



Message from Chairperson to FHS Family

One more year is coming to an end. On the FISH side of things, I am very happy to note that a considerable amount of research has been completed and published over the past year, with numerous workshops/brainstorming sessions/meetings convened, hundreds of recommendations, strategies, action plans developed and communicated.

All with one stated purpose of promoting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture to support livelihoods and income generation, food security, poverty alleviation and improved human nutrition. Year end is the time to sit back, relax and look back; but particularly I have been thinking about what parts of our efforts have had any impact on real issues that matter at the ground level. Has the poor farmer been able to minimize losses from diseases? Have countries put in place effective national strategies to ward off the negative impact of aquatic animal diseases? Have national policy makers been convinced to allocate sufficient resources to keep diseases away from their borders?

We are seeing more pathogens crossing such borders, and therefore we are seeing new diseases emerging and in the end more farmers losing their livelihoods. Have we failed somewhere or is it the normal way things happen not just in FISH but in all fields of agriculture and livestock. Is it really time to shift from reactive to proactive types of research, workshops and consultations? Or is it time to say just focus on implementation? Should IMPLEMENTATION be our mantra? I invite you to ponder and think over some of these issues during this holiday season and come back next year reenergized with new ideas and concepts to do good for the community at large.

Also remember to mark your calendars with dates for DAA9 in November 2014 in Vietnam.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to all

CV Mohan

Chairperson of Fish Health Section (AFS)



FHS (AFS) announces date and place for DAA9

9th Symposium on Diseases in Asian Aquaculture (DAA9)

The Fish Health Section (FHS) of the Asian Fisheries Society (AFS) is very pleased to announce that the 9th Symposium on Diseases in Asian Aquaculture (DAA9) will be held in **Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam from 24-28 November 2014.**

The Fish Health Section of the Asian Fisheries Society was founded in May 1989 with the goal to improve regional knowledge on fish health management and to support sustainable aquaculture development in Asia Pacific. FHS strives to promote interaction by bringing together fish health researchers to share their knowledge and experience. The FHS is credited with holding triennial symposia on “**Diseases in Asian Aquaculture**” (DAA) where members and aquatic animal health professionals meet to discuss broad issues and specific topics related to aquatic animal health. FHS has conducted earlier symposia in Bali, Indonesia (1990); Phuket, Thailand (1993); Bangkok, Thailand (1996); Cebu, The Philippines (1999); Gold Coast, Australia (2002); Colombo, Sri Lanka (2005); Taipei, Taiwan (2008) and Mangalore, India (2011). Each of these symposia brought together more than 300 aquatic animal health scientists, students, government researchers and industry personnel from over 30 countries to discuss issues pertaining to aquatic animal disease, their diagnosis, prevention and control.

In keeping with the tradition of previous DAA symposia, DAA9 in Vietnam is going to be a unique experience that you don't want to miss. Please mark the dates in your calendar of events and prepare to visit Vietnam to witness spectacular developments in aquaculture. First announcement of DAA9 will be made in the first semester of 2013 providing all the necessary details and information. Please look out for information on DAA9 and FHS on our website <http://www.fhs-afs.net>



News in aquaculture

Aquatic disease response capabilities put to the test

Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA), Fisheries and Aquaculture, Biosecurity SA, the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, will be running Exercise Sea Fox as part of a national objective to develop Australia's capacity to prevent and manage aquatic animal disease outbreaks. It will involve more than 70 government and industry representatives from across Australia in a three-part exercise in Port Lincoln from 23 October and includes visits to aquaculture farms, workshops and a desktop exercise to improve awareness of national and state emergency response arrangements.

The South Australian aquaculture industry produce some of the most sought after, premium quality seafood in the world, hence preparedness for responding to an emergency aquatic animal disease outbreak is important. Exercise Sea Fox will involve a hypothetical exercise based on an outbreak of Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS). The exercise will test response procedures, identify any shortcomings, and help update state and national emergency response frameworks. (http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/pirsa/about_pirsa.)

Canadian Enforcement of New Aquatic Animal Import Regulations to Start

As of December 10, 2012, each shipment of aquatic animals or their products shipped from the U.S. to Canada must be accompanied by an import permit issued by Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), and a health certificate endorsed by USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). [Other countries will be similarly affected.]

The new regulations and list of regulated aquatic species (finfish, mollusk and crustacean), developed in a context of end-purposes and aquatic animal diseases, can be found at <http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2010/2010-12-22/html/sor-dors296-eng.html>. The Canadian regulated species and the diseases of concern are at: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/aquatic-animals/diseases/susceptible-species/eng/1327162574928/1327162766981>.

Two health certificates for "Aquatic Animals and Germplasm Intended for Culture" and "Live Ornamental Aquatic Animals Intended for Commercial Aquarium use in CLOSED Premises in Canada" certificates are nearly finalized and will be available in early November. APHIS is also working closely with CFIA to establish zones of equal disease health status, and compartmentalization (management) equivalence programs to facilitate trade and provide alternative means for US exporters to meet CFIA requirements. APHIS anticipates some of these options will be available in 2013. For preliminary information on Canada's evolving program involving compartmentalization of aquatic animal premises see <http://tinyurl.com/99evrbg>. (www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/animal_canada.shtml)



News in aquaculture

Taurine deficiency linked to kingfish losses in Australia

Pioneering aquaculture company Clean Seas Tuna has sought compensation worth tens of millions of dollars from two suppliers for the loss of kingfish devastated by the deficiency of an amino acid, taurine, in their feed. (<http://www.seafoodsource.com/newsarticledetail.aspx?id=18501>)

Current trends in trout production include decreasing levels of fish-meal content in feeds, along with faster growing strains of fish. Taurine supplementation improved growth, feed conversion ratios, protein retention efficiencies, and energy retention efficiencies of fish fed the plant protein diets. No effects of taurine supplementation were observed for these response factors in fish fed the fish-meal series diets. This study demonstrates that taurine supplementation may be necessary for rainbow trout fed plant-protein-based feeds. (Gaylord, T. G., Teague, A. M. and Barrows, F. T. (2006), Taurine Supplementation of All-plant Protein Diets for Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). Journal of the World Aquaculture Society, 37: 509–517)

Best Aquaculture Practices by Global Aquaculture Alliance

The Global Aquaculture Alliance (GAA) has granted Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP) certification to Australia's Tassal, the first salmon producer in that country to be certified at farm level. (<http://www.seafoodsource.com/newsarticledetail.aspx?id=18788>)

The Global Aquaculture Alliance is an international, non-profit trade association dedicated to advancing environmentally and socially responsible, sustainable aquaculture. Through the development of its Best Aquaculture Practices certification standards, GAA has become the leading standards-setting organization for aquaculture seafood. The BAP standards currently cover aquaculture facilities for shrimp, salmon, tilapia, channel catfish and *Pangasius*. Additional standards are under development. (<http://www.gaalliance.org/>)

Epizootic ulcerative syndrome removed from controlled diseases in England and Wales

The European Commission have issued Commission Implementing Directive 2012/31/EU removing Epizootic ulcerative syndrome (EUS) from the list of controlled diseases in aquatic animals. Although the disease was likely to have entered the Union repeatedly via ornamental fish, no outbreaks of EUS have been reported in the Union and there is no evidence to suggest that EUS has the potential for detrimental environmental impact. (www.defra.gov.uk/aahm/2012/11/02/eus-removed-controlled-diseases)



Fish Health Section

Asian Fisheries Society

Announcements:

25-29 August 2013

Perth Convention Exhibition Centre
Western Australia



24th International Conference of the World Association
for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology

Preconference fish pathology
workshop, Perth, 22-24 Aug 2013
Venue: Murdoch University
<http://www.waavp2013perth.com/waavp/program.html>

**2013 FRDC Australasian Scientific
Conference on Aquatic Animal
Health**, The Pullman Reef Hotel,
Cairns, 8-12 July 2013

Keynote presenters:

Prof Hugh Ferguson

Prof Don Lightner

First International Conference of Fish and Shellfish Immunology

Vigo (Spain), June 25-28, 2013.

<http://vigoimmunology.com/2013/>

Symposium: Science in the Service of Animal Welfare: Priorities Around the World

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona,
Barcelona, Spain, 4-5 July 2013

www.ufaw.org.uk/conf.html

2nd International Symposium on Ranaviruses

Knoxville, Tennessee, US

27-29 July 2013

<http://ranavirus.com>.



**European Association
of Fish Pathologists**

16th International Conference on Diseases and Shellfish, Tampere

Finland, 2nd - 6th Sept 2013

Post-conference histology workshop
on the sensory system 7th Sept 2013

<http://eafp.org/>



Next Issue of the FHS Newsletter

Feature articles on aquatic animal health activities in Asia

Please send in articles for newsletter to the editor:

Dr Susan Gibson-Kueh

Email: S.Kueh@murdoch.edu.au or Susan.Kueh@gmail.com

People news

If you would like to let your fellow researchers know of your new adventures and whereabouts, drop me a line or two with your new contact details. Ed.

Dr Brian Jones will be leaving Department of Fisheries, Western Australia. From 14th January, he will be Principal Advisor, Aquatic Animal Health, with the New Zealand Ministry of Primary Industries, Wellington. Brian wishes all his colleagues and friends a Happy Christmas and New Year!