Australia’s arrangements for managing aquatic animal health: achievements and successful approaches

Ingo Ernst
Manager, Aquatic Animal Health
Animal Health Programs Branch
Biosecurity Services Group

Outline of this presentation

- Background
  - System of government
  - Fisheries and aquaculture industries
- Australia’s strategic plans and their achievements
  - AQUAPLAN 1998-2003
  - AQUAPLAN 2005-2010
- Successful approaches
- Practical considerations
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**Australia’s system of government**

- **Australian Government**
  - Responsible for quarantine and international animal health matters, including disease reporting, export certification and trade.
- **State and territory governments**
  - Responsible for animal disease control within their borders.

- **Australian Government**
- 6 state and 2 territory governments
### Australian Fisheries and Aquaculture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Volume (tonnes)</th>
<th>Value (AUD x 10^6)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rock lobster</td>
<td>13 833</td>
<td>407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salmonids (aquaculture)</td>
<td>25 527</td>
<td>299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prawns - fisheries</td>
<td>22 430</td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- aquaculture</td>
<td>3 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna - fisheries</td>
<td>14 651</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- aquaculture</td>
<td>9 757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abalone - fisheries</td>
<td>5 300</td>
<td>189</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- aquaculture</td>
<td>504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearls (aquaculture)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total aquaculture</td>
<td>62 500</td>
<td>868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total fisheries</td>
<td>173 500</td>
<td>1 322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total production</td>
<td>236 000</td>
<td>2 190</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Need for a strategic approach

- A consistent cross-border approach requires government and industry cooperation because:
  - responsibility for management of aquatic animal health is shared between multiple governments
  - fisheries and aquaculture industries are diverse and regionally concentrated
- Need highlighted by a major pilchard mortality event in 1995, leading to formal recommendations for a coordinated national approach
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AQUAPLAN 1998-2003

Australia’s FIRST National Strategic Plan for Aquatic Animal Health

Broadly aimed at maximising the opportunities for, and profitability of, Australian aquaculture and fisheries.

AQUAPLAN modified the existing framework for terrestrial animal health, where appropriate, to also accommodate aquatic animal health.
AQUAPLAN 1998-2003 - Programs

Program 1 – International Linkages
Program 2 – Quarantine
Program 3 – Surveillance, Monitoring and Reporting
Program 4 – Preparedness and Response
Program 5 – Awareness
Program 6 – Research and Development
Program 7 – Legislation, Policies and Jurisdiction
Program 8 – Resources and Funding

AQUAPLAN 1998-2003 - Achievements

Program 3 – Surveillance, Monitoring and Reporting
- standard diagnostic techniques
- national list of reportable diseases established and reviewed annually
- national electronic reporting system established to collect data from states and territories

Program 4 – Preparedness and Response
- contingency planning - AQUAVETPLAN
- institutional arrangements for emergency management; Aquatic Consultative Committee for Emergency Animal Diseases
AQUAPLAN 1998-2003 - Achievements

Program 5 – Awareness
- disease field guide based on national list – updated
- training manual on exotic diseases

Program 6 – Research and Development
- developed a national R&D plan
- established a body to lead and coordinate R&D planning and provide recommendations on investment priorities

AQUAPLAN 2005-2010

Australia’s SECOND National Strategic Plan for Aquatic Animal Health

AQUAPLAN 2005-2010, was developed to address, on the basis of a performance review of its predecessor, specific priority areas within aquatic animal health.
AQUAPLAN 2005-2010 - Strategies

**Strategy 1.** Enhanced integration and scope of aquatic animal health surveillance

**Strategy 2.** Harmonisation of approaches to aquatic animal health

**Strategy 3.** Enhancement of emergency aquatic animal disease preparedness and response framework

**Strategy 4.** Education and training in the aquatic animal health sector

**Strategy 5.** Welfare standards for aquaculture

**Strategy 6.** Appropriate use of therapeutics for aquatic animal health management

**Strategy 7.** Aquatic animal health as part of ecologically sustainable development

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AQUAPLAN 2005-2010 - Achievements

**Strategy 1.** Enhanced integration and scope of aquatic animal health surveillance in Australia
- national investigation and reporting protocol for fish kills developed and adopted
- ongoing laboratory proficiency testing established
- information system on aquatic animal pathogens and diseases established

**Strategy 3.** Enhancement of emergency aquatic animal disease preparedness and response framework
- AQUAVETPLAN enhanced
- progress toward an industry/government agreement for emergency disease responses
AQUAPLAN 2005-2010 - Achievements

Strategy 4. Education and training in the aquatic animal health sector
- assessment of current and future training needs
- training scheme for practising aquatic animal health professionals established and first training undertaken in 2010

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Aim for lasting impact

- Both plans aimed, ultimately, to improve management of aquatic animal health
- The most successful projects have been those that established ongoing systems or programs that continued to deliver benefits over time

Use existing resources and expertise

- Harmonizing with terrestrial arrangements and approaches
  - proven and accepted existing models
  - minimised duplication and maximised use of resources
  - either integrated aquatic animal health or developed consistent parallel systems
Engage all stakeholders

- **Necessary to establish common purpose**
  - aquatic industries may be geographically diverse and common interests may not be obvious
  - state governments may focus on their jurisdiction’s issues
  - but strong systems will support productivity and market access for all sectors
- **Necessary to establish ownership**
  - stakeholders are more likely to commit effort and resources if they see a direct benefit

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Considerations for **developing** a National Plan

- Seek high-level authority to develop a plan with a scope that is broadly defined
- Identify who will oversee development of the plan
- Engage relevant groups – who will be/needs to be a partner?
- Recognise and respect existing responsibilities
- Recognise existing initiatives/projects
- Ensure plan responsibilities are defined
- Set achievable goals consistent with resources available
- Ensure deliverables and performance measures are defined
- Seek high-level endorsement

Considerations for **implementing** a National Plan

- Need dedicated resources to coordinate implementation
- Need ownership; for example a national aquatic animal health committee to oversee implementation
- Review progress and priorities regularly
- Mechanisms to communicate with stakeholders
Thank you

ingo.ernst@daff.gov.au