

What's New in Aquaculture

14th Governing Council to be held in Myanmar

The 14th NACA Governing Council will be held in Yangon, Myanmar from 28-31 March 2003. A joint meeting with local industry will also take place. More information on the meeting will be posted in due course.

Outcomes of advisory group on health

The first meeting of the Asia Regional Advisory Group on Aquatic Animal Health (AGM-1) was held at the NACA Headquarters, Bangkok, Thailand on 6th-8th November 2002. This high level advisory group, comprised of health experts from governments and the private sector, was constituted by NACA to advise Asian governments on aquatic animal health matters in Asia, and more specifically the implementation of the Asia Regional Technical Guidelines on Health Management and the Responsible Movement of Live Aquatic Animals. The first meeting was very productive, and provided a number of important recommendations on aquatic animal disease control in Asia. A summary of the recommendations follows. The full report will be available within the next few weeks.

1. The recent suspected outbreak of koi herpes virus (KHV) that has spread rapidly through Koi and common carp in Indonesia has re-emphasize the need for effective surveillance programmes of serious aquatic animal disease, and also the need for implementation of the 'Asia Regional Technical Guidelines on Health Management for the Responsible Movement of Live Aquatic Animals'.

2. The continued occurrence of VNN in marine groupers and red spot disease in grass carp was also highlighted during discussions and is a serious concern for the region.

3. Within the region, mollusc diseases are under estimated and too little attention is given to these species and associated diseases. However, cases such as controversial cause of mass mortality outbreaks of pearl oysters,

Pinctada fucata, underline the importance of addressing mollusc diseases issues in the region.

4. Recent reports record Taura Syndrome Virus (TSV) spreading in the region, related to the continuous introduction of *P. vannamei*, and highlight concern over possible new pathogens that may be passed on to *P. monodon* and other Asian shrimp species. This is a major development of serious concern. The advisory group recommended a study on TSV and *P. vannamei* introduction to Asia and it is expected this study will be implemented next year, with possible technical support from FAO. The occurrence of TSV, while generally accepted as being increasingly widespread, is not being officially reported. There is therefore clearly a need to strengthen surveillance and reporting. The group urged any new outbreaks to be rapidly reported to OIE and NACA.

5. Given these elements and in the light of recent changes to the OIE list of aquatic animal diseases notifiable and other significant diseases, the current Quarterly Aquatic Animal Disease (QAAD) list will be revised for reporting during 2003.

6. Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia and MSX disease (*Haplosporidium nelsoni*) have both been reported in the region and need to be moved to the QAAD section "Diseases prevalent in some parts of the region".

7. Although there is as yet no definitive aetiological diagnosis, "Koi mass mortality" and "Akoya oyster disease" will be listed to assist in the collation of data. A short summary of the key epidemiological features of the incident, containing background for concern, case definitions, outbreak investigation, and diagnostic test options, will be prepared and circulated.

8. Epitheliocystis, the mollusc pathogen *Marteilioides chungmuensis* and Grouper iridoviral diseases are of concern in the region and proposed for listing to assist in the collection of occurrence data.

9. The new QAAD form for 2003 will be provided with AG meeting report that will be circulated soon.

10. The group agreed that although there have been considerable improvements in the quality of disease reporting in Asia, the quality of the QAAD should be further improved and suggested approaches to assist in achieving this goal.

11. A future get-together of all NCs, to undertake a 3-year review of the reporting system is proposed. If this is not feasible as a meeting of NCs of all participating countries, then NCs' participation in sub-regional meetings should be facilitated.

12. Improving communication between NCs and the Chief Veterinary Officers/OIE national delegates, improving NC access to national experts, and generally promoting in-country networking on disease status.

13. The OIE representation in Tokyo informed that it was important to continue and further develop cooperation in collecting of information. When possible, OIE would like to collaborate in other areas.

14. The need to build cooperation between veterinary and fisheries authorities was emphasized strongly. The OIE Regional Commission meeting in New Caledonia in November 2003 may provide one opportunity, but other opportunities will be sought to promote cooperation.

Building the leading source of global information on Aquaculture

CAB International has announced the development of a new Aquaculture Compendium. The Compendium is a versatile reference and problem-solving resource that brings together a wide range of encyclopedic and multimedia tools to present a continually updated scientific overview. The compendium will take two years to develop and will involve the contribution of the worlds' experts in Aquaculture and Aquatic Resource Management. It will be available on CD-ROM or via the Internet.

The Compendium is intended to help users understand aquaculture in its broader context. Addressing issues of livelihoods, natural resources and

environment, biodiversity, trade, food production and safety and poverty alleviation. It will also help people:

- Find information about finfish, crustaceans, molluscs and other commonly cultured aquatic species;
- Determine solutions for identifying, solving and preventing health problems in different production systems, including detailed coverage of pests and diseases;
- Identify trends in aquaculture worldwide;
- Recognize good practice through examination of detailed case studies from around the world; and
- Promote the sustainable development of aquatic resources.

The compendium will be developed and funded through a consortium of donor agencies, technical bodies and private sector corporations including the University of Stirling and the Asian Institute of Technology. It will be the fourth produced by CABI in its award-winning series, which has covered Crop Protection, Forestry, and Animal Health and Production.

Negotiations are underway to build partnerships with FishBase, the FAO and others. If you would like more information on the Aquaculture Compendium, would like to contribute material or can assist in funding – simply email m.parr@cabi.org

*For further information visit:
www.cabicompendium.org*

Survey toolbox for aquatic animal diseases: A practical manual and software package

As a result of demand from aquatic animal scientists, ACIAR (the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research) commissioned Dr Angus Cameron to produce a version of his Survey Toolbox, target specifically at aquatic animal diseases. The new book deals with the particular problems of undertaking rapid, cost-effective, and reliable surveys of aquatic animals. Aimed primarily at those working in developing countries, and using English as a second language, the book will also have considerable appeal to many developed country scientists. Its predecessor, the Survey Toolbox for Livestock Diseases has been translated into four languages. All of these documents have been kindly made

available for free download from http://www.ausvet.com.au/content.php?page=res_manuals. A printed version is also available from ACIAR (visit www.aciar.gov.au).

FAO holds Expert Consultation on Surveillance and Zoning for Responsible Movement of Live Aquatic Animals

FAO held an Expert Consultation in Rome, Italy, 14-18 October 2002. The objective of the consultation was to develop a framework for reducing the risk of trans-boundary spread of aquatic animal diseases, thereby underpinning sustainable trade and production. Background documents are available. *For more information, please contact rohana.subasinghe@fao.org*

African Chapter of Aquatic Animal Pathogen & Quarantine Information System

ICLARM & FAO are working together to make the AAPQIS-Africa chapter the major networking venue for Aquatic Animal Health information exchange in Africa.

At this point we are looking for a) names and contact information of scientists/others interested in aquatic animal health in Africa and b) names and contact information of laboratories, research centers, university research departments, national institutions, regional bodies and networks, etc., working on aquatic animal health in Africa.

Let's work together to advance the aquatic animal health information exchange and to further the networking capabilities in Africa.

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GAA raises funds for shrimp antidumping paper

The Global Aquaculture Alliance has joined with the American Seafood Distributors Association to generate an

authoritative white paper on issues related to a potential antidumping case involving shrimp imports to the United States. The organizations' position is that viable alternatives to legal action can be enacted to help the U.S. Gulf fishery coexist with farmed shrimp.

Titled "Cooperation or Protectionism: A Review of Shrimp Antidumping Considerations," the paper will be completed in November and made available through various forms of print and electronic media as a reference for cooperative efforts.

Representatives of GAA approached the international shrimp industry for support to underwrite the creation of the paper. Exporters from India, China, Venezuela, and Guatemala donated U.S. \$15,000. Additional funding commitments have been received from firms in Indonesia, Colombia, Brazil, Vietnam, and Ecuador.

For additional information, contact Jeanne McKnight (425-451-2828, jeanne@mcknightpr.com) or Michael Kaye (202-887-4115, mkaye@akingump.com). Source: GAA update 18 October 2002.

India to Promote Ornamental Industry

The tiny ornamental fish industry in India is being investigated by the central government with a view to expansion and tapping into the lucrative expanding trade in ornamentals. Countries such as China, Singapore and Malaysia represent potential nearby markets. The Indian varieties of fish for ornamental purposes would be selected and reared in Kerala and northeast states. Licences would be issued to selected farmers to rear ornamental fish so that the specific Indian varieties could be marketed in foreign countries. India's ornamental trade is currently worth only US\$ 206,000 and aquaculture concentrates on food fish. The plan will assist the government to achieve growth in inland fish production from 2.5 to 6-8 percent. *Source: Asia Pulse, August 26, 2002.*