The OIE’s involvement in aquatic animal health has evolved over many decades

- The Fish Diseases Commission was created in 1960 because of the increasing awareness of the importance of international trade in fish and other aquatic animals.

- In 1988, the scope of the Commission was extended to include diseases of molluscs and crustaceans.

- In 2003, the Commission was renamed as the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (5 members)

- In 2007, diseases of amphibians included in remit

- In 2009, the Commission increased to 6 members

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission Members (elected May 2009)

President:
- Dr Barry Hill

Vice President:
- Dr Ricardo Enriquez Sais

Secretary General:
- Dr Franck Berthe

Members:
- Dr Olga Haenen
- Dr Huang Jie
- Dr Victor Manuel Vidal

Duties of the Commission
Propose the most appropriate methods for surveillance, diagnosis and disease prevention for sanitary security of trade or international movement of aquatic animals and their products covering diseases listed in the Aquatic Code;

Oversee production of the Aquatic Code and Aquatic Manual;

Promote the dissemination amongst Veterinary and other Competent Authorities of information on aquatic animal diseases;

Keep the International Committee and the Director General informed of scientific progress on methods for surveillance, diagnosis and disease prevention likely to improve the prevention and the control of aquatic animal diseases;

Identify issues that require in-depth review and propose, to the Director General, the composition and terms of reference of experts or Ad hoc Groups of experts convened specifically to study such issues, and if necessary, to participate in the work of these Groups;

Assess applications for appointment as OIE Reference Laboratory and advise the International Committee;

Facilitate and work with the worldwide network of reference laboratories and collaborating centres in the field of aquatic animals, so as to achieve OIE’s mandate.

Most of the work involves development of standards and methods in the Aquatic Animal Health Code and Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals

Expanded mandate for AAC

AAC mandate expanded to include:

- aquatic animal production food safety
- aquatic animal welfare

Adopted at 2009 OIE General Session

New text for the Aquatic Animal Health Code:

- Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine (Ch 6.2.)

Comments received will be discussed at the October 2010 meeting of the Aquatic Animal Commission
International co-operation

- **International cooperation: NACA**
  - AAC Membership of the Asia Regional Advisory Group on Aquatic Animal Health
  - Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific.
  - Participation in the Annual General Meetings

- **International cooperation: FAO**
  - FAO Regional Aquatic Biosecurity Framework for Africa.
  - Workshop in Malawi on EUS.
  - Improve aquatic biosecurity in the region
  - OIE Regional Seminar held in Mozambique “OIE international standards, a lever for growth in the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Southern Africa”.
  - Participation in AAC meetings (Dr Subasinghe)

**Work plan for 2010-2011**

**Meetings planned for 2010**

- Aquatic Animals Commission meeting: (11-15 Oct 2010)
- Ad hoc Group meetings:
  - Aquatic Animal Health Surveillance (July 2010)
  - Safety of Commodities Derived from Aquatic Animals (August 2010)
  - Responsible Use of Antimicrobials in Aquatic Animals (October 2010).
AQUATIC ANIMALS COMMISSION WORK PLAN FOR 2010 - 2011

Meetings
• Make presentations on the activities of the Aquatic Animals Commission at the conferences of the OIE Regional Commissions
• Be proactive in presenting the activities of the Aquatic Animals Commission at scientific conferences
• Contribute to the 2nd OIE Global Conference on ‘Control of Aquatic Animal Health to Global Food Security’
• Contribute to OIE Aquatic Animal Focal Point training workshops

Other issues
• Discussion paper on zoonotic diseases of aquatic animals
• Keep the Commission’s web pages up to date
• Consider new candidates for OIE Reference Laboratories for listed diseases
• Provide input into the PVS to ensure its applicability to the evaluation of aquatic animal health systems
• Contribute to FAO/OIE, Regional Aquatic Disease Framework Project for Africa

AQUATIC ANIMALS COMMISSION

Aquatic Animals Commission

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

World Organisation for Animal Health

Thanks for your attention