

Japan's comments on the Report of the meeting of the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission in February 2020

(Annex9) Model articles for declaration of freedom

Proposed amendments and comments on (Article X.X.7. Compartment free from infection with [PATHOGEN X]) (**Insertion**/~~Deletion~~)

2)c) targeted surveillance, as described in Chapter 1.4., has been in place for at least the last **[one]**-year **/ X months** without detection of [PATHOGEN X].

(Rationale)

Japan considers that it should be marked [one year/ X months], because targeted surveillance of a time period measured by year is not necessary for some diseases for the following reasons:

- To eradicate pathogens through disinfection or other methods is less difficult than in a compartment than in a country or a zone. To review and improve previous biosecurity status, to introduce disease-free aquatic animals, and to conduct surveillance for a required and minimum period of time (monthly based period) make it possible to confirm a pathogen negative status at a compartment.
- The report of the Aquatic Animals Commission meeting in September 2019 indicated that compartments will be able to return to freedom relatively rapidly; however, a minimum period of time for one round of testing will be required to demonstrate that eradication has been successful. Although a specific period is not established in such report, we consider that "at least one year" is too long based on the actual practice of surveillance of aquatic animal diseases. We propose to add "month" as a unit of time period so that more flexibility can be ensured when this article is applied to each disease chapter.

If the Aquatic Animals Commission considers that targeted surveillance of a time period measured by year is necessary regardless of the type of disease, please provide the basis of that.

(Annex 13) INFECTION WITH INFECTIOUS HAEMATOPOIETIC NECROSIS VIRUS

Proposed amendments and comments on (Table 6.1. Diagnostic performance of tests recommended for surveillance or diagnosis) (**Insertion**/~~Deletion~~)

Test type	Test purpose	Source populations	Tissue or Sample types	Species
Real-time RT-PCR	Diagnosis	Experimentally infected salmon	Kidney	Rainbow trout Steelhead (<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>)
RT-PCR (single step)	Diagnosis	Experimentally infected salmon	Kidney	Rainbow trout Steelhead (<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>)
Virus Isolation	Diagnosis	Experimentally infected salmon	Kidney	Rainbow trout Steelhead (<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>)
		Field samples	Kidney and spleen	Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)

Rationale:

Rainbow trout is generally used as English common name for *Oncorhynchus mykiss*.

(Annex14) INFECTION WITH VIRAL HAEMORRHAGIC SEPTICAEMIA VIRUS

Proposed amendments and comments on (2.2.7. Vectors) (Insertion)

VHSV has been isolated from common snapping turtle (*Chelra serpentina*), leech (*Myzobdella lugubris*), northern map turtle (*Grapeternys geographica*) and water flea (*Moina macrocopa*) and these species may be potential vectors for transmission of VHSV (Faisal & Schultz, 2009; Goodwin & Merry, 2011).

On the other hand, Ito & Olesen (2017) demonstrated that rainbow trout experimentally fed VHSV-contaminated water flea did not show any mortality, suggesting a low possibility in oral infection by the water flea.

VHSV has also been isolated from the amphipods *Hyalella* spp. and *Diporeia* spp., suggesting that benthic macroinvertebrates may be vectors for VHSV IVb in endemically affected systems. In contrast VHSV was not detected in mussels or sediments in the same water environment (Faisal & Winters 2011; Throckmorton et al., 2017). VHSV has also been isolated from leech, *Myzobdella lugubris*, in the Great Lakes (Faisal & Schulz, 2009; Faisal & Winters, 2011).

Rationale:

The original text is missing the reference to the possibility of oral infection of water flea which is low. This should be added to avoid misleading.

References:

Ito T. and Olesen N.J. (2017) Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia virus (VHSV) remains viable for several days but at low levels in the water flea *Moina macrocopa*. *Diseases of Aquatic Organisms*, 127, p.11-18.

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(7. OIE AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH CODE)

Proposed comments on (7.3.3 Infection with Carp edema virus (CEV))

Based on available scientific information, the Commission agreed that infection with CEV meets the OIE definition of an 'emerging disease' and, as such, Members should report it in accordance with Article 1.1.4 of the Aquatic Code.

Comment:

Not a comment on annexes, but Japan wants to provide its opinion about CEV included in the report.

Japan totally supports to the idea that information on CEV should be widely gathered and analyzed, including mortality and morbidity and its impact to carp farms as well as control measures, since scientific discussion based on facts is critical. At present, we consider that information is not enough to make a judgement whether CEV meets the OIE definition of an emerging disease. We hope that, at its meeting in September 2020, the Aquatic Animals Commission will continue the discussion of whether CEV satisfies the definition of an emerging disease after fully collecting the information from each country to understand occurrences of CEV and their impact to aquaculture in the world.

IN Japan, while CEV has occurred since the 1970s, so far it has had a momentous impact neither on aquatic animals nor human. It should also be noted that CEV has been reported in the United states in 1996 (Hedrick et al., 1997), in Europe in 1997 (Haenen et al., 2016) and in China and Brazil in 2015 (Zhang et al., 2017, Viadanna et al. 2015).

References:

- Haenen O, Way K, Gorgoglione B, Ito T, Paley R, Bigarre L, Waltzek T (2016) Novel viral infections threatening cyprinid fish. Bull Eur Assoc Fish Pathol 36:11-23
- Hedrick RP, Antonio DB, Munn RJ (1997) Poxvirus like agent associated with epizootic mortality in Juvenile koi (Cyprinus carpio). FHS Newsl 25:1-2
- Zhang X, Ni Y, Ye J, Xu H, Hou Y, Luo W, Shen W (2017) Carp edema virus, emerging threat to the carp (Cyprinus carpio) industry in China. Aquaculture 474:34-39
- Viadanna, P., F. Pilarski, S. Hesami, and T. Waltzek (2015) "First report of Carp Edema Virus (CEV) in South American Koi." 40th Eastern Fish Health Workshop, Charleston, NC. Abstract and presentation.