual*
Article XX 3

Safe products

- In response to Member Country comments, the Aquatic Animals Commission reviewed the aquatic animal products in Article X.X.3.
  - heat (time/temperature) inactivation treatments.
- The Commission agreed that
  - non-equivalent heat (time/temperature) inactivation treatments for different products were questionable and
  - minimum heat (time/temperature) inactivation treatment for each OIE listed disease was preferable.
- The Aquatic Animals Commission requested that
  - the ad hoc Group on Safety of Products Derived from Aquatic Animals review the heat treatments provided in Article X.X.3. of each disease-specific chapter
  - provide a minimum heat time/temperature treatment demonstrated to be effective at inactivating the pathogenic agent.
September AAC Report –
comments by 9 January

Items for Member Country comment:  Annex number

AQUATIC CODE

1.2 Criteria for listing species as susceptible (Chapter 1.5.)  Annex 3
1.3 Criteria to assess the safety of aquatic animal commodities (Chapter 5.4.)  Annex 4
2.1 Users guide  Annex 5
2.2 Glossary  Annex 6
2.3 Diseases listed by the OIE (Article 1.3.)  Annex 7
2.4 OIE procedures relevant to the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization (Chapter 5.3.)  Annex 8

Listing at higher taxonomic levels
Alignment with Terr. Code
More Code Chapters

2.5.1. New draft chapter for Infection with & Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans (Chapter 8.X.);

2.5.2. Infection with Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis (Chapter 8.1.);

Infection with ranavirus (Chapter 8.2.)

2.7. Infection with infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis virus (Article 9.4.2.)

2.8. Epizootic haematopoietic necrosis (Chapter 10.1.)

2.8. Infection with Gyrodactylus salaris (Chapter 10.3.)

2.8. Infection with infectious salmon anaemia virus (Chapter 10.4.)

2.8. Infection with Aphanomyces invadans (epizootic ulcerative syndrome) (Chapter 10.2.)

Change in susceptible species

Annex 9A
Annex 9B
Annex 9C
Annex 10
Annex 11
Annex 12
Annex 13
Annex 14
2.8. Infection with salmonid alphavirus (Chapter 10.5.) Annex 15

2.8. Infectious haematopoietic necrosis (Chapter 10.6.) Annex 16

2.8. Koi herpesvirus disease (Chapter 10.7.) Annex 17

2.8. Red sea bream iridoviral disease (Chapter 10.8.) Annex 18

2.8. Spring viraemia of carp (Chapter 10.9.) Annex 19

2.8. Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (Chapter 10.10.) Annex 20

2.10. Article X.X.8., Article X.X.9., X.X.10. and Article X.X.11. Annex 21
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<td>5.3.</td>
<td>Infection with infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis virus (Chapter 5.5.4., Sections 2.2.1. and 2.2.2.)</td>
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<td>5.4.</td>
<td>Assessment of kuruma shrimp (Penaeus japonicus); Section 2.2.2. Acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease Chapter (2.2.1.).</td>
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Annexes for Member Country information

2.11. Assessment of a novel orthomyxo-like virus, tilapia lake virus, for inclusion in the OIE list of diseases  
Annex 28

2.12. Technical Disease Card for Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans  
Annex 29

3.1. Report of the ad hoc Group on Susceptibility of fish species to infection with OIE listed diseases  
Annex 30

I. Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission Work Plan for 2017/2018  
Annex 31
Summary

Tips for navigating the report

- Don’t be put off by its length
- Read the report text (before the Annexes) carefully (it provides a good summary)
- Focus on the sections and disease chapters which are relevant to your country
- Read every report to understand how new chapters are developed and standards evolve
Why is the report important?

- Contains new and revised standards for Aquatic Code and Manual
- Contains other useful information:
  - Emerging diseases
  - Disease cards
  - Process for self-declaration.
- Provides insights into views of other MC
- Signposts future direction of the OIE
Thank you for your attention