

Fiji's Aquatic Animal Health System and Experience with the WOAHPVS Aquatic Mission (2025)

Regional Workshop for WOAHP Focal Points for Aquatic Animals

Isikeli Odro (MSc)

7 – 9 July 2026 | Tokyo, Japan

Fisheries Officer
Ministry of Fisheries & Forestry
Fiji Islands



World Organisation
for Animal Health



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry



国立大学法人

東京海洋大学

Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology



Why Fiji Undertook the WOAH PVS Aquatic Mission

Recognizing the rapid growth of aquaculture and the increasing risk of transboundary aquatic animal diseases, Fiji requested the WOAHA PVS Aquatic Mission in 2025.

The mission aimed to:

- Evaluate Fiji's aquatic animal health system against international standards;
- Identify strengths, gaps and priority areas;
- Assess legislation, laboratory capacity, surveillance systems and emergency preparedness; And
- Provide recommendations to strengthen aquatic animal health services and support sustainable aquaculture development.

The mission involved extensive consultations with government agencies, laboratories, farmers and industry stakeholders.



Experience & Challenges

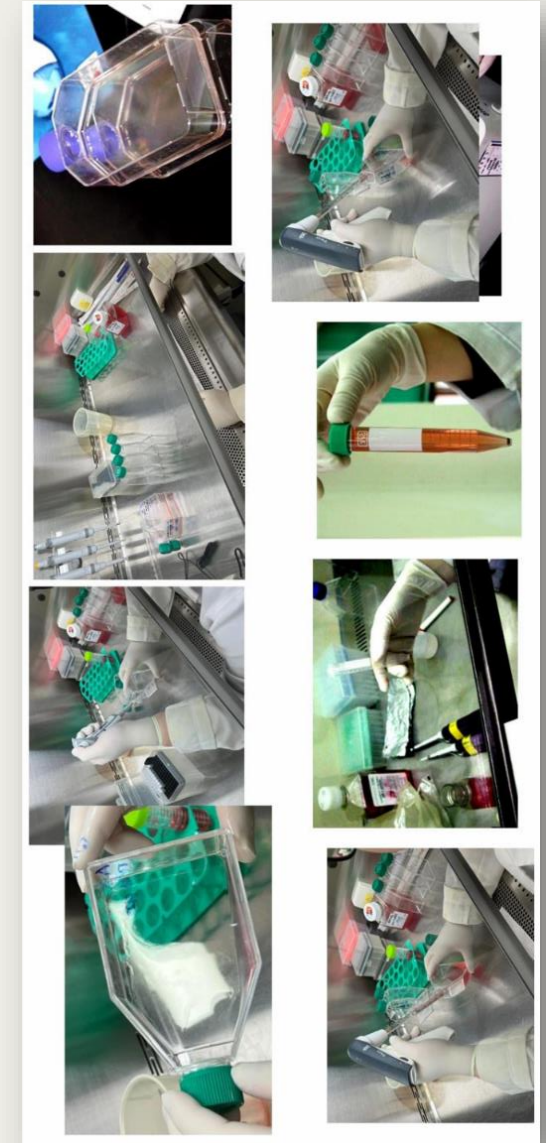
The PVS Mission was a valuable learning experience for Fiji.

It provided an independent assessment of our national aquatic animal health system and helped identify practical actions for improvement.

Some of the key challenges identified included:

- Limited laboratory diagnostic capacity for aquatic animal diseases;
- Limited specialized aquatic animal health personnel;
- Need to strengthen national disease surveillance and reporting systems;
- Need to modernize aquatic animal health legislation;
- Limited resources for emergency preparedness and rapid disease response; and
- The need for stronger coordination among government agencies and industry stakeholders.

Despite these challenges, the mission recognized Fiji's strong commitment to improving aquatic animal health and strengthening partnerships with regional and international organizations.





Outcomes and Impacts Since the 2025 WOAHA PVS Aquatic Mission

- Strengthened technical capacity through KOICA training in aquatic animal disease diagnostics and biosecurity. (2025)
- Improved collaboration among the Ministry of Fisheries, Biosecurity Authority of Fiji, Ministry of Agriculture, and international partners.
- Aquatic animal health and biosecurity prioritized in the **Fiji Aquaculture Development Plan 2024–2028**.
- Progress made in developing the **Aquaculture Regulations 2026** to strengthen disease surveillance, biosecurity, traceability, and licensing.
- Enhanced preparedness for disease prevention, surveillance, and emergency response, supporting sustainable aquaculture development.





Conclusion

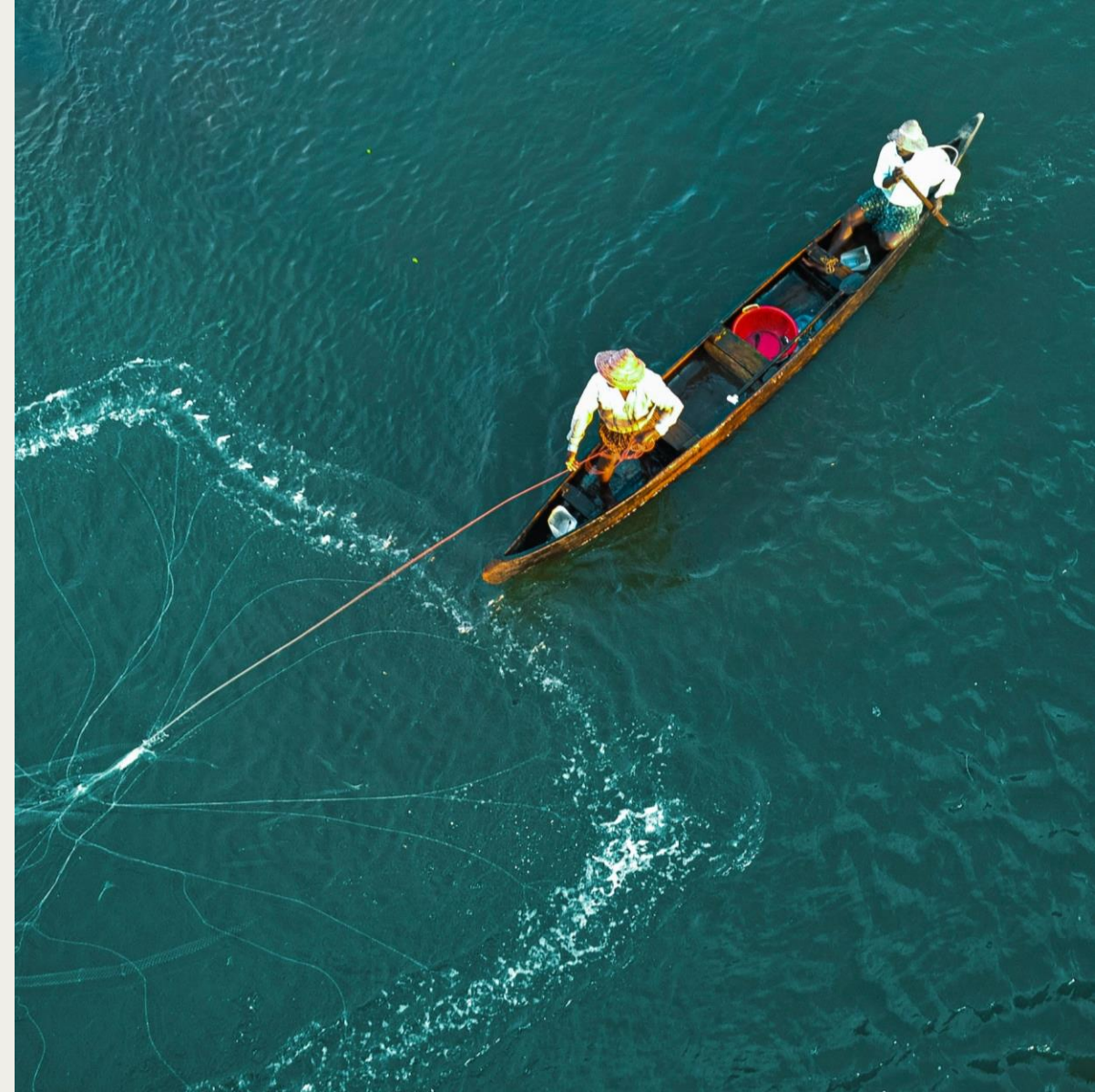
The WOAHA PVS Aquatic Mission has provided Fiji with a valuable roadmap for strengthening its aquatic animal health system.

Since the mission, Fiji has taken important steps through enhanced technical training, national strategic planning and legislative reform.

Together, the Aquaculture Development Plan 2024–2028, the draft Aquaculture Regulations 2026, and continued capacity building are positioning Fiji to build a resilient aquatic animal health system that protects aquatic resources, supports sustainable aquaculture development and contributes to national food security and economic growth.

Thank you for your attention.

Thank you



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