

AP-AquaNet Flagship 3: Improving Aquatic Animal Diseases Reporting in Asia and the Pacific

Regional Workshop for WOAHP Focal Points for Aquatic Animals

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7 – 9 July 2026 | Tokyo, Japan

Dr Eduardo Leño, Director General, Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA)



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



Background

- The activities proposed under this project is in line with Objective 1 (Standards) of the WOAHA [Aquatic Animal Health Strategy](#) (AAHS), and were identified as a regional priority during the Regional Workshop for WOAHA Focal Points for Aquatic Animals and 4th Meeting of Steering Committee on Regional Collaboration Framework on Aquatic Animal Health (Busan, Republic of Korea, in June 2023).
- Activities proposed for the period of 2023-2025
 - Support the implementation of WOAHA standards
 - Develop disease identification guide as a mobile application
 - Identify barriers to transparency in disease reporting
 - To increase the reporting of aquatic animal diseases through WOAHA WAHIS and Regional Aquatic Animal Disease report
- Expected outputs
 - Improved performance of countries in reporting of aquatic animal diseases



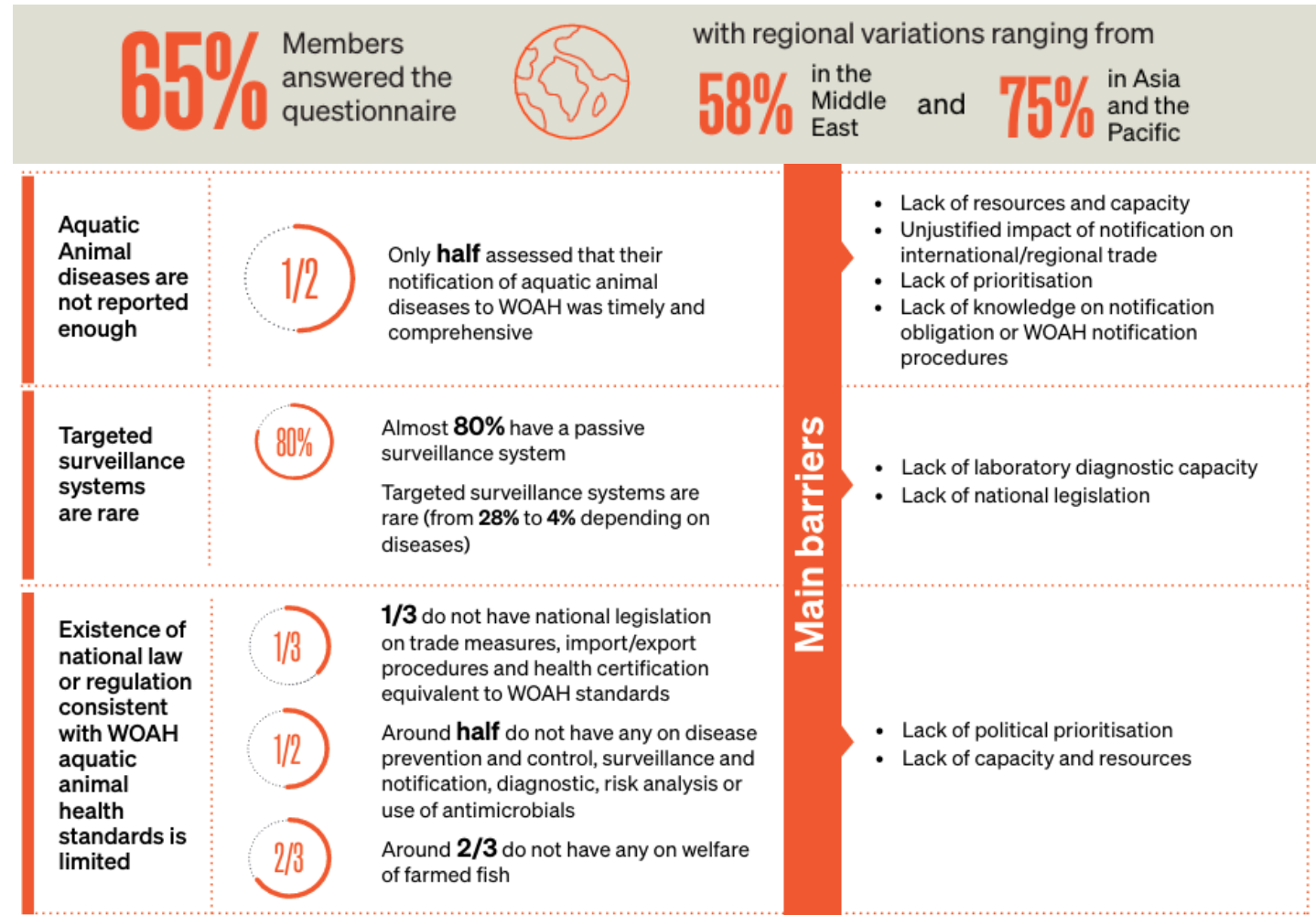


Global survey on barriers to implementation of aquatic animal health standards

May 2024

Barriers to the implementation of aquatic animal health standards

Findings from a survey of WOAHA Members and recommendations.



[Factsheet](#)

- Recommendation: Capacity building and education activities on:

Disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis and reporting

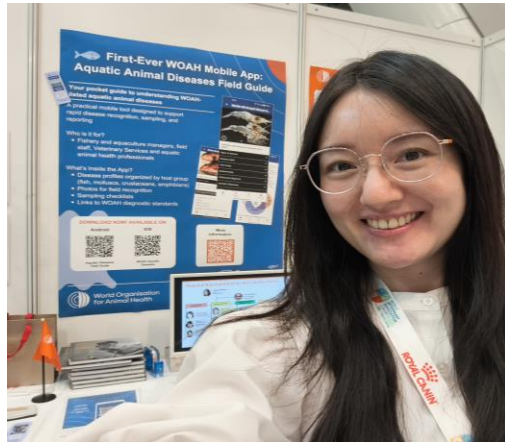
Risk analysis

Disease prevention and control



The WOAHA Aquatic Animal Diseases Field Guide App

- A practical mobile tool designed to support rapid disease recognition, sampling, and reporting
- Who is it for?
 - Fishery and aquaculture managers, field staff, Veterinary Services and aquatic animal health professionals



Promoted the App with a A2 sized Poster at the World Veterinary Association Congress , April 2026

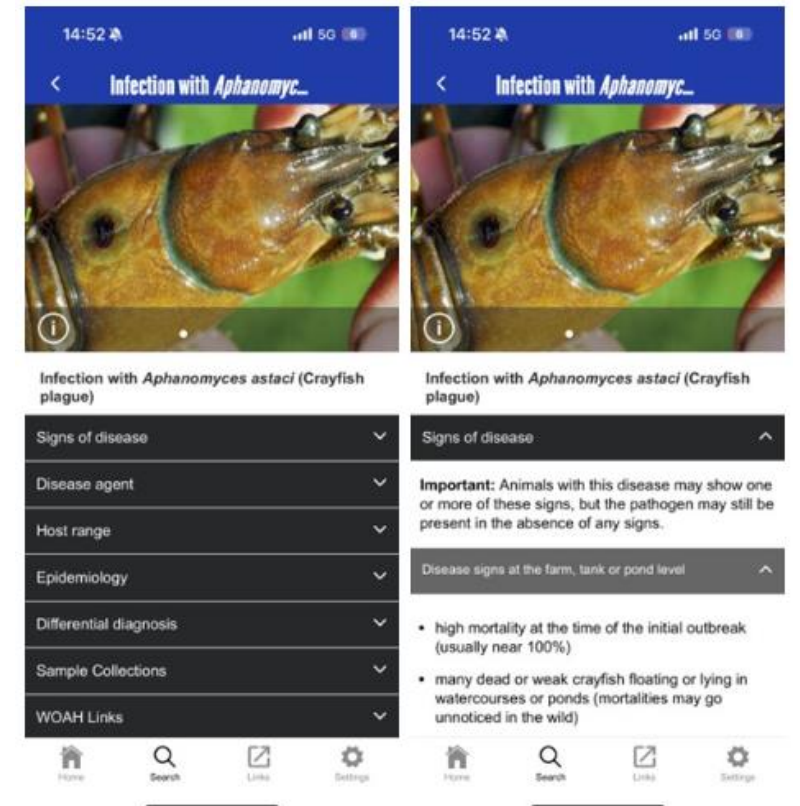
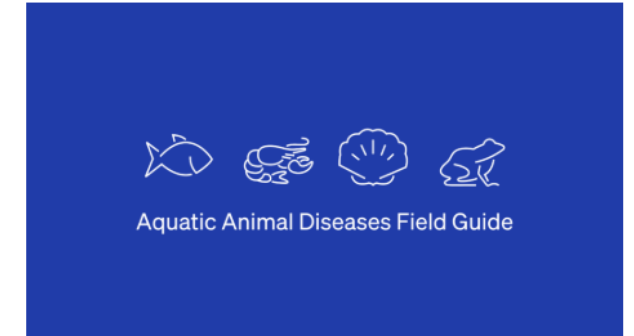
Android



iOS

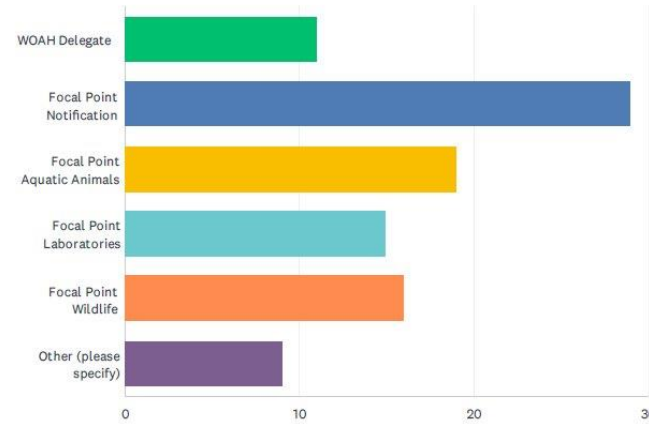


[First-Ever WOAHA Mobile App: Aquatic Animal Diseases Field Guide](#)





Identify barriers to transparency in disease reporting in Asia-Pacific



- 17% (16/90) responses were Aquatic FPs
- Strong positive attitudes and high perceived benefits to notification (recognizing transparency and maintain international credibility)
- Predictors of timely notification were:
 - Organisational knowledge and staff capability
 - Confidence in notification procedures
 - Simplicity and ease of reporting process
- Barriers
 - Diagnosis and laboratory confirmation
 - Decision-making and administrative processes (*interagency communications)
 - Surveillance and reporting systems constraints

What's preventing countries from reporting animal diseases in Asia-Pacific?



<https://www.woah.org/en/article/whats-preventing-countries-from-reporting-animal-diseases-in-asia-pacific/>

Identify barriers to transparency in disease reporting in Asia-Pacific

- Recommendations:

Enhance diagnostic capability of Reference Laboratories in Asia-Pacific

Evaluate if WOAHA PVS Pathway provides adequate guidance to Members to improving notification

Routine training of WOAHA Delegates and relevant FPs

Develop guidance materials, exemplars, and resources to support notification

Approach for ongoing recognition of Members with strong notification performance

World Organisation for Animal Health

EN

What's preventing countries from reporting animal diseases in Asia-Pacific?



<https://www.woah.org/en/article/whats-preventing-countries-from-reporting-animal-diseases-in-asia-pacific/>

World Organisation for Animal Health

Identifying barriers to notification of terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases in Asia-Pacific

A report prepared for the World Organisation for Animal Health by
Ingo Ernst, Blue Edge Consulting, Canberra

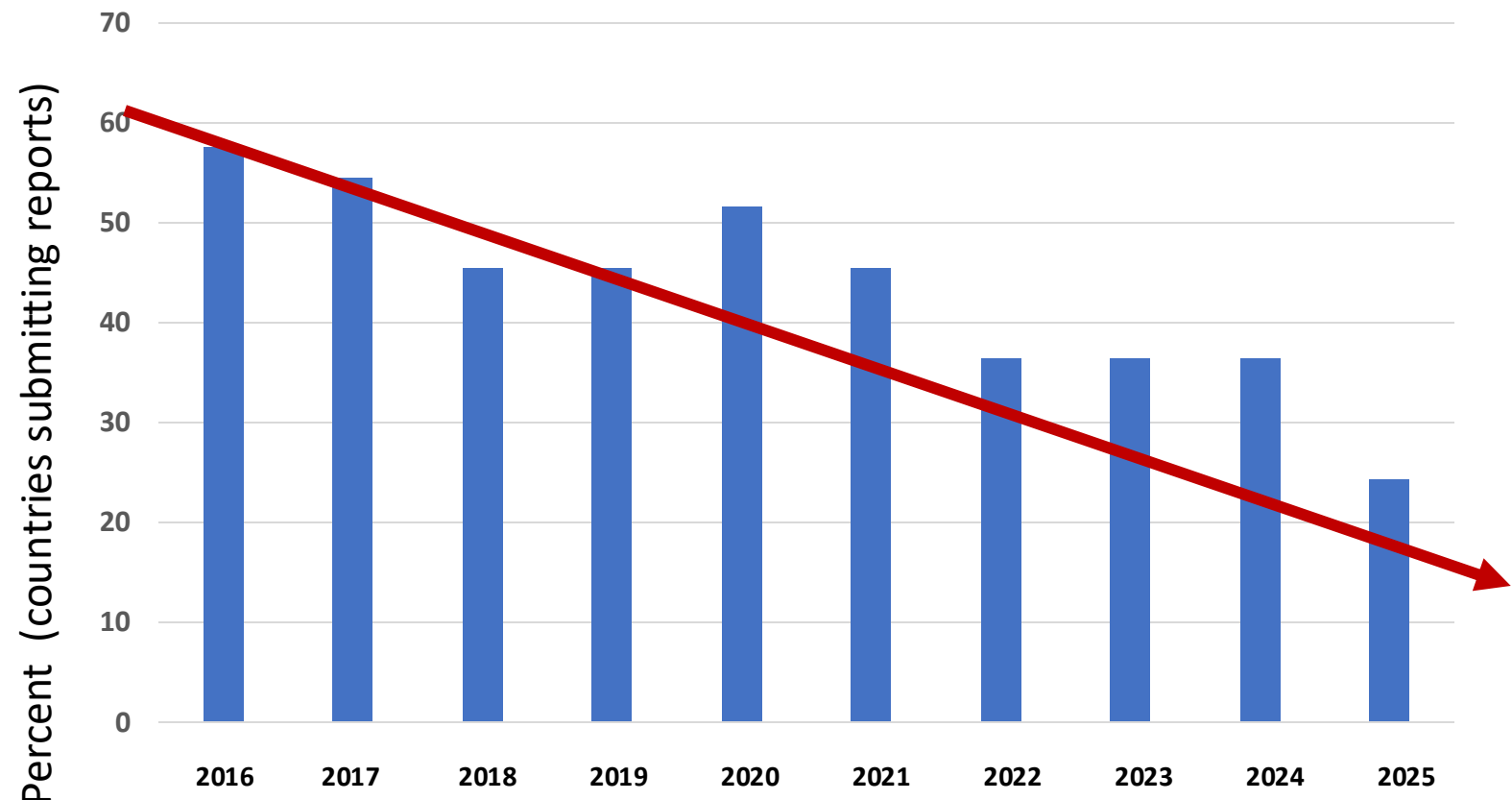
Blue Edge Consulting, Canberra



- Recommendations: To increase the reporting of aquatic animal diseases through WOAHA WAHIS and Regional Aquatic Animal Disease Reports

Regional Aquatic Animal Disease Reporting in the Asia-Pacific

- Low number of countries submitting the monthly/quarterly reports (<30% in 2025) remains a concern, especially reports from major aquaculture producing countries in the region;
- National FPs for Aquatic Animals should take full responsibility in preparing the reports, and in proper coordination with their respective WOAHA Delegate and FP for Animal Disease Notification who will officially submit the report to WOAHA.

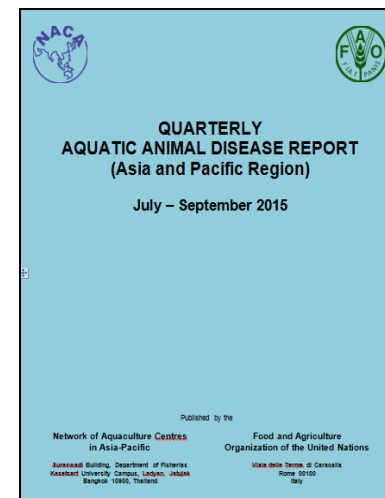




Regional Aquatic Animal Disease Reporting in the Asia-Pacific

As per recommendation and endorsement from NACA Advisory Group on Aquatic Animal Health (AG), few but significant changes were made in the Disease Reporting:

1. Merging of OIE (WOAH) and NACA QAAD Asia-Pacific from the first quarter of 2016; covering 32 (+1) countries across the Asia-Pacific.
2. From January 2021, a new AAD reporting was implemented wherein Members are to submit all the monthly data as soon as available to WOAHA RRAP and NACA with their WOAHA Delegate in copy, to ensure the timeliness of the disease information



NETWORK OF
AQUACULTURE CENTRES
IN ASIA-PACIFIC

NETWORK ▾

PUBLICATIONS ▾

THEMES ▾



📄 New Aquatic Animal Disease Reporting for Asia and the Pacific from January 2021

4 August 2021 | 439 views | Tags: Health

The new OIE World Animal Health Information System (OIE-WAHIS) was initially launched in 2020, with an aim to develop a modern and dynamic platform to ease the burden on Members to collect and report information on the global animal health situation to the OIE, as well as to make animal health information more easy-access and usable to the public.

In this regard, OIE and NACA also stepped the establishment of a Regional Online reporting system

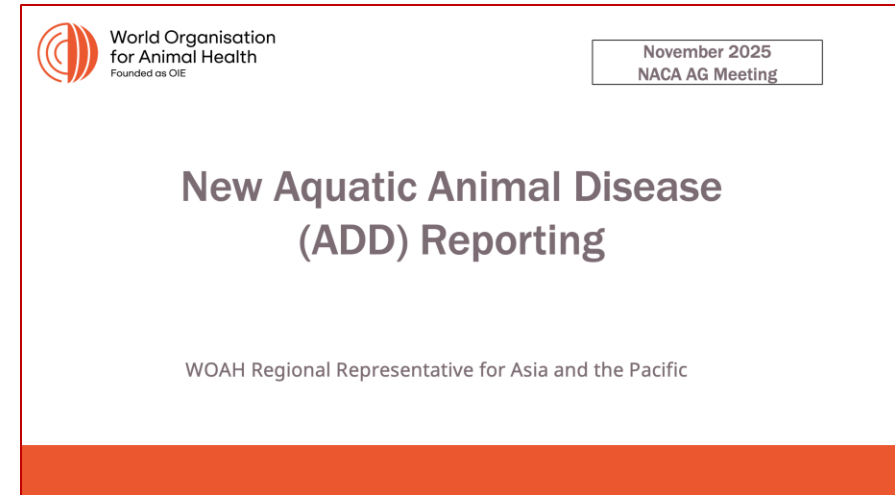


Regional Aquatic Animal Disease Reporting in the Asia-Pacific

As per recommendation and endorsement from NACA Advisory Group on Aquatic Animal Health (AG), few but significant changes were made in the Disease Reporting:

3. This year (2026), a new reporting system was launched:

- WOAHA listed diseases are to be reported directly to WAHIS
- Non-WOAHA listed diseases are to be submitted through an online Microsoft Form accessible at WOAHA-RRAP website



Non-WOAHA listed diseases: To be reported through the form

Non-WOAHA listed aquatic animal diseases are reported to support regional disease awareness and early identification of issues of importance to aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific region. While not included in the WOAHA list, these diseases may have significant local or regional impacts, and routine regional reporting helps identify trends and emerging concerns that may require further attention.

Non-WOAHA listed aquatic animal diseases should be reported **quarterly** regardless of disease status (absent, newly detected, or stable) through submission using an online reporting MS Form. This applies **only to non-WOAHA listed diseases** (nine diseases in 2025). The online form has been introduced to make submission simpler and more user-friendly, based on Member feedback.

Four Separate Quarterly Links (2026)

- Quarter 1 (January – March): <https://forms.office.com/r/hNRiLXa7aZ?origin=IprLink>
- Quarter 2 (April – June): <https://forms.office.com/r/k9nyCt1SuX?origin=IprLink>
- Quarter 3 (July – September): <https://forms.office.com/r/AZAarN1Dc6?origin=IprLink>
- Quarter 4 (October – November): <https://forms.office.com/r/e8gPvxDNmn?origin=IprLink>

[\[Link to Live Demo\]](#) How to fill in the Form



Regional Aquatic Animal Disease Reporting in the Asia-Pacific

Benefit of new AAD Reporting

- Eliminates the burden of double reporting.
- For **WOAH listed diseases** which are endemic
 - By quarterly reports using EWM, more timely and detailed disease situation is made available.
 - Quarterly reports are automatically transferred to 6-monthly report, reducing the workload of preparing six-month reports.
- For **Non-listed diseases** (of regional importance)
 - Simplified online form tool makes reporting easy
- **Improve transparency** through dedicated dashboard (to be created)
 - Support policy decisions and facilitate safe trade

AGM 24 Report:

The revised regional aquatic animal disease reporting system was agreed to proceed in order to improve compliance with notification obligations and participation in reporting of non-WOAH-listed diseases. The system was intended to remain flexible, with a review planned after six months to one year of implementation to assess its impact.



NON-WOAH LISTED DISEASES: Issues since the launch in January 2026

Country	Issue	Status
Chinese Taipei and Malaysia	Codes/symbol and description did not match; one symbol missing	Resolved; codes/symbols updated in the Microsoft Form

Regional Aquatic Animal Disease Reporting: Non-WOAH Listed Diseases 2026. (Q1 Jan-Mar)

FINFISH DIESEASES

Grouper iridoviral disease (GIV)

	+	+0	+?	?	?0	-	XXX	****
Jan	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Feb	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Mar	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

CRUSTACEAN DISEASES

Hepatopancreatic microsporidiosis caused by Enterocytozoon hepatopenaei (EHP)

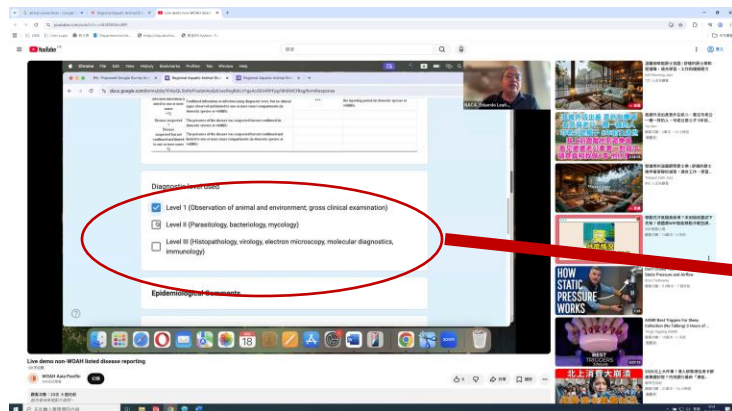
	+	+0	+?	?	?0	-	XXX	****
Jan	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Feb	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐
Mar	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

missing one more symbol +?() Confirmed infestation or infection using diagnostic tests, but no clinical signs observed and limited to one or more zones/compartments (in domestic species or wildlife)



NON-WOAH LISTED DISEASES: Issues since the launch in January 2026

Country	Issue	Status
Hong Kong SAR	Histopathology: misplaced to Level III (Diagnostic level)	Resolved; Histopathology transferred to Level II
	Did not receive communication on the new reporting system; Query on how to submit WOAHA-listed diseases	Partly resolved: NACA instructed them to access the Microsoft Form at WOAHA-RRAP website.



Diagnostic level used

- ☒ Level I (Observation of animal and environment; gross clinical examination)
- ☐ Level II (Parasitology, bacteriology, mycology)
- ☐ Level III (Histopathology, virology, electron microscopy, molecular diagnostics, immunology)



Reports Received as of 3 July 2026:



Regional Aquatic Animal Disease Reporting:

Non-WOA H Listed Diseases 2026
(Quarterly) Q1 Jan - Mar

Reporter Name :

Chan Dara KHAN

Contact Email :

chandara_khan@ya
om

Country :

Cambodia

Reporter Name :

Christina Retna
Handayani

Contact Email :

handayani_retna@yahoo.
com

Country :

Indonesia

Reporter Name :

Kua Beng Chu

Contact Email :

kuaben01@dof.gov.m

Country :

Malaysia

Reporter Name :

JOSELITO R. SO

Contact Email :

jsomga@bfar.da.g

Country :

PHILIPPINES

Reporter Name :

Jing Chen

Contact Email :

Chen_Jing@Nparks.gov.s
g

Country :

Singapore



Regional Aquatic Animal Disease Reports



Supported by



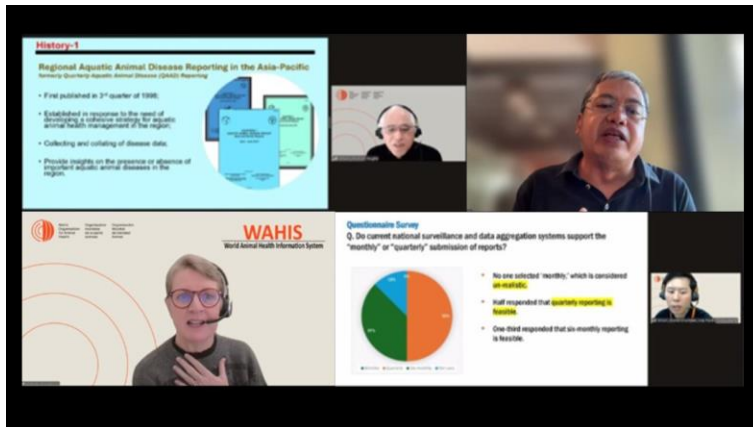
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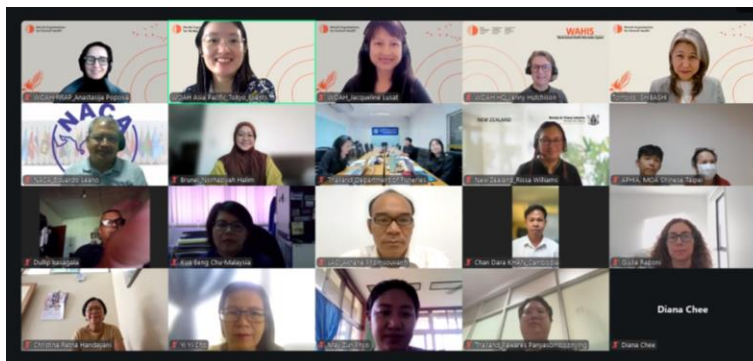
Food and Agriculture
Organization of the United
Nations



Network of Aquaculture
Centres in Asia-Pacific



Online Coordination Meeting, 18 Dec 2025



Online Coordination Meeting, 10 April 2026

Non-WOAH listed diseases: To be reported through the form

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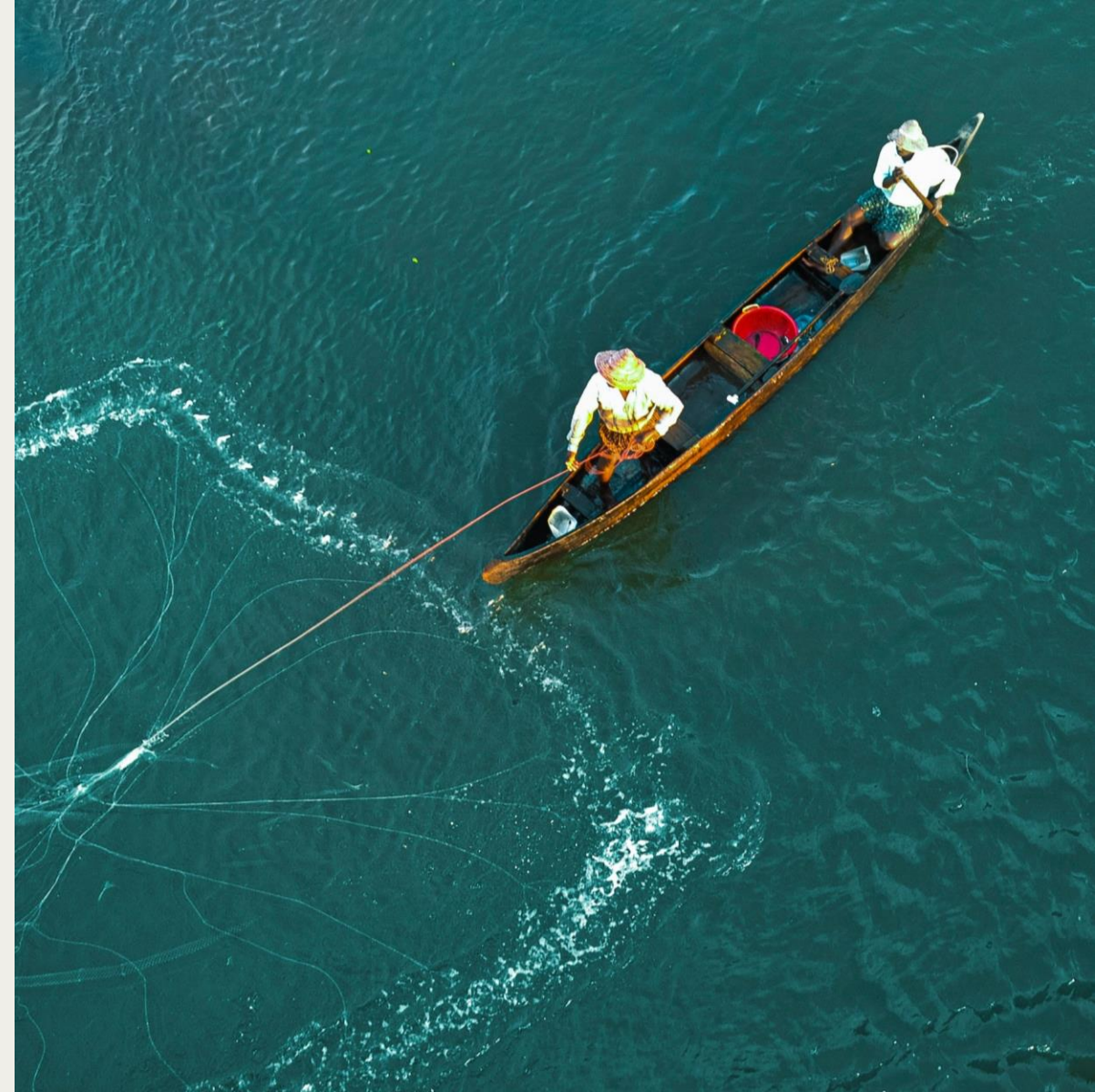
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