

New Year Wishes from Editor & Chairperson

Once again, we arrive at the cross-roads between 2013 and 2014, take stock of the year behind us and look forward to the future, wondering what lies ahead! For many of us, the last time we met was at the Eighth Symposium on Diseases in Asian Aquaculture (DAA8) in Mangalore, India in 2011. This year, we look forward to the Ninth Symposium on Diseases in Asian Aquaculture (DAA9) that will be held in **Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam** on **24-28 Nov 2014**. For updates on DAA9 as they arise, please see link: <http://www.daa9.org>

What can we do better in 2014? More than half of the world's population of 7 billion people live in poverty and experience hunger (FAO 2010). Aquaculture is considered the fastest developing food-producing sector in the world, and recognised as a solution for food security. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan spoke on how aquaculture can contribute to feeding nine billion people by 2050 at a recent conference AquaVision, Norway. This is a mark of the rising recognition of aquaculture as part of the solution to feeding the planet in the coming decades (Skretting 2012).

The global fish trade is currently estimated at US\$56 billion, surpassing most traditional agricultural exports, and will increase by over 40 per cent by 2020. As many as thirty-five million people are directly employed in the fisheries sector worldwide, with 20 per cent in the aquaculture industry. FAO projects that in order to meet growing demand, global fish production will need to reach 172 million tonnes by 2021. As global capture fisheries are on the verge of collapse due to overfishing, climate change, ocean acidification, and marine pollution, much of the increase will need to come from aquaculture.

Severe, often catastrophic losses in aquaculture due to disease have become commonplace, the causes which in many cases remain poorly understood. The devastating white spot pandemic at the turn of the millennium, and other major disease outbreaks such as early mortality syndrome (EMS) or Acute Hepatopancreatic Necrosis Syndrome (AHPNS) in shrimp culture have had a huge impact on food security (Smith 2004; Walker 2004). With the recent findings on the possible cause and the availability of rapid diagnostics for AHPNS, the situation is expected to improve. Perhaps the more widespread use of SPF broodstock will be a solution. AHPNS is currently only listed in the regional Quarterly Aquatic Animal Disease reporting system (QAAD)



but is not OIE listed. Philippines has put a ban on the importation of shrimps from other Asian countries in an attempt to prevent the incursion of APHNS.

So surely, there is no shortage of things to do in 2014. One thing we can all do is to pool our resources and work better together. So, for a great chance to kick-start new ideas and collaborations, remember to mark your calendars with dates for DAA9 in November 2014 in HCM, Vietnam.

Happy New Year to one and all,

Susan Gibson-Kueh
Editor, FHS Newsletter

CV Mohan
Chairperson, Fish Health Section (AFS)

22-24 Aug 2013 Fish Pathology Workshop, Murdoch University, Perth, Western Australia

A Fish Pathology Workshop was held at the School of Veterinary and Life Sciences, Murdoch University, Western Australia on 22-24 Aug 2013. The workshop was coordinated by Dr Susan Gibson-Kueh (Lecturer, Aquatic Animal Health), with guest presentations by Dr. Supranee Chinabut (Senior Advisor on Fish Diseases, Dept. of Fisheries, Thailand) and Dr. Richmond Loh (Aquatic Veterinary Consultant, The Fish Vet).

The 3-day workshop consisted of a series of tutorials and practical glass slide sessions on key bacterial, viral, parasitic and other emerging diseases of cultured finfish. The participants were from a varied background, coming from diagnostic laboratories, universities, government departments and commercial companies dealing with aquatic animals. They hail from Thailand, New Zealand and Western Australia. The workshop was partially funded through the generosity of the Crawford Fund.



Slide sharing session on one of the multi-header scopes in the School of Veterinary and Life Sciences at Murdoch University, Perth, Western Australia during the Fish Pathology Workshop on 22-24 Aug 2013



**Call for Expression of Interest in post-DAA9 Fish Pathology
Workshop in Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam in Nov 2014**

This is a call for expression of interest for a fish pathology workshop to be held after the DAA9 scheduled on 24-28 Nov 2014 in Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam. Please email Dr Susan Gibson-Kueh: S.Kueh@murdoch.edu.au with an expression of interest.

Survey on demand for short courses in Aquatic Animal Health

Dear valued colleagues,

This is a survey on the demand for short courses and postgraduate training in aquatic animal health at Murdoch University, Perth, Western Australia in 2014 and beyond. Your response to this survey will help us develop training courses that are better suited to you as managers, researchers or technical personnel who has to deal with aquatic animal health issues on a daily basis.

I ask that you will please take the time to tell me what you would like to see available as training courses to support production in the aquaculture industry, biosecurity, research involving aquatic animals, and management of the aquatic environment.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete this survey of 12 short questions, and I hope to see you at my next fish pathology workshop in 2014. Please note that the survey will run for 3 months **until Mar 2014**. You may contact me for further information on: S.Kueh@murdoch.edu.au

You may access the survey at:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ShortCrsAquaticHealth_MurdochU

Yours sincerely,

Susan

Dr Susan Gibson-Kueh
BVSC, MSc, PhD (Fish Pathology)



Upcoming events:

9th Symposium on Diseases in Asian Aquaculture (DAA9)

The Fish Health Section (FHS) of the Asian Fisheries Society (AFS) is very pleased to announce that the 9th Symposium on Diseases in Asian Aquaculture (DAA9) will be held in **Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam** from **24-28 November 2014**.

Please look out for information on DAA9 and FHS on our website <http://www.daa9.org>

International Symposium on Fish Nutrition and Feeding

Date/ Venue: 25-30 May 2014, Cairns, Australia

Link: <http://www.isfnf2014.org/index.php>

International workshop on resource enhancement and sustainable aquaculture practices in Southeast Asia:

'Challenges in responsible production of aquatic species'

Venue/ Date: 5-7 March 2014, Iloilo City, Philippines

Organized by SEAFDEC/AQD with funding from GOJ-Trust Fund

Link: <http://www.seafdec.org.ph/2013/international-workshop-on-resource-enhancement-and-sustainable-aquaculture-practices-in-southeast-asia/>



Book review

Fish Vetting Essentials *By Dr Richmond Loh & Dr Matt Landos*
215 pages, A4 paperback, AUD99 plus P&P (S&H)
Available from: www.thefishvet.com.au

For the practical minded, one will truly appreciate a book that is reference friendly and contains the relevant information for the professional or lay person who has to deal with fish health issues on a regular basis. The book not only provides the relevant basic information such as fish physiology or anatomy, it supplements this information with images of diseased fish, disease agents and diagrams to help the reader understand the various factors that can contribute to disease in captive fish.

The sections related to pond/ aquarium design and water quality are particularly helpful, putting in place the importance of husbandry and system related disease problems in fish. The book also presents the basic sampling techniques that are often missed as being critically important in any disease investigations and diagnosis process. It goes on to provide water quality parameters in user-friendly tables, and drug therapeutic dosages that support the management of fish disease once a diagnosis has been made. This is no doubt a useful book to have in your repertoire.

Reviewed by Dr. Susan Gibson-Kueh, Murdoch University, Perth, Western Australia

Articles on Biosecurity and Fish Health Management

The following articles on biosecurity and fish health management, generated during a project funded by Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) have been published online at the website for Aquaculture Council of Western Australia (ACWA):

- Fish Health Management Plan (FHMP) Guide
- Fish Health Management Plan Audit Checklist
- Fish Health Management Review Process Form
- Emergency Fish Disease Outbreak Response Template



- Farmed Food Fish Food Safety Assurance Plan Template
- Standard Operating Procedure Template
- Flow Chart On Fish Disease Outbreak Triggers
- Flow Chart On Sampling In Fish Disease Investigations

These articles can be accessed at:

<http://www.aquaculturecouncilwa.com/aquaculture-and-the-environment/aquatic-animal-health>

The above site also contains 'Environmental Codes of Practice'.

Diseases of Asian seabass (or barramundi) *Lates calcarifer* Bloch

This is a PhD thesis on the significant diseases encountered during the various culture stages of *Lates calcarifer* in Southeast Asia, available online at:

<http://researchrepository.murdoch.edu.au/14817/>

Next Issue of the FHS Newsletter

We will be pleased to receive from you feature articles on aquatic animal health or any activities that you wish to share with us.

Please send in articles for the next newsletter by **May 2014** to the editor Dr Susan Gibson-Kueh at:

Email: S.Kueh@murdoch.edu.au or Susan.Kueh@gmail.com

People news

If you would like to let your fellow researchers know of your new adventures and whereabouts, drop me a line or two with your new contact details. Ed.