



*FishMedPlus
Newsletter
February 2018*

New Chair: Simon Doherty

We are happy to announce our new chairman Dr. Simon Doherty. Dr. Doherty is the Animal Science & Aquaculture Specialist for the UK Government's Department for International Trade. His role is to link academia and industry to develop world-class R&D and business opportunities in the agri-food sector. Simon is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology and a Chartered Biologist. He is currently the junior vice-president of the British Veterinary Association. He sits on the UK Board of the livestock development charity, Send a Cow, and is a trustee of the BVA Association Animal Welfare Foundation (AWF).



Simon looks forward to bringing the FishMedCoalition, now entering its final year, to a successful culmination for aquatic health, the aquatic industry and the EU aquatic production.

FishMedPlus AIM:

The FishMedPlus Coalition aims to increase the availability of authorized veterinary medicinal products for aquaculture on the market of European Union and EFTA countries.

The availability of veterinary medicinal products, including vaccines, for use in farmed aquatic animals is extremely low. This situation is a serious constraint on the prevention and treatment of disease, leading to welfare problems and hampering the growth of European Aquaculture.

PROCESS

The FishMedPlus Coalition, established in December 2015 for a 3 year period, follows a 3-step working approach (see below).

Currently we are finalizing Step 2; identifying solutions to overcome barriers to having more aquatic medicines available.

Soon we will start with Step 3; explore initiatives to stimulate more authorizations.



OUTCOME GAP ANALYSIS:

In order to know which veterinary medicines are urgently needed, in 2016 the Coalition undertook an initial gap analysis. The aim was to identify the critical diseases or indications for which little or no treatment options are available.

Four sources of information were used:

- a dedicated survey to fish producers and veterinarians,
- similar gap analyses done in a selected number of countries,
- the laboratory "hit lists" showing the most frequently diagnosed diseases in aquatic animals
- scientific research.

The Coalition focused on salmon, trout, seabass, seabream and carp, which together are making up more than 94% of the weight of production in Europe.

Parasite infections are a main cause of concern in all the fish species examined. Treatment to common parasites often lacks efficacy or is not available. Secondary bacterial infection can occur between parasitic and bacterial diseases. To prevent bacterial diseases occurring (and the need to treat with antibiotics) it is necessary to be able to effectively treat parasitic infections.

Full report available on:

http://fve.org/uploads/publications/docs/fishmed_plus_gap_analysis_outcome_final.pdf

Step 1: The main priority diseases/indications identified were:

PRIORITY LIST OF IDENTIFIED DISEASES/INDICATIONS	
Ectoparasites	- Ich (Ichthyophthirius or Ichthyophthiriosis), Costia (Ichthyobodosis), Sea/salmon lice, Monogenea infestation – All species
Bacterial diseases	- Aeromonas - All species
Fungal and Oomycotic infections	– All species
Amoebic gill disease (AGD)	– Mostly Salmon
Rainbow Trout Fry syndrome (RTFS)	– Flavobacteriosis – Trout and Carp
Sedation and anaesthesia	- All species
Viral diseases	– all species (see OIE list)
Hormones	for broodstock management/maturation/ovulation induction
Endoparasites	- in all species (mostly secondary effects, lower production parameters and food quality aspect)

The FishMedPlus Coalition is extremely grateful for the two years that Peter Jones guided and inspired our work. We wish him a well-deserved retirement.



FishMedPlus Coalition members