



## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS

Thirty-third Session  
Bergen, Norway  
17 – 21 February 2014

### MATTERS ARISING FROM THE WORK OF OIE

1. The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) thanks the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) and the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP) for the opportunity to contribute to its standards development process.

2. The relationship between the OIE and the CAC is particularly important because risks to human health and food safety may arise at the primary production phase or at any subsequent stage in the food production continuum. Therefore, risk management must be tailored to detect and address risks at the appropriate stage(s). The OIE is responsible for setting standards in the domain of animal health (including zoonotic diseases) for animal production food safety, i.e. the management of risks arising at the level of the farm to primary processing, and the CAC from processing to human consumption. Therefore, for food safety and international trade, the standard setting activities of the OIE and the CAC are thus interdependent and complementary.

#### **OIE Animal Production Food Safety Working Group**

3. In 2002, the OIE established the Animal Production Food Safety (APFS) Working Group, endorsed every year by the OIE World Assembly of Delegates, with the view to improving the coordination and harmonisation of standard setting activities of the OIE and CAC. The OIE APFS Working Group functions as a steering committee for the OIE's work programme on standards to protect consumers from food-borne hazards arising at the production phase of the food chain. Current and former high level officials of the FAO, WHO and Codex are members of the Working Group. OIE Members strongly support this collaboration.

#### **Harmonisation of OIE and CAC approaches to standard setting in the food production continuum**

4. Although, it is generally acknowledged that good progress has been made by the OIE and the Codex in improving cooperation and coordination, the OIE welcomed the decision of the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP), to establish an electronic working group (eWG) on Codex/OIE Cooperation which will provide another opportunity to strengthen cooperation between the OIE and Codex. The OIE is actively participating in this eWG. In addition, the OIE has offered to provide logistic support for a physical working group meeting, to be held prior to the next session of the CCGP (April 2014), and is working with Canada on this matter.

5. Regular participation in each other's standard setting work has helped to improve the coverage by official standards of the whole food production continuum and to avoid gaps, duplications and potential contradictions in the standards and guidelines of the two organisations.

6. The OIE will continue to address food safety-related issues as a high priority in its standard-setting work and will work closely with CAC and its Committees, and with other international bodies in promoting safe international trade in animals and their products.

### **Amendments to the *Aquatic Animal Health Code***

7. The OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission is responsible for setting standards for aquatic animals, including animal production food safety issues, which are contained in the *Aquatic Animal Health Code (the Aquatic Code)*.

8. The following amendments to the *Aquatic Code* (2013) were adopted at the 81<sup>st</sup> OIE General Session in May 2013:

- Infection with *Salmonid alphavirus* was included as an OIE listed disease as it meets the criteria for listing an aquatic animal disease in Article 1.2.1. of the *Aquatic Code*.
- Epizootic ulcerative syndrome was renamed Infection with *Aphanomyces invadans* to ensure consistency with the approach taken in other chapters in the *Aquatic Code*.
- Infection with ostreid herpesvirus-1 microvariant was listed as an emerging disease as it meets the criteria for listing an emerging aquatic animal disease in Article 1.2.2. of the *Aquatic Code*.
- A new Chapter 7.4. Killing of farmed fish for disease control purposes.
- Chapter 10.5. Infection with infectious salmon anaemia virus (pathogen differentiation, HPR0 and HPR-deleted ISAV) was amended to address the issue of pathogen differentiation.

### **Collaboration**

9. Collaboration between OIE and CAC should not occur uniquely at the international level. The OIE encourages its national Delegates to collaborate with national Delegates to the CAC, in particular to discuss at national level alignment of relevant standards under development by the respective organisations.

### **OIE National focal points**

10. The OIE encourages all Member Countries to nominate National Focal Points, under the authority of the OIE Delegate, for eight strategic issues, including aquatic animals and animal production food safety. The creation of the OIE National Focal Point for animal production food safety aims to improve communication between the OIE, Delegates and all agencies responsible for food safety at the national level. A series of specific training workshops for OIE Focal Points has been conducted worldwide and this is continuing, on a region by region basis.