

Work programme and expected outputs for 2014

EURL for Fish Diseases

	Description	Objectives	Expected outputs	Performance Indicators
1. Coordination and training				
1-1	Annual workshop	Organise and prepare for the 18th Annual Workshop for the National Reference Laboratories for Fish Diseases (NRLs) in 2014	To be held May 2014	AH. NRL. 1 AH. NRL. 2 AH. NRL. 3
1-2	Annual workshop report	Produce a technical and financial report from the Annual Workshop 2014.	To be finalized and submitted August 2014	AH. NRL. 3
1-3	Survey & diagnosis	Collect and report data on the fish disease situation in EU, including all the listed non-exotic fish diseases given in Council Directive 2006/88/EC Annex IV Part 2.	A questionnaire will be submitted in February 2014 and data collated for the Annual Workshop in May.	AH. R&D. 1
1-4	Training	Facilitate and provide training in laboratory diagnosis. The yearly training courses in methods used for diagnosis of fish diseases will be offered at the EURL laboratory facilities. The courses will primarily be for training of staff from NRLs and the content will depend on request from participants.	Training courses are provided primo October 2014; two courses of 3-4-day each with expected 15 participants are foreseen.	AH. NRL. 5 AH. NRL. 6
1-5	Scientific working group	Organise specific scientific meeting collating international experts to assess and provide recommendations on emerging diseases problems management and control.	One meeting gathering 5 to 7 international experts will be held at our premises or on spot according to disease case. Scientific report and recommendations will be delivered afterwards to relevant stakeholders.	AH. NRL. 5 AH.COM.1
2. Proficiency test				
2-1	Proficiency test	Prepare the Annual Inter-laboratory Proficiency Tests year 2014 for the NRLs. The test will include VHSV, IHNV, EHN, ISAV, and KHV and will also address other common viral pathogens in fish farming (IPNV, SVCV etc)	To be shipped October, 2014	AH. PT. 1
2-2	PT report	Collate and analyse information gained from the Inter-laboratory Proficiency Test	Report for the proficiency test 2013 will be submitted February 2014, while results of the 2014 test will be finally collated December 2014	AH. PT. 4 AH. PT. 5 AH. PT. 6
3. Reagents and products				
3-1	Reagents	Supply reference reagents to the NRLs in Member States.	Reagents as monoclonal antibodies, rabbit antisera, pathogen isolates or cell cultures are expected to be sent to approx 15 laboratories in 2014	AH. PT. 2
3-2	Antisera	Production of antisera against selected isolates when necessary	Rabbit sera against 2-3 selected antigens will be produced if considered necessary.	AH. PT. 2
3-3	Pathogen library	Update and maintain a library of isolates of Infectious salmon anaemia virus (ISAV), Viral Haemorrhagic Septicaemia virus	The library will be updated with 10 to 20 pathogen isolates	AH. PT. 2

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		(VHSV) and Infectious Haematopoietic Necrosis virus (IHNV), Koi Herpes virus (KHV) and enzootic haematopoietic necrosis virus (EHNV) And other relevant putative emerging fish pathogens.		
3-4	Tissue library	Maintain a library of tissue material from fish infected with listed pathogens	The tissue library will be maintained and updated with new specimens.	AH. PT. 2
4. Scientific advice and activities				
4-1	Webpage	Update the webpage for the EURL, www.eurl-fish.eu	Keep the webpage constantly updated, uploading relevant material (e.g. AW report, AW presentations, Training course report etc.)	AH. R&D. 1
4-2	Diagnostic manuals	Update the diagnostic manuals for VHS, IHN, ISA, KHV disease, EHN and EUS on the EURL web page.	As the diagnostic manuals were very recently adopted a number of amendments are foreseen to be done. Based on the 17 th AW more focus will be given to diagnostic procedures for KHV and to putative emerging diseases.	AH. ANA. 1 AH. R&D. 1
4-3	Fishreflabnet	Maintain and further develop the interactive network with the NRLs, Fishreflabnet, in order to promote a more proactive data sharing and communication with and between reference laboratories in member states.	The webpage and mailing list based platform for communication and data sharing will be continued with periodical updates sent to all members subscribed.	AH. R&D. 1 AH. COM. 2
4-4	Pathogen characterization	Identify and characterise selected isolates of listed viruses (pathogenicity testing in vivo and in-vitro, serological and genetic characterisation).	The EURL receive every year strains and samples for corroboration of diagnostic results in EU Member states. Regularly these strains must be characterised properly as an emergency response to avoid unwanted spreading of new pathogens in EU	AH. PT. 2 AH. R&D. 1
4-5	www.fishpathogens.eu	Update and expand www.fishpathogens.eu with more pathogens.	The database has proved to be a valuable tool for virus characterisation and molecular epidemiology. The more isolates included the stronger the tool. New databases on other listed and emerging pathogens are in the pipeline such as a database on SAV (pancreas disease and sleeping disease viruses). At least 50 new isolates are envisaged to be included and 1 new database opened.	AH. PT. 2 AH. R&D. 1 PI under Other Activities
4-6	Molecular epidemiology	Perform molecular epidemiology analysis to improve knowledge on diseases spreading mechanisms of viral pathogens.	A study involving isolates from several Continental European countries is envisaged.	AH. PT. 2 AH. R&D. 1 PI under Other Activities
4-7	Real-time PCR	Assessment and standardisation of real-time PCR tests for the diagnosis, identification and typing of the listed non-exotic fish diseases.	Real-time PCR have shown to be a highly sensitive and specific tool for diagnosis and surveillance of a number of listed pathogens. Published and non-published methods will be assessed in our premises in order to offer validated protocols for the NRL's	AH. ANA. 1 AH. ANA. 2
4-8	Emerging diseases	In collaboration with specialised experts WW to review selected emerging fish diseases in Europe and assess their potential listing as exotic or non-exotic diseases	It was agreed among the NRL's in EU that more focus should be given to emerging diseases and rapid response. An assessment of risk for contracting and spreading emerging and re-emerging diseases in EU will be continued in 2014; collaboration between EURL-DTU VET, SVA, NVI is foreseen to investigate new emerging parasitic disease appeared in Rainbow trout in Sweden caused by Sarcocystis like organisms.	AH. R&D. 1 AH. OIE. 1

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5. Missions				
5-1	Missions	Organizing missions to relevant laboratories. Missions will focus on NRLs where on-site communication would be beneficial. As collaboration with NRLs in 3 rd countries from where EU is importing large amount of fish products is increasing, missions to these, e.g. China and Korea is foreseen	1-2 missions will be conducted, the laboratories to visit have not been appointed yet (await results from the proficiency test 2013)	AH. PT. 5 AH. NRL. 4
5-2	International meetings	Attending missions, international meetings and conferences in order to be updated on emerging and listed exotic and non-exotic fish diseases.	The EURL expect to participate in 2 to 3 international conferences.	AH. R&D. 1 AH. OIE. 1 PI under Other Activities