

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission -
March 2008 Report

CHAPTER 1.1.1.

DEFINITIONS

Article 1.1.1.1.

Aquatic animals

means all life stages (including *eggs* and *gametes*) of fish, molluscs, ~~and~~ crustaceans, ~~and~~ amphibians originating from *aquaculture establishments* or removed from the wild, for farming purposes, for release into the ~~aquatic~~ environment or for human consumption.

Aquatic animals for slaughter/harvest

means aquatic animals that are destined to be transported or taken following arrival in the importing country under the control of the relevant Competent Authority, to a fish slaughtering premises or other processing plant preparing products for human consumption.

Area of direct transit

means a special area established in a transit country approved by the relevant Competent Authority where aquatic animals stay for a very short time, and where water changes may be made, before further transport to their final destination when passing through the transit territory.

Bias

A tendency of an estimate to differ in a non-random fashion from the true value of a *population parameter*.

Case definition

A *case definition* is a set of criteria used to distinguish a case animal or *epidemiological unit* from a non-case.

Disease

means clinical or non clinical ~~infection or infestation~~ with one or more of the aetiological agents of the *diseases* referred to in the *Aquatic Code*.

Epidemiological unit

A group of animals that share approximately the same risk of exposure to a *disease agent* with a defined location. This may be because they share a common aquatic environment (e.g. fish in a pond, caged fish in a lake), or because management practices make it likely that a *disease agent* in one group of animals would quickly spread to other animals (e.g. all the ponds on a farm, all the ponds in a village system).

Incubation period

means the period that elapses between the introduction of a disease agent into an aquatic animal population and the occurrence of the first clinical signs of the disease.

Infection

means the presence of a multiplying or otherwise developing or latent *disease agent* in a host. This term is understood to include infestation where the *disease agent* is a parasite in or on a host.

Infestation

~~means the presence in sufficient numbers of a multiplying of a notifiable parasitic, or commensal, agent on or in a host a host so as to cause damage or *disease*.~~

Inspection

~~means the control carried out by the *Competent Authority* in order to ensure that an *aquatic animal* is/*aquatic animals* are free from the *diseases* considered in the *Aquatic Code*; the *inspection* may call for clinical examination, laboratory tests and, generally, the application of other procedures that could reveal an *infection* or an *infestation* that may be present in an *aquatic animal population*.~~

Offal

~~means visceral organs, cut-offs, condemned raw material, organs, etc. of aquatic animals.~~

Probability sampling

A sampling strategy in which every unit has a known non-zero probability of inclusion in the sample.

Sensitivity

the proportion of true positive tests given in a diagnostic test, i.e. the number of true positive results divided by the number of true positive and false negative results.

Specificity

the probability that absence of infection will be correctly identified by a diagnostic test, i.e. the number of true negative results divided by the number of true negative and false positive results.

Stamping-out policy

means the carrying out under the authority of the *Competent Authority*, on confirmation of a *disease*, of preventive *aquatic animal* health measures, consisting of killing the *aquatic animals* that are affected, those suspected of being affected in the *population* and those in other *populations* that have been exposed to *infection* or *infestation* by direct or indirect contact of a kind likely to cause the transmission of the *disease agent*. All these *aquatic animals*, vaccinated or unvaccinated, on an infected site should be killed and the carcasses destroyed by burning or burial, or by any other method that will eliminate the spread of *infection* or *infestation* through the carcasses or products of the *aquatic animals* destroyed.

This policy should be accompanied by cleansing and *disinfection* procedures as defined in the *Aquatic Code*. *Fallowing* should be for an appropriate period determined by *risk assessment*.

Study population

means the *population* from which surveillance data are derived. This may be the same as the *target population* or a subset of it.

Subclinical

means without clinical manifestations, for example a stage of *infection* ~~or infestation~~ at which signs are not apparent or detectable by clinical examination.

Susceptible species

means a species of *aquatic animal* in which *infection* ~~or infestation~~ has been demonstrated by natural cases or by experimental exposures to the *disease agent* that mimics the natural pathways for *infection* ~~or infestation~~. Each *disease* chapter in the *Aquatic Manual* contains a list of currently known *susceptible species*.

Target population

For the purposes of demonstrating freedom from *infection*, the *population* of interest, usually made up of all *aquatic animals* of species susceptible to a specified *disease agent* in a defined country, zone or *aquaculture establishment*.

Targeted surveillance

means *surveillance* targeted at a specific *disease*; or *infection* ~~or infestation~~.

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