

USA COMMENTS

**CRITERIA FOR LISTING AQUATIC ANIMAL DISEASES**

Article 1.2.1.

**Criteria for listing an aquatic animal disease**

*Diseases* proposed for listing should meet all of the relevant parameters set for each of the criteria, namely A. Consequences, B. Spread and C. Diagnosis. Therefore, to be listed, a *disease* should have the following characteristics: 1 or 2 or 3; and 4 or 5; and 6; and 7; and 8. Such proposals should be accompanied by a *case definition* for the *disease* under consideration.

No.	Criteria (A-C)	Parameters that support a listing	Explanatory notes
<a href="#">Rationale for deleting 'Criteria (A-C)': The purpose and value of that box is not clear. Leads to confusion.</a>			
<b>A. Consequences</b>			
1.		The disease has been shown to cause significant production losses at a national or multinational (zonal or regional) level.	There is a general pattern that the <i>disease</i> will lead to losses in <i>susceptible</i> species, and that morbidity or mortality are <del>related</del> <u>caused</u> primarily <del>to</del> <u>by</u> the agent, <del>and not management or environmental factors.</del> <u>(Morbidity includes, for example, loss of production due to spawning failure.)</u> The direct economic impact of the disease is linked to its morbidity, mortality and effect on product quality.
			<a href="#">Rationale for commenting on A.1: Management factors and loss from disease are inextricably linked.</a>
2.	Or	The disease has been shown to or scientific evidence indicates that it is likely to <u>cause significant morbidity or mortality in</u> <del>negatively affect</del> wild aquatic animal populations.	Wild aquatic animal populations can be populations that are commercially harvested (wild fisheries) and hence are an economic asset. However, the asset could be ecological or environmental in nature, for example, if the population consists of an endangered species of aquatic animal or an aquatic animal potentially endangered by the disease.

3.	Or	The agent is of public health concern.	
<b>And</b>			
<b>B. Spread</b>			
4.		Infectious aetiology of the disease is proven.	<a href="#"><u>Koch's Postulates (or equivalent) have been fulfilled to demonstrate that the agent causes the disease.</u></a>
			<a href="#"><u>Rationale for commenting on B.4: An explanatory note is suggested.</u></a>

No.	Criteria (A-C)	Parameters that support a listing	Explanatory notes
5.	Or	An infectious agent is strongly associated with the disease, but the aetiology is not yet known.	Infectious diseases of unknown aetiology can have equally high-risk implications as those diseases where the infectious aetiology is proven. Whilst disease occurrence data are gathered, research should be conducted to elucidate the aetiology of the disease and the results be made available within a reasonable period of time.
No.	Criteria (A-C)	Parameters that support a listing	Explanatory notes
6.	And	Likelihood of international spread, including via live animals, their products or fomites.	International trade in aquatic animal species susceptible to the disease exists or is likely to develop and, under international trading practices, the entry and establishment of the disease is likely.
7.	And	Several countries or countries with zones may be declared free of the disease based on the general surveillance principles outlined in Chapter 1.4. of the <i>Aquatic Code</i> .	Free countries/zones could still be protected. Listing of diseases that are ubiquitous or extremely widespread would render notification unfeasible. However, individual countries that run a control programme on such a disease can propose its listing provided they have undertaken a scientific evaluation to support their request. Examples may be the protection of broodstock from widespread diseases, or the protection of the last remaining free zones from a widespread disease.
<b>And</b>			
<b>C. Diagnosis</b>			

8.		A repeatable and robust means of detection/diagnosis exists.	A diagnostic test should be widely available and preferably has undergone a formal standardisation and validation process using routine field samples (See <i>Aquatic Manual</i> .) or a robust case definition is available to clearly identify cases and allow them to be distinguished from other pathologies.
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<sup>1</sup>‘Susceptible’ is not restricted to ‘susceptible to clinical disease’ but includes ‘susceptible to covert infections’