

Japan's comments on the Report of the meeting of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission in February 2017

Japan would like to express its appreciation to the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission for giving us an opportunity for offering comments on the proposed revision to Aquatic Animal Health Code.

1. (Annex 26) CRITERIA FOR LISTING SPECIES AS SUSCEPTIBLE TO INFECTION WITH A SPECIFIC PATHOGEN

General comments

Japan shares the view that it is important to avoid such a situation that the spread of the disease cannot be prevented effectively because of listing only scientifically confirmed susceptible species in spite of the basic thinking of the susceptibility of species should be decided by species which fulfil the scientific criteria. Therefore, Japan generally supports establishing criteria for listing susceptible species at a taxonomic ranking higher than species, making comment below.

Specific comments

Article 1.5.9. Listing susceptible species at a taxonomic ranking higher than species

- 1) A decision to conclude susceptibility for a taxonomic level above species should only be made where:
- A. susceptibility has been demonstrated in at least one species from within each of three or more families immediately lower rank taxa, or from within each of the lower rank taxa if the taxon of concern comprises less than three immediately lower rank taxa;
 - AND
 - B. more than one species within the taxonomic ranking has been found to be susceptible in accordance with the criteria above the other species in the taxon are also likely to be susceptible, but cannot be listed because of the lack of scientific evidence, and hence, the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission considers that the spread of the disease cannot be prevented effectively by listing only scientifically confirmed susceptible species, rendering the Code and the Manual for the disease futile;
 - AND
 - C. no species within the taxonomic ranking taxon of concern has been found to be refractory to infection.

Rationale:

- (1) For the condition A, the word “families” in the original sentence only refers to the taxa of the rank “family”. However, other taxonomic ranking such as genera, species, or orders could be

referred depending on the taxon of concern. Therefore, “families” has been changed to “immediately lower rank taxa”. The additional phrase following “or” is to deal with the cases in which there are only one or two lower rank taxa in the taxon of concern.

- (2) The original condition B has been deleted, since this is automatically satisfied if the condition A is satisfied.
- (3) By the condition A, a taxon containing many species can be designated as susceptible by the presence of only three susceptible species, even if the taxon possibly includes species that are not susceptible to the disease, which may later become apparent by new studies. The new condition B is added, in order to avoid such a situation, and to apply the rules appropriately.
- (4) For the condition C, “the taxonomic ranking” has been changed into “the taxon of concern”, since “taxonomic ranking” does not refer to a group of animals that belong to a certain taxonomic group.

Other comments:

- (1) The condition “The taxonomic ranking chosen should be the lowest level supported by this evidence” does not seem to cause any problems if it is deleted.
- (2) When the refractory species found, the list should be updated promptly.

2. (Annex 28) INFECTION WITH WHITE SPOT SYNDROME VIRUS

7.1 Definition of suspect case

Infection with WSSV is suspected if at least one of the following criteria is met:

1. Histopathology consistent with WSSV
2. Positive conventional PCR result
3. Positive real-time PCR result
- 4.** Positive LAMP result

Rationale:

It seems there is a typo.