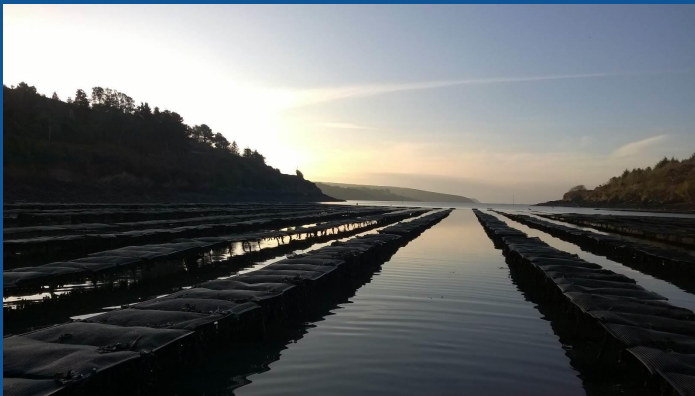


Mollusc Aquaculture Animal Health



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AAH: Overview report

- ❖ **Authorisation of aquaculture production businesses (APB)**
- ❖ **Public register**
- ❖ **Official controls (Art. 7) and risk-based fish health surveillance (Art. 10)**
- ❖ **Disease control**
- ❖ **Movements and intra EU trade**

PART B

Recommended surveillance and inspections on farms and mollusc-farming areas

| Species present | Health status as referred to in Part A | Risk level | Surveillance | Recommended inspection frequency by the competent authority (Article 7) | Recommended inspection frequency by qualified aquatic animal health services (Article 10) | Specific requirements for inspections, sampling and surveillance necessary to maintain the health status | Comments | | |
|---|---|-----------------|-----------------------------|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| No species susceptible to the diseases listed in Annex IV | Category I Declared disease-free in accordance with Article 49(1)(a) or (b) or Article 50(1)(a) or (b). | Low | Passive | 1 every 4 years | 1 every 4 years | Specific requirements for the maintenance of the disease-free status in accordance with Article 52. | The recommended inspection frequencies shall apply without prejudice to the specific requirements mentioned for each health status. | | |
| Species susceptible to one or more of the diseases listed in Annex IV | Category I Declared disease-free in accordance with of Article 49(1)(c) or of Article 50(1)(c). | High | Active, targeted or passive | 1 every year | 1 every year | | | Specific requirements in accordance with Article 44(1). | However, where possible, such inspections and sampling should be combined with the inspections required pursuant to Articles 7 and 10. |
| | | Medium | | 1 every 2 years | 1 every 2 years | | | | |
| | | Low | | 1 every 4 years | 1 every 2 years | | | | |
| | Category II Not declared disease-free but subject to a surveillance programme approved in accordance with Article 44(1). | High | Targeted | 1 every year | 1 every year | | | | |
| | | Medium | | 1 every 2 years | 1 every 2 years | | | | |
| | | Low | | 1 every 4 years | 1 every 2 years | | | | |
| | Category III Not known to be infected but not subject to surveillance programme for achieving disease-free status. | High | Active | 1 every year | 3 every year | Specific requirements in accordance with Article 44(2). | The aim of inspections by the competent authority is to check compliance with this Directive in accordance with Article 7. | | |
| | | Medium | | 1 every year | 2 every year | | | | |
| | | Low | | 1 every 2 years | 1 every year | | | | |
| | Category IV Known to be infected but subject to an eradication programme approved in accordance with Article 44(2). | High | Targeted | 1 every year | 1 every year | | | | |
| Medium | | 1 every 2 years | | 1 every 2 years | | | | | |
| Low | | 1 every 4 years | | 1 every 2 years | | | | | |
| Category V Known to be infected. Subject to minimum control measures as provided for in Chapter V. | High | Passive | 1 every 4 years | 1 every year | Specific requirements in accordance with Chapter V. | | | The aim of inspections by qualified aquatic animal health services is to check the health status of the animals, to advise the aquaculture production business operator on aquatic animal health issues, and where necessary, undertake the necessary veterinary measures. | |
| | Medium | | 1 every 4 years | 1 every 2 years | | | | | |
| | Low | | 1 every 4 years | 1 every 4 years | | | | | |



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Molluscs

- Seriously neglected by some of the main producing MS!
- Guidelines for risk-based animal health surveillance schemes in Decision 2008/896/EC are not applied in most MS / regions – But some do it!
- Targeted surveillance of listed diseases, such as infection with *Marteilia refringens*, have been discontinued in some of the main producing MS.
- Official animal and public health controls are often carried out simultaneously, but the former are not properly risk-based or carried out by adequately trained staff.
- Some of the main producing MS argue that the risk model in the Annex to Decision 2008/896/EC (point 6.3) is difficult to apply to mollusc farming areas; i.e. it is not followed – But some MS / regions are using it properly!



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Disease control in molluscs (1)

- In most cases actionable thresholds to define 'anomalous mortality' have not been defined for any species or stages of production – Wide variation between MS!
- Cases of mortality are frequently not investigated – at least up until they persist in time and worsen – as they are normally attributed to environmental factors (e.g. sometimes even when incentivised through compensation!).
- Identifying the causal agent of a listed disease (e.g. *Marteilia refringens* or *Bonamia ostreae*) does not always lead to a re-classification of the area as infected!

Disease control in molluscs (2)

- In most of the main producing MS (or regions thereof), there was a significant lack of awareness amongst producers about actions that can be taken in order to protect / increase the health status of their production areas and APBs.
- Current arrangements for surveillance for early detection and control of emerging diseases usually do not match the speed of spread of those pathogens – High risk of transmission outside of the APB / production area / MS!



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Disease control

**Reliability of passive surveillance
is questionable**



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Movements and intra-Union trade

Movements and transporters were recorded on farm

- Movement documents available, transporters registered.

Most publicly available registers are not fit for purpose

- Not kept up to date and very difficult to find and to search.
- Rarely verified by the CCA.

Certification for intra-Union trade

- Difficulties: pre-loading inspections / attesting on absence of disease problems or unresolved increased mortality – Previous deficiencies highlighted on official controls and surveillance schemes!
- Understanding of certification rules – Susceptibility and vectors!
- Reliability of health status of dispatching APB and finding information about health status of recipient APB.
- Verification of proper certification accompanying incoming fish is an area frequently overlooked during inspections part of official controls.

Movements and intra-Union trade

The legal framework includes all the necessary components to certify safe movements from the AH point of view.

But their application in practice is not yet robust and reliable to ensure that!



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Thank You



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