



World Organisation for Animal Health

Founded as OIE

WOAH Aquatic Animal Health Strategy PROPOSAL ACTIVITIES IN AMERICAS

Objective 1 STANDARDS <i>Aquatic Code and Manual</i>	
Activities	Proposal Activity Americas
1.1 Develop new WOAHS standards – <i>Aquatic Code and Manual</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish a regional working group on aquatic animal's health in the Americas region (hereinafter: <i>Working Group</i>), to lead and monitor the implementation of WOAHS aquatic animal health strategy in Americas.• Create a regional network with experts (hereinafter: <i>Expert Network</i>), to consult in each area (surveillance, disease prevention and control, AMR and diagnostic in fish, crustaceans and molluscs).• Participation of regional organisations (CAN, CVP, OIRSA and others).• New standards ongoing working in the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (AAHSC), prioritized by Members:<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Ornamental aquatic animals;✓ Aquatic animal genetic material;✓ Compartmentalisation;✓ Emergency disease preparedness;✓ Management of aquatic animal disease outbreaks.
1.2 Revise existing <i>Aquatic Code</i> standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Include in aquatic animal's health in Americas Working Group.• Next AAHSC's work plan (2024-2027), will be the tool to prioritise the development of new and revision of existing standards.• Priorities include the revision of approaches to declaration of disease freedom (specially zone and compartment), according to new Ch. 1.4 and revision of the lists of susceptible aquatic species to aquatic diseases.
1.3 Review the scientific basis of existing aquatic animal welfare standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Include in aquatic animal's health in Americas Working Group.• Work with WOAHS regional collaborating centres in this area.• Promote twinning projects.
1.4 Revise existing <i>Aquatic Manual Standards</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Include in aquatic animal's health in Americas Working Group considering regional network with experts participation.• New diagnostic methods will be incorporated where appropriate, and guidance will be provided on their fitness for purpose.• Next AAHSC's work plan (2024-2027), will be the tool to prioritise the development of new and revision of existing standards.
1.5 Identify barriers to implementation of standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation and consultation system for aquatic focal points.• This activity will be developed within the framework of the WOAHS Observatory.
1.6 Increase the accessibility of standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthen communication process (including English – Spanish translation issues).

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Objective 2 CAPACITY BUILDING WOAH programmes support the strengthening of the Aquatic Animal Health Services of WOA Members	
Activities	Proposal Activity Americas
2.1 Support the implementation of standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This activity will enable members to better implement standards on new chapters 2.1 on Biosecurity and 1.4 on Surveillance (development implementation guidance's).
2.2 Increase the use of the WOA PVS Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote PVS evaluations as the main fact-finding tool when aquatic projects are initiated in Members and complementary in some cases for countries wanting to apply FAO Progressive Management Pathway for Improving Aquaculture Biosecurity (PMP/AB).
2.3 Develop public-private partnerships (PPP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify existing successful aquatic PPP initiatives. Promote PPP in aquatics specially in AMR, disease free compartment and national diseases list prioritisation for surveillance and control measures. Develop pilot on specific case studies.
2.4 Identify barriers to transparency in disease reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen training and PPP risk communication. Implement a national list of notifiable aquatic animal diseases with the private sector participation (this is very relevant and it needs to be prioritize).
2.5 Develop a Disease Identification Guide for mobile devices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote to share (workshop or webinars) initiatives with digital experiences used for diagnostic purposes (APPs) in aquatics animals on listed WOA aquatic diseases and emerging aquatic animal's diseases.
2.6 Support WOA Delegates and WOA Focal Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a regional Working Group on aquatic animal's health in Americas to lead and monitor the implementation of aquatic animal health strategy in Americas, including capacity building programs to support WOA focal points. Use available <i>e-learning</i> modules. Targeted training initiatives as develop webinars, training sessions on biosecurity, emerging diseases, emergency response, the use of WOA WAHIS, welfare, communications, and self-declaration process. The WOA Collaborating Centre for Antimicrobial Stewardship in Aquaculture (CASA), could be involve on training modules on this issue.
2.7 Establish a WOA Global Aquatic Animal Health Scholarship scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate and coordinate some system.
2.8 Support small-scale aquaculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support competent authorities and develop practical guidance. Work together with FAO

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Objective 3 RESILIENCE Responses to emerging aquatic animal health issues of regional or global concern are coordinated and timely	
Activities	Proposal Activity Americas
3.1 Formalise procedures for a coordinated WOAHA approach to disease emergencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a basic tool kit in peace time for a better response in a diseases emergency at national or regional level. • Consider regional network with experts to support members in case of an emergency in science, diagnostic capacity, biosecurity issues, surveillance zones, etc. • This initiative will complement other existing mechanisms, such as the FAO's Emergency Management Centre for Animal Health.
3.2 Provide support for early response at the national level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop guidance and training resources on different phases of an emergency preparedness (peacetime, alert, emergency and recover) • Work with current America collaborative centre in Canada.
3.3 Develop guidelines for collaborative emergency response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop standard simulation exercises at national and regional level. • Work in coordination with CAN, CVP, OIRSA
3.4 Provide practical AMR guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working plan provided by CASA collaborative centre

Objective 4 LEADERSHIP WOAH's capacity to provide global aquatic animal health and welfare leadership is strengthened	
Activities	Proposal Activity Americas
4.1 Further develop international partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a network of the Americas for aquatic animal health with FAO, regional organisations and other partnerships. This scheme would take the leadership to enhance aquatic animal health and welfare through WOAHA aquatic strategy and other regional initiatives.
4.2 Develop the WOAHA's aquatic animal health and welfare capabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop strategic regional plan under the umbrella of network of the Americas for aquatic animal health. • Consider private sector participation.
4.3 Engage WOAHA scientific networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote creation of regional network with experts.
4.4 Establish forums for the WOAHA Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish in action plan of aquatic animal's health in Americas, the organization of regional forums.
4.5 Identify the highest-priority research areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider areas that are of importance to the WOAHA Community, specifically, the development and implementation of standards, listed diseases scientific gaps, emergency diseases and AMR prevention. • PPP activities could help to define this areas.