

FISH HEALTH MANAGEMENT PLAN

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

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1.0 TEMPLATE FOR MORTALITY RECORDS

1.1 As a minimum, mortality records for **FINFISH** should contain the following information

- Date dead fish are removed
- Cage/ pond/tank number fish are removed from
- Number of fish removed from each cage/pond/tank
- Total number of fish in each cage/pond/tank
- Observations
- Where mortalities are elevated, mortality classification e.g. using headings such as runts, failed smolts, predator damage, gill damage, skin lesions, etc

1.2 As a minimum, mortality records for **MOLLUSCS** should contain the following information

- Date mortality was observed
- Details of bag/rope/bed where mortalities occurred
- % mortality observed in/on the bag/rope/bed
- Number/ weight of animals in/on bag/rope/bed animals where mortality has been observed
- Comments e.g. size of stock, relevant environmental conditions

NOTE

This information should be recorded for each unit on site, unless they are empty at any given time

2.0 TEMPLATE FOR MOVEMENT RECORDS

At a minimum, records relating to movements onto a site should contain the following information:

2.1 MOVEMENTS ONTO A SITE

- Date the fish or shellfish were moved onto the site
- Species moved
- Number of fish / weight of shellfish in kilos
- Average weight / grade of seed
- Details of the origin of the fish or shellfish
- Name and Fish Health Registration Number of the transporter (in the case of live fish and shellfish)
- Date of notification of the movement to the Marine Institute (this should be done by the person/company who operates the site of origin in the case of movements within the country and by the person/company receiving the consignment in the case of movements from outside the State)
- Observations e.g. condition on arrival, mortalities on arrival

2.2 MOVEMENTS OFF A SITE

- Date the fish or shellfish are moved off the site
- Species moved
- Number of fish moved / weight of shellfish in kilos
- Average weight of fish or sizes/ grades of shellfish moved
- Details of the destination of the fish or shellfish
- Name and Fish Health Registration Number of the transporter (in the case of live fish or shellfish)
- Date of notification of movement to the Marine Institute (in the case of live fish or shellfish)
- Observations e.g. condition of animals prior to movement

3.0 RISK BASED HEALTH SURVEILLANCE – CATEGORISATION

Using the Inspection Regimes outlined in Annexes to the covering letter, insert details here of the Surveillance level(s) into which your site(s) fall.

It should be noted that we have tried to simplify the categorisation process as much as possible and as a result, it is possible that an individual site may fall initially into more than one Surveillance Level e.g. you may operate a re-circulation system which falls into the Low Surveillance Level, whilst at the same time, importing stock from outside the country, which brings you into the High Surveillance Level.

In such instances, you should clearly state which categories the site falls into, as well as the reasons why e.g.

- Low Surveillance Level due to recirculation
- High Surveillance Level due to importation of stock

On receipt of the Fish Health Management Plan, the Marine Institute will assess the site categorisation(s) and notify the applicant of the final Surveillance Level which is appropriate for the site. This may of course, be subject to change, should practices / farm infrastructure change over time.

4.0 TEMPLATE FOR RECORDING THE RESULTS OF RISK BASED HEALTH SURVEILLANCE

At a minimum, records relating to the performance and results of Risk Based Surveillance should contain the following information:

- **Date of inspection**
- **Name and affiliation of inspector**
- **Signature of inspector**
- **Type of visit i.e.**
 - **health check only or**
 - **health check and compliance with the Directive**
- **Details of samples (if any) taken during the inspection**
 - **number and species of fish**
 - **tests carried out**
 - **results / laboratory report obtained**
- **Report supplied by Competent Authority following compliance inspections**
- **Follow-up actions required on foot of the inspection**

5.0 NOTIFICATION

5.1 NOTIFICATION OF SUSPICION OF THE PRESENCE OF A LISTED DISEASE

Notification of suspicion of the presence of a listed disease should consist of immediate written notification to

- (i) The Fish Health Unit of the Marine Institute, Rinville, Oranmore, Co. Galway (Fax 091-387201 or email notification@marine.ie) and
- (ii) In the case of fin-fish, the veterinary practice named in Section 9 of the Application Form

NOTE:

According to **Council Directive 2006/88/EC**, the diseases which must be reported are as follows:

FIN-FISH

- Epizootic haematopoietic necrosis (EHN)
- Epizootic ulcerative syndrome (EUS)
- Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS)
- Infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN)
- Koi herpes virus (KHV)
- Infectious salmon anaemia (ISA)

MOLLUSCS

Infection with

- *Bonamia exitiosa*
- *Perkinsus marinus*
- *Microryctos mackini*
- *Marteilia refringens*
- *Bonamia ostreae*

CRUSTACEA

- Taura Syndrome
- Yellowhead Disease
- White Spot Disease

In addition, the following fin-fish diseases are listed in **Commission Decision 2004/453/EC** and are also subject to notification in Ireland:

- Bacterial Kidney Disease (BKD)
- Spring Viraemia of carp (SVC)
- Gyrodactylosis (*G. salaris*)

5.2 NOTIFICATION OF INCREASED MORTALITY

Notification of suspicion of increased mortality should consist of immediate written notification to

- (iii) The Fish Health Unit of the Marine Institute, Rinville, Oranmore, Co. Galway (Fax 091-387201 or Email notification@marine.ie) and
- (iv) In the case of fin-fish, the veterinary practice named in Section 9 of the Application Form

NOTE:

Increased mortality may be defined as*that which is unexplained and significantly above the level of what is considered to be normal for the site under the prevailing conditions.* For an initial 3 year period starting on August 1st, such mortality must be reported immediately. It is however, our intention that following the completion of the initial three year period, the mortality trend on each site will be reviewed, and an estimation made of what level of mortality may be defined as abnormal for that site, at given points in the production cycle. These figures will then be inserted in the FHMP for that site, and will be used as an indicator of when veterinary investigation is required.

6.0 SITE SPECIFIC BIOSECURITY PLAN

The site specific plan should clearly demonstrate that adequate biosecurity measures are in place on each of the sites for which authorisation is sought. In relation to the movement of live fish and shellfish, specific reference should be made to the use of transporters which have been registered by the Marine Institute on the Aquaculture Animal Transport Register.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION – Fin-fish

In constructing a site specific biosecurity plan for a fin-fish site, the Fish Health Code of Practice and Fish Health Handbook referred to in Section 3.0 of the covering letter should provide adequate guidance for all types of sites and for all levels of production.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION – Shellfish

In constructing a site specific biosecurity plan for a shellfish site, the following factors should be taken into account

- Use only registered transporters
- In the case of susceptible and vector species, import only from areas which are free of listed pathogens
- Ensure that all consignments are officially certified and contain only target species
- Exercise ongoing vigilance when new stock arrives on-site – immediate notification of suspicion/ increased mortality
- Where possible, eliminate biofouling on imported stock
- In addition to other mandatory reporting requirements, where appropriate, record movements of people and equipment to and from the site
- Clean and disinfect clothes, equipment and boats coming from areas of a lower health status
- Treat waste to ensure that potentially infected material is not released into new areas
- In facilities which introduce algae, the source of the algae should be researched to mitigate against potential pathogen transfer