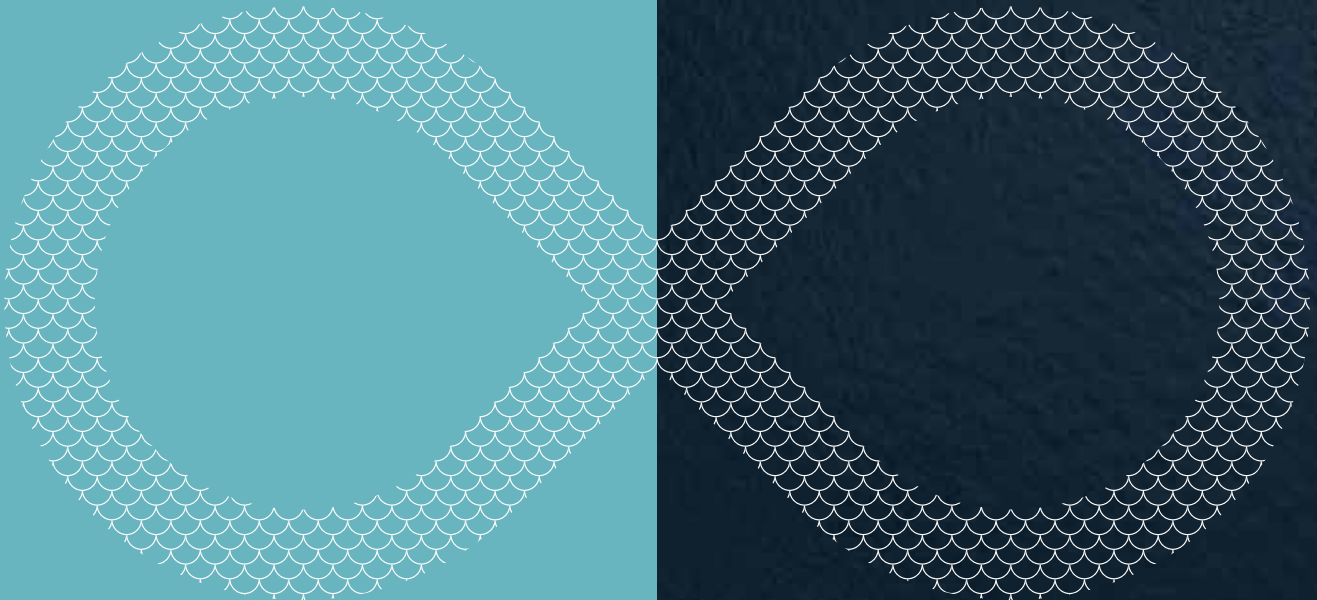


Benefits
of aquatic
animals are
infinite

Keep them
healthy!



By keeping aquatic animals healthy, the livelihoods of millions around the world are secured, the diversity of life below water is protected, and food security can be ensured for our future generations.

Take actions today
to protect aquatic animal health
and preserve their infinite ∞ benefits.



WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH
Protecting animals, preserving our future

Protecting aquatic animals, preserving our future



Aquatic animals play an essential role in achieving a more prosperous and secure world, contributing to many aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



No poverty

More than 50 million people find a source of income and **livelihood** in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors¹.



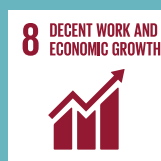
Zero hunger

Aquatic animals provide more than 3 billion people with almost 20 percent of their average per capita intake of animal protein thereby contributing to **food security**¹.



Good health and well-being

Aquatic animals contribute to good health and well-being through **improved nutrition**.



Decent work and economic growth

More than 30% of the world's aquatic animal production enters international trade, providing **employment** and generating income for millions of people.



Life below water

Responsible and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture practices are crucial to **protect life** below water.



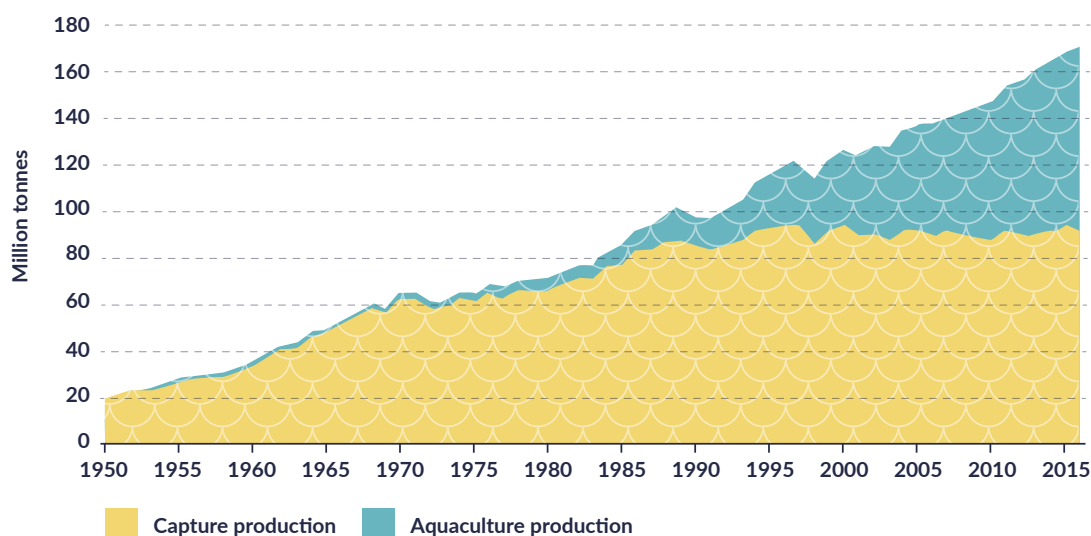
Partnerships for the goals

A safe international trade system of aquatic animals and their products based on the OIE Standards is a motor for **sustainable development**.

1. The state of world fisheries and aquaculture meeting the sustainable development goals, FAO 2018

Why we need to act now?

To satisfy the growing global demand for aquatic food, by the year 2030, its global production will have to double. With capture fishery production relatively static since the late 1980s, aquaculture production will need to continue to grow to feed the world's increasing human population.



Note: excludes aquatic mammals, crocodiles, alligators and caimans, seaweeds and other aquatic plants

Figure 1: World capture fisheries and aquaculture production

However, aquatic animal diseases threaten to constrain the growth of global aquatic food production, causing major **socio-economic** and **environmental impacts**. To fully achieve the potential of fisheries and aquaculture, effective actions are needed to limit the spread of animal diseases and to ensure the use of resources in a sustainable way.

By keeping aquatic animals healthy and implementing sustainable practices we can safeguard their production and preserve their infinite benefits to build a better world for people and our planet.

Action is needed to keep aquatic animals healthy!

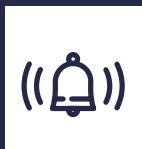


What is the OIE doing to protect aquatic animals?

Improving aquatic animal health worldwide

The growing international trade of aquatic animals and their products can be a significant pathway for the spread of aquatic animal diseases. Considering the open environment in which aquatic animals often live, an imported disease can cause severe losses in farmed but also in wild animals, threatening the diversity of life below water.

The OIE provides countries with recommendations on how to **prevent these catastrophic impacts** and **ensure safe international trade** of amphibians, crustaceans, fish, molluscs and their products, through its international Standards* for disease:



Prevention



Diagnosis



Early detection



Control

Implementing OIE international Standards protects aquatic animal health.

Providing a window into the aquatic animal health situation

Access to information on international diseases outbreaks in real time is essential to take timely actions that can limit their spread. The OIE provides **reliable data** on the aquatic animal disease situation worldwide –including disease alerts – through the online World Animal Health Information System (OIE-WAHIS).

This information is reported by OIE Members. As **disease surveillance** is also important in aquatic wildlife, specific diseases of these animals can be notified on WAHIS-Wild. By reporting aquatic animal diseases through OIE-WAHIS, countries can limit their spread.



* OIE international Standards are regularly updated following the latest scientific information and a transparent process. They are published on the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code* and OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*.

Ensuring animal welfare for farmed fish

The use of farmed fish for food or any other purpose carries the ethical responsibility to avoid any unnecessary suffering of these animals. The OIE has developed welfare international Standards* for farmed fish that cover transport, stunning and killing for human consumption and killing for disease control purposes.

Additionally, an OIE Global Animal Welfare Strategy has been adopted to provide a **continuous direction** and **coordination** of the organisation's actions in this important field. This strategy focuses on four pillars:



Development of animal welfare standards



Capacity building and education



Communication with governments, organisations and the public



Implementation of animal welfare standards and policies

Moreover, aquatic animal health is an integral part of animal welfare; by improving the welfare for farmed fish, their susceptibility to diseases can be reduced and their productivity increased.

* OIE international Standards are regularly updated following the latest scientific information and a transparent process. They are published on the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code* and OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*.



Preserving the efficacy of antimicrobial agents

Misuse and overuse of antimicrobials in aquatic animals increase the risk of resistance, endangering animal and human health and welfare. But the impact of these practices goes beyond: the biodiversity and the environment can also be affected, considering their interconnection in these open systems.

The OIE developed international Standards* on antimicrobial resistance and for the **responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents** by the different actors of the aquatic animal sector:



Veterinary pharmaceutical industry



Wholesale and retail distributors



Veterinarians and other aquatic animal health professionals



Aquatic animal producers

The OIE has also published **a list of antimicrobial agents** of veterinary importance and annually publishes a report on the antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals following the data collection sent by its Members.

These reports include quantitative data reported by countries on antimicrobial agents used in aquatic food-producing animals helping to better understand the global situation.

The OIE guidelines should be used to ensure more prudent use of antimicrobials by all the actors from the aquatic animal sector.



* OIE international Standards are regularly updated following the latest scientific information and a transparent process. They are published on the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code* and OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*.

Why invest in aquatic animal systems?

Disease outbreaks cost the global aquaculture industry over US\$6 billion per year¹. In certain sectors (e.g., shrimp), total losses from infectious diseases may exceed 40% of global capacity. Most of these outbreaks occur in developing countries where over 90% of aquaculture takes place², reducing incomes, eliminating jobs, threatening food security and development gains.

Impact of infection with infectious salmon anemia virus outbreak in Chile

According to the World Bank², the outbreak of infection with infectious salmon anaemia virus officially detected in 2007, cost the Chilean salmon farming industry:



Almost
400,000
tonnes of fish



US\$2 billion



20,000 jobs

These losses present a strong case for investment in the improvement of the Aquatic Animal Health Services (AAHS). Robust AAHS can avoid these losses by **preventing and containing health crises** through meeting internationally adopted standards.

Strengthening Aquatic Animal Health Services through the OIE PVS Pathway

The OIE, through its PVS Pathway programme, conducts standardised evaluations of AAHS that can identify opportunities to improve their performance and capacity. It is a **continuous process** aimed at sustainably improving their compliance with relevant OIE international Standards.

Prevention is better than cure. Investing in the improvement of the AAHS through the OIE PVS Pathway, will reduce the economic losses generated by diseases outbreaks and safeguard global and national health security, while contributing to a sustainable development of the production systems.

1. Estimated by FAO - 2. Reducing disease risk in aquaculture, World Bank Group, June 2014



For more information:
OIE aquatic animals portal

www.oie.int/aquaticanimals



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