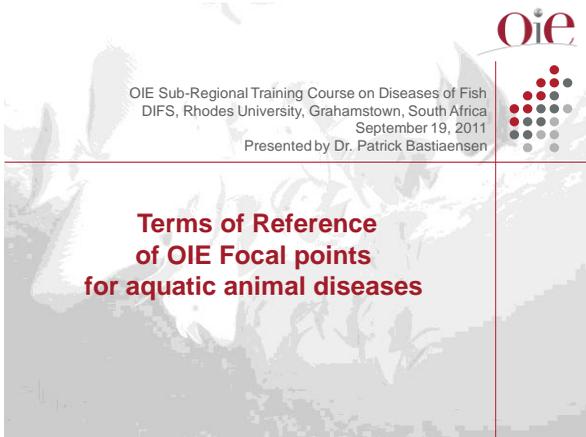


OIE

OIE Sub-Regional Training Course on Diseases of Fish
DIFS, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa
September 19, 2011
Presented by Dr. Patrick Bastiaensen

**Terms of Reference
of OIE Focal points
for aquatic animal diseases**



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- During the 76th General Session in May 2008 the importance of the focal point for information on animal diseases was re-iterated. It was also resolved that OIE Delegates should to nominate additional focal points for wildlife diseases, veterinary biological and products, animal production food safety, animal welfare and aquatic animals diseases. As detailed in the final report of the 76th OIE General Session in May 2008, the responsibilities of the focal points are under the authority of the OIE Delegate. Any information transmitted to the OIE from the different focal points needs to be transmitted under the designated authority of the OIE Delegate.



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- This practice would equally apply, if focal points are located in other Departments or Ministries not under jurisdiction of the Veterinary Authority, since from a legal perspective, the OIE considers the official OIE Delegate to be the animal health representative of the country.



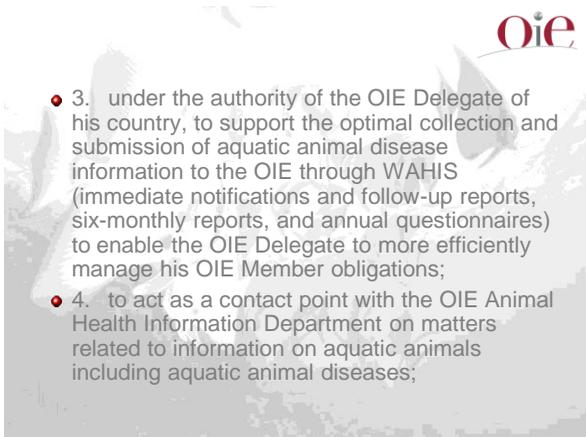
OIE

- Details tasks of the national focal point for aquatic animals are:
 - 1. to establish a network of aquatic animal health experts within his/her country or to communicate with the existing network;
 - 2. to establish and maintain a dialogue with the Competent Authority for aquatic animal health in his/her country, and to facilitate cooperation and communication among several authorities where responsibility is shared;



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- 3. under the authority of the OIE Delegate of his country, to support the optimal collection and submission of aquatic animal disease information to the OIE through WAHIS (immediate notifications and follow-up reports, six-monthly reports, and annual questionnaires) to enable the OIE Delegate to more efficiently manage his OIE Member obligations;
- 4. to act as a contact point with the OIE Animal Health Information Department on matters related to information on aquatic animals including aquatic animal diseases;



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- 5. to receive from the OIE Central Bureau copies of the reports of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission and other relevant reports, and conduct the in-country consultation process with recognised aquatic animal health experts on draft texts of standards proposed in those reports; and
- 6. to prepare comments for the Delegate on relevant meeting reports reflecting the scientific view and position of the individual OIE Member Country or Territory and/or the region, including comments on the proposals for new or revised OIE standards related to aquatic animals.

