



World Organisation
for Animal Health

Founded as OIE

WOAH aquatic standards update



Ingo Ernst

**President, WOAH Aquatic Animal
Health Standards Commission**

Overview

1. The WOHAE aquatic standards
2. Standards adopted in May 2023
3. Standards in development
4. Next steps



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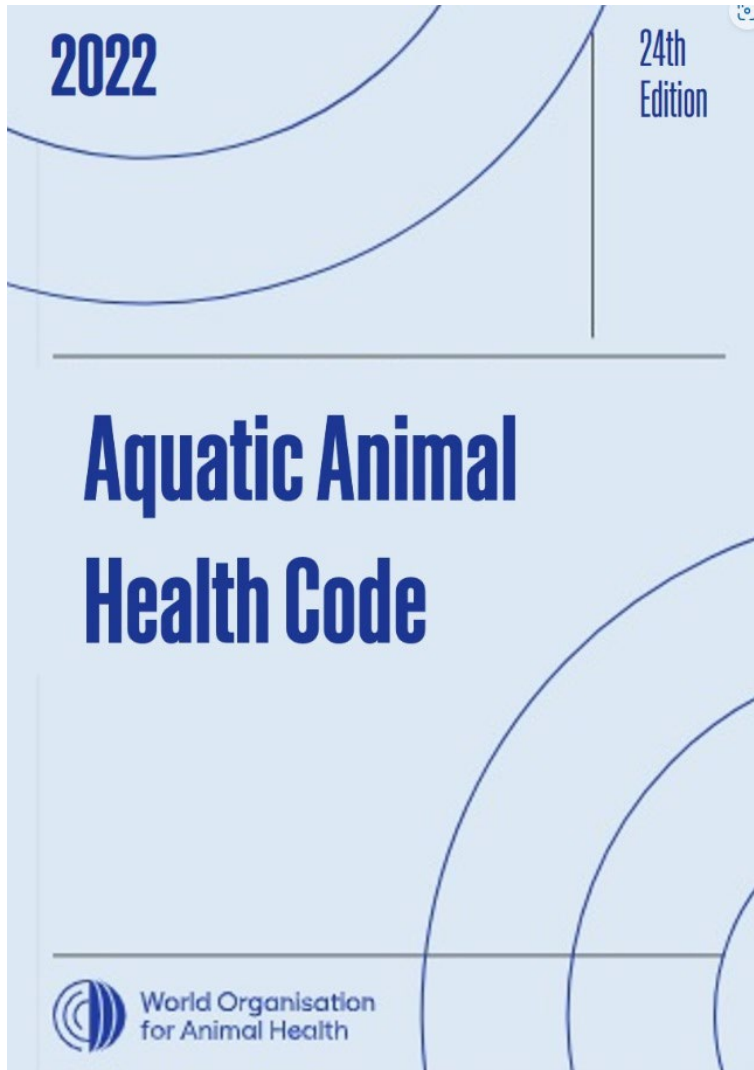
Why are the standards important?

- Higher aquaculture and fisheries production than ever
 - In 1950, **19 mt**; in 2022, **185 mt**
 - Aquaculture production is a growing proportion
 - In 1950, **4%** of total; in 2022, **50%** of total
 - Very high proportion of production is traded internationally
 - **60 mt** traded internationally; ~ **32%** of total production
 - Approx 90% of production in Asia-Pacific
 - Diseases are one of the greatest threats
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Purpose of the aquatic standards

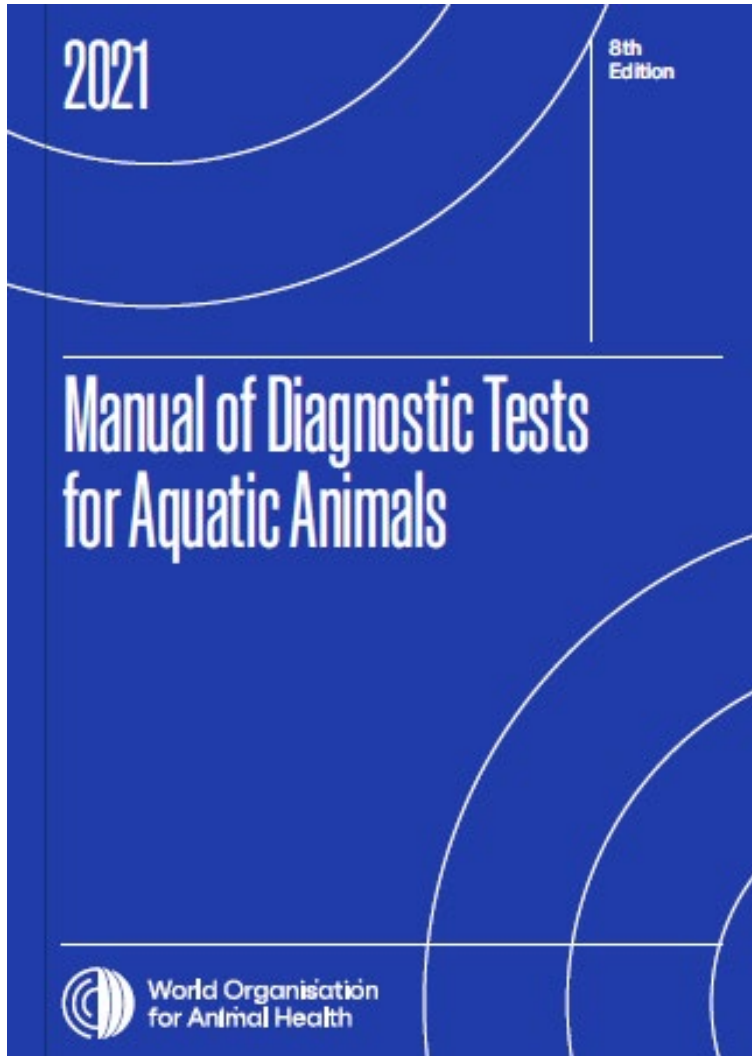
- improvement of aquatic animal health and welfare worldwide
- used by Members for disease prevention, early detection, reporting and control
- ensure the safety of international trade in aquatic animals and aquatic animal products, while avoiding unjustified sanitary barriers.





WOAH Aquatic Code

- Provides standards for safe trade
- A harmonized approach to sanitary measures
- General provisions (e.g. notifications, risk analysis, quality of AAHS, disease prevention, trade, AMU, welfare)
- Disease-specific provisions (hosts, safe commodities, dec of freedom, recs for trade of commodities)



WOAH Aquatic Manual

- Provides standards for diagnosis
- General provisions (e.g. quality management for labs, principles and methods of validation)
- Disease-specific provisions (e.g. disease information, host factors, epidemiology, specimen collection, diagnostic methods, recs for purpose of use, case definitions)

Commission members 2021-2024



President

Dr Ingo Ernst
(Australia)



Vice-President

Dr Alicia Gallardo Lagno
(Chile)



Vice-President

Dr Fiona Geoghegan
(Ireland)



Member

Dr Kevin Christison
(South Africa)



Member

Dr Hong Liu
(People's Rep of China)



Member

Prof Espen Rimstad
(Norway)

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Aquatic Code (revisions adopted May 2023)

- Infection with tilapia lake virus - new chapter (listed 2022)
- Infection with *Marteillia refringens* - changes to susceptible species (4 added, 3 existing removed)
- Horizontal changes in mollusc disease chapters
- Minor nomenclature changes within:
 - Infection with *Bonamia exitiosa*
 - Infection with *Bonamia ostreae*

Aquatic Manual

(revisions adopted May 2023)

- Eight comprehensively revised chapters
 - **AHPND** - Acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease
 - **NHP** - Infection with *Hepatobacter penaei* (Necrotising hepatopancreatitis)
 - **IHHNV** - Infection with infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis virus
 - **IMNV** - Infection with infectious myonecrosis virus
 - **TSV** - Infection with Taura syndrome virus
 - **WSSV** - Infection with white spot syndrome virus
 - **EHN** - Infection with epizootic haematopoietic necrosis virus
 - **EUS** – Infection with *Aphanomyces invadans* (Epizootic ulcerative syndrome)
- Four chapters with minor revisions
 - SVCV, *B. exitiosa*, *B. ostreae*, *M. refringens*

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Report of the Meeting of WOAH Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

Original: English (EN)
13 to 20 September 2023

Introduction and Member contribution

This report presents the work of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (hereinafter "the Aquatic Animals Commission") who met in Paris, France from 13 to 20 September, 2023.

The WOAHA Aquatic Animals Commission wished to thank the following Members for providing written comments on draft texts for the WOAHA *Aquatic Animal Health Code* (Hereinafter "the *Aquatic Code*") and WOAHA *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals* (hereinafter "the *Aquatic Manual*") circulated in the Commission's February 2023 report: Australia, Canada, Chile, China (People's Republic of), Chinese Taipei, Japan, Korea (Republic of), Mexico, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom (UK), the United States of America (USA), the African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), and the Member States of the European Union (EU). The Commission also wished to acknowledge the valuable advice and contributions from numerous experts of the WOAHA scientific network.

The Aquatic Animals Commission reviewed all comments that were submitted on time and were supported by a rationale. Due to the large number of comments, the Commission was not able to provide a detailed explanation of the reasons for accepting or not each of the comments considered, and focused its explanations on significant issues. Where amendments were of an editorial nature, no explanatory text has been provided. The Commission wished to note that not all texts proposed by Members to improve clarity were accepted; in these cases, it considered the text clear as currently written. The Commission made amendments to draft texts in the usual manner by 'double underline' and 'strikethrough'. In relevant Annexes, amendments proposed at this meeting are highlighted in yellow to distinguish them from those made previously.

Annexes

Texts in [Annexes 1 to 6](#) and [8 to 34](#) are presented for comment. [Annex 7](#) is presented for information.

How to submit comments

The Aquatic Animals Commission strongly encourages Members and International Organisations with a Cooperation Agreement with WOAHA to participate in the development of WOAHA International Standards by submitting comments on relevant annexes of this report. All comments should be submitted to WOAHA through the WOAHA Delegates or from Organisations with which WOAHA has a Cooperative Agreement.

The Commission wished to draw the attention of Members to those instances where an *ad hoc* Group has addressed a specific topic at the request of the Aquatic Animals Commission. In such cases, Members are encouraged to review these reports together with the report of the Commission. *Ad hoc* Group reports are no longer annexed to the Commission's report. Instead, they are available on the dedicated webpages on the WOAHA website, e.g., *ad hoc* Group reports:

<https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/standards-setting-process/ad-hoc-groups/>

Comments must be submitted as Word files rather than pdf files because pdf files are difficult to incorporate into the Commission's working documents.

Comments should be presented within the relevant annex, and include any amendments to the proposed text, supported by a structured rationale or by published scientific references. Proposed deletions should be indicated in 'strikethrough' and proposed additions with 'double underline'. Members should not use the

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

The Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (the Aquatic Animals Commission), created in 1960, 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.

Overview Members **Meeting reports** Other Information

Winter	Summer/Autumn
February 2023	September 2023
February 2022	September 2022

Aquatic Code – for comment

- Listing of the virus ISKNV
- Compartmentalisation
- Trade in milt and fertilised eggs of fish
- Trade of ornamental aquatic animals
- Disease preparedness and outbreak response

2022

24th
Edition


Aquatic Animal Health Code



World Organisation
for Animal Health

Listing of the species ISKNV (infectious spleen and kidney necrosis virus)

Issues:

- Three genogroups exist but only one listed in the code (RSIV)
 - All three genogroups meet listing criteria
 - All three have overlapping susceptible species and epidemiology
 - An assessment against listing criteria provided in report.
- 

Compartmentalisation (discussion paper)

Purpose:

- Describe the requirements for establishing a free compartment.

Issues:

- Discussion paper developed on revision of existing Chapter 4.3
- Purpose is to achieve consensus on conceptual issues before drafting begins
- Flexibility of different risk management approaches e.g.:
 - dependent compartments
 - independent compartments.



Trade in milt and fertilized eggs of fish (new chapter)

Purpose:

- Recommendations for trade of milt and fertilized eggs of fish for aquaculture (from places not declared free)

Scope:


- Measures to reduce the risk of transfer via eggs and milt, including:
 - establishing the health status at place of origin of the broodstock
 - conditions for collection and incubation centres
 - health certification for milt and fertilized eggs of fish.

Ornamental aquatic animals (new chapter)

Purpose:

- Address risks of disease transmission via the movement of *ornamental aquatic animals*

Scope:

- Aquatic animals intended for display, exhibition, competition or use as pets
 - Provides a framework to develop appropriate measures
 - Guidance on eligibility of species; application of risk analysis; options for risk mitigation pre-border, border, and post border; welfare.
- 

Preparedness and outbreak response (two new chapters)

Purpose:

- 4.X. Describe essential elements of an emergency disease preparedness framework
- 4.Y. Actions to activate emergency response to suspicion or confirmation

Aquatic Manual – for comment

- **Crustacean chapters**
 - For comment - **Intro, CP, WTD, YHV1**
 - 6 of 10 chapters revised
- **Fish chapters**
 - Nil for comment
 - 10 of 11 completed (RSIV pending)
- **Mollusc chapters**
 - For comment - **Intro, AbHV, *M. refringens***
 - 0 of 8 completed
- **Amphibian chapters**
 - 0 of 4 completed

2021

8th
Edition

Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals



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Next steps

- **5 January 2024** - comments due
- **February 2024** - Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission meets
 - revised standards will be proposed in meeting report for adoption and comment
- **May 2024** - General Session
 - standards for adoption presented to the assembly
 - election of specialist commission members.

THANK YOU

