



Aquainnova

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PANDA

Permanent network to strengthen expertise on infectious diseases of aquaculture species and scientific advice to EU policy

The Challenge

The most important constraint to the development and sustainability of European aquaculture is infectious diseases. Direct losses and indirect trade restrictions are experienced. Although information and advice on disease diagnosis and control is available to the European Commission on an EU-wide basis through the networks of Community (<http://www.eu-crlfish.org>) and National Reference Laboratories, there is considerable scope for a more holistic approach. Under utilised expertise in aquatic animal diseases exists in a large number of institutes, laboratories, universities, private companies and other organisations. In order for Commission decisions on policies, legislation and future research priorities to be based on the best current scientific understanding of aquatic animal diseases and their control, a mechanism for drawing on these resources is required.

Project Objective

The aim of the PANDA project was to establish a permanent network of aquatic animal health specialists, including researchers and diagnosticians. PANDA provided a forum on issues regarding diseases in European aquaculture, and communicated the results of these discussions to the European Commission with provision of advice on EU policy and legislation for aquatic animal health.

Output Highlights

Expert Network

The network established an expert database, containing 293 members from over 50 countries worldwide covering a broad range of primary specialisations. The emphasis was on fin fish disease, but the network also has considerable expertise in shellfish disease. A permanent web site for network was created for public and network communication, of which the latter took place through a forum for debate.

EU Policy review

There were five sub-networks dealing with the major aspects of aquaculture diseases which are of relevance to EU policy:

EATiP Thematic Area of Relevance

TA1: Product Quality, Consumer Safety and Health

TA2: Technology and Systems

TA3: Managing the Biological Lifecycle

TA4: Sustainable Feed Production

TA5: Integration with the Environment

TA6: Knowledge Management

TA7: Aquatic Animal Health and Welfare

TA8: Socio-Economics and Management

Key Words

Aquaculture network, control of diseases, policy support

Project Information

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36 months

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Project website:
www.europanda.net (site no longer hosted)



- Risk analysis: identification of the most significant exotic, emerging and re-emerging disease hazards for the EU.
- Epidemiology: production of a database of epidemiological characteristics of the major disease hazards for the EU.
- Diagnostic methods: assessment of the current best diagnostic methods for the identified major disease hazards and recommendations for improvements, standardisation, validation and implementation. • Environmentally safe control strategies: recommendations for the best control techniques and policy/legislation options for the application of environmentally safe control methods.
- Training needs and opportunities: production of a database of training opportunities and identification of training requirements not currently met.

New knowledge

Panda strengthened fish disease management through reinforcing and expanding the existing networks of experts. It provided the European Commission with abroad scientific foundation for the development of future EU policy and legislation for aquatic animal health management.

Related Publications/Projects

DIPNET