

INTRODUCTION

Regional Introductory Training Workshop on Aquatic Animal Health Management

Antalya, Turkey
3-7 December 2012

1. Background

Despite the available potential, fisheries in the Central Asian countries (i.e. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) have not evolved to a level that contributes significantly to food security and rural development. Although fish production in these countries has slightly increased over the last decade, total fisheries production remains negligible. The limited institutional, technical, and financial capacities in these countries are hampering growth of the fisheries sector.

Disease can pose a great threat to aquaculture and infectious diseases have become one of primary limiting factors for the success and profitability of fish farming. Fish health problems and diseases commonly occur in intensive and semi-intensive culture production systems. Fish farms spread diseases and parasites to wild fish populations. Infectious disease outbreaks cause significant economic losses in the farming of varying commercial fish species at local, national, regional and global levels. Examples are infectious salmon anemia, bacterial kidney disease of salmon, cold water vibriosis of salmon; spring viremia of carp; and white spot disease of shrimp.

It is well documented that successful fisheries and aquaculture depends on careful planning, management and monitoring. However, operational risk-based fish health management plans and strategies and monitoring are not in place yet in the Central Asia and Caucasus (CAC) region. The CAC region often lacks capacity, data and documentation on the occurrence and spatial distribution of disease outbreaks. Therefore, greater efforts should be made on building capacity in order to prevent, control, and eradicate the fish diseases through proper management, taking into consideration international standards, guidelines and best practices. Fish health management in the region should begin to move towards proactive preventive approach rather than reactive disease treatment. The keys to successful fish health management are elimination of fish stress; proper husbandry and good biosecurity and sanitary conditions, water and waste management; proper use of veterinary chemotherapeutics and fish vaccines.

Fish health management, prevention of fish diseases and control and monitoring of trade of live fish and processed fish and fish products are regional challenges of great importance. Therefore more effective and operational rules and regulations need to be developed within the context of trade-related fisheries management. Gradual development of national and regional systems for, *inter alia*, collection and dissemination of data and information of disease outbreaks, notification of diseases, monitoring of trade of live fish and processed fish and fish products, awareness raising on fish health and prevention of fish diseases, updating of national legislation for strengthened compliance and enforcement, technical capacity and capability building and improved institutional cooperation are expected to overcome the general limitations which exist in terms of fish health management in the CAC region.

In terms of infectious fish diseases, the workshop will focus on the key freshwater fish species of the CAC region, namely trout and carp species.

2. Objectives

The primary objective of the regional workshop is to conduct an introductory basic training on aquatic animal health to raise awareness and to serve as a basis for discussing regional issues pertaining to aquaculture development and aquatic animal health (AAH) management and draw recommendations for future activities.

Expected key outcomes of the workshop include the following:

1. Improved knowledge and capacity on basic aquatic animal health management;
2. Increased awareness of the different risk sectors affecting aquaculture and better understanding of risk analysis as a decision-making tool;
3. Possible fisheries management tools and measures that can be used for improved fish health management in the Central Asian and Caucasus region; and
4. Workshop report that will contain workshop highlights, analysis of the AAH performance and capacity, regional issues concerning AAH and fish health management recommendations for the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Commission (CACFish).

4. Process

Prior to the conduct of the workshop, an Aquatic Animal Health Performance and Capacity Survey will be conducted for each participating country. The results of the survey will be analysed and presented at the workshop.

Participants from each country are requested to make a joint country presentation, with a focus on the following issues:

- A summary of the country survey, which may include the following components of the survey:
 - Main national legislation of relevance to fish health management; import and export of fish and fish products
 - National fish health management system,
 - Institutions and agencies of relevance to fish health management
 - International trade in live aquatic animals and national border controls
 - Regulation and controls on domestic live aquatic animals
 - Policy and planning of fish health management
 - Disease surveillance and monitoring
 - Diagnosis of fish diseases: Laboratories and centers; national reference laboratories; and international standards and methods used.
 - Emergency preparedness/contingency planning
- Main problems/challenges in terms of fish health management
- Information on the occurrence of infectious diseases over the last years

5. Organization and partners

Financial support for the workshop is received from the regular programme funds for fisheries under the Sub-regional Office for Central Asia (FAOSEC) and the Regional Programme for Fisheries and Aquaculture

Development-FishDev Central Asia, which is being conducted under the FAO Turkey partnership Programme (FTPP).

6. Participants

The regional workshop is designed for government officers involved in fish health management, hatchery managers and researchers. Participation of the (primary) person who undertook the country survey (i.e. questionnaire) is particularly asked for the appropriate analysis and evaluation of the given survey at the workshop.

From each invited country (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan) a total of 4 persons will be invited to the workshop with the following profiles:

- Officer(s) involved in fish health issues
- Researcher(s) working on fish diseases
- Manager(s) of fish farm
- FAO particularly welcomes the nomination of qualified women.

Full financial support, covering travel, breakfast, lunch, dinner and accommodation, to the selected participants will be provided by the organizers of the workshop. Selection of the participants will take place by the Organizer of the workshop in close consultation with relevant fisheries authorities of above mentioned countries.

Other interested persons from developing countries in this workshop may get in touch with Workshop Contact Persons to seek information on their possible participation.

7. Language of workshop

During the workshop, communication will be done in Russian and English. Background information will also be provided in these two languages. Simultaneous interpretation service will be provided at the workshop.

8. Venue

The workshop will be held at Antalya, Turkey.

9. Workshop contact persons

Mr. Haydar Fersoy

Telephone: +90-312-3079542

Fax: +90-312-3271705

E-mail: Haydar.Fersoy@fao.org

Mr. Yasin Tamer

Telephone: +90-312-3079524

Fax: +90-312-3271705

E-mail: Yasin.Tamer@fao.org