

Panorama

Bulletin 2023-2

Editorial
Perspectives
Dossier
Around the World
Resources



Improving aquatic animal health and welfare worldwide



World Organisation
for Animal Health
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Global context

Aquatic animal production is essential to achieving many of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals [1]. Taking into account that at least 17% of animal products and 7% of all protein currently consumed globally is from aquatic animals [2], sustainable production is of worldwide importance.

Disease poses a threat to sustainable production

Disease outbreaks present a significant threat to the sustainable production of aquatic animals. The prevention or appropriate management of such outbreaks is, therefore, critically important to the achievement of global food security, as the population of the world continues to grow and is expected to approach 10 billion by 2050.

How can aquatic animal health standards help to ensure sustainable production?

Given that more than 500 aquatic species are farmed worldwide, and many more are harvested from wild fisheries, international trade in aquatic animals and products is substantial. Consequently, the spread of transboundary diseases represents a significant threat to global aquatic animal production, and cooperation between countries to manage such risks is crucially important.

To be effective, such cooperation should be based on the International Aquatic Animal Health Standards set by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). Their objectives are to manage disease risk through prevention, early detection, and appropriate disease control and risk mitigation measures for listed and emerging diseases, and thus ensure safe international trade.

The ongoing development of scientifically sound international standards, and their implementation by WOAH Members in collaboration with all stakeholders, will undoubtedly protect and improve animal health worldwide, thereby underpinning the sustainable production of aquatic animals and products, now and into the future.

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PERSPECTIVES

► OPINIONS AND STRATEGIES

The importance of standards to support Members' needs: A perspective

KEYWORDS

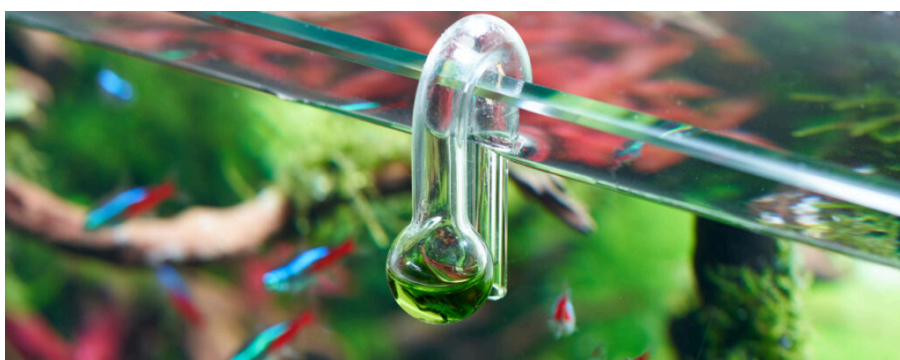
[#Aquatic Animal Health](#), [#disease prevention](#), [#sustainable development](#), [#World Organisation for Animal Health \(WOAH\)](#)

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1. United Nations Sustainable Development Goals <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>
2. Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)(2020). The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2020. Sustainability in action. Rome, 224 pp. Available at <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca9229en> (accessed 9 June 2020)

WOAH (founded as OIE) is a global organisation, working to ensure the health of animals across the world. Since 1924, we have focused on the complexities of animal health. We disseminate information on animal diseases and use science-based strategies to limit their potentially negative impact on society.

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