

# **1 SCOPE AND PURPOSE**

This *Manual of Procedures* provides background material and detailed technical procedures in support of the *Asia Regional Technical Guidelines on Health Management for the Responsible Movement of Live Aquatic Animals* (FAO/NACA, 2000). The *Technical Guidelines* are designed to assist countries and territories in the Asia Region with responsible national and international movement of live aquatic animals, and to reduce the risk of disease spread through trade and movement of live aquatic animals within and between regions. The *Technical Guidelines* provide an outline of procedures and considerations required for achieving effective aquatic animal disease control. They also outline procedures required to implement relevant provisions in the *FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries* (CCRF) (FAO 1995) and to meet standards of related international treaties and agreements applicable to the Asian Region. The *Manual of Procedures* provides details and approaches which need to be developed to meet the outlines given in the *Technical Guidelines*. It is intended for use by workers involved in, and responsible for, aquatic animal production and movements. This includes people at the farm site right up to the highest governing authorities. Both documents were developed with the goal of providing a region-wide approach to aquatic animal disease control which can be used to build support infrastructure, capability and collaboration under a uniform reference umbrella. These documents will be available to all countries in the Asia Region that wish to reinforce or revise their capability in this area. In doing so, it is hoped that all countries will be capable of controlling aquatic animal disease emergencies within their national boundaries, reducing the risk of introduction and spread of disease between countries and last, but not least, gain equivalency at the global level for dealing with trade issues associated with aquatic animal health. In compiling both documents, many regional and international specialists in aquatic animal health management have been consulted, however, this is a dynamic field, so specific examples and details have deliberately been omitted. These details are covered by specialized documentation which is referenced, where appropriate, throughout the *Manual of Procedures*. In addition, separate references are being compiled for the Asia Region which cover specialized topics, e.g., disease diagnostic protocols.

## **1.1 References**

- FAO. 1995. Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. FAO, Rome, 41 p.  
FAO/NACA. 2000. Asia Regional Technical Guidelines on Health Management for the Responsible Movement of Live Aquatic Animals. FAO Fish. Techn. Pap. No. 402, 53p.