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Overview of biosecurity in aquaculture

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Why the Emphasis on Aquaculture Biosecurity?

Sustainable Salmon Farming Plays an Important Role in Feeding the World

Demand for protein is set to **double** by **2050**¹



50% of seafood is currently farmed. Aquaculture is **needed** to support wild fish stocks²

3.1 million tonnes



Farmed fish, like salmon, is a healthy choice—high in **Omega-3 fatty acids, protein and nutrients**^{6,7,8}

Farmed fish is the most **resource-efficient** animal protein on the planet⁴



Feed Conversion Ratio⁵

1.3*

1.9

2.8

7.5

Fresh Water⁴

1
Gallon

2,000
Gallons

3,500
Gallons

2,500
Gallons

Carbon Footprint⁵
(kg of CO₂ per edible part of product)

2.9*

2.7

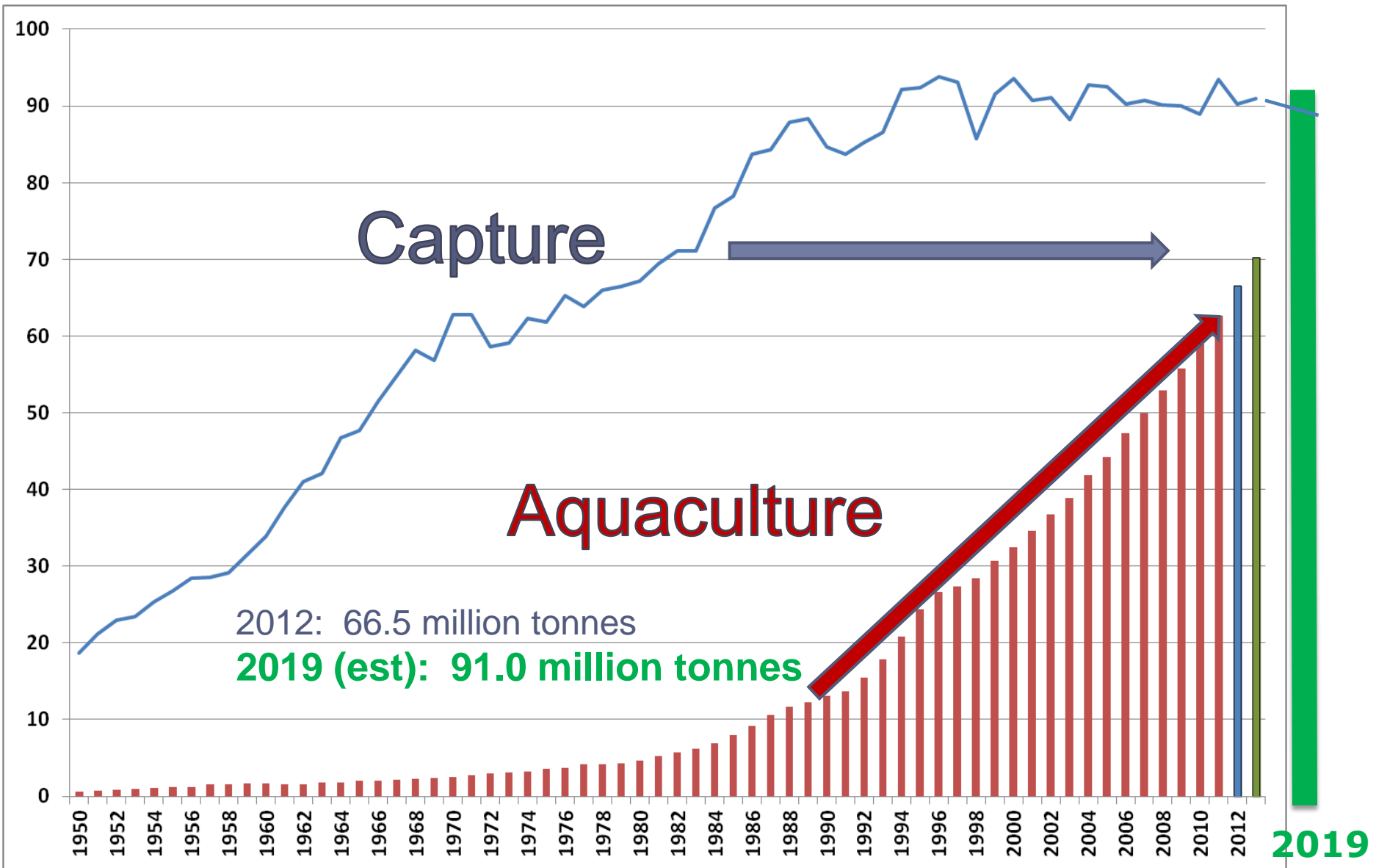
5.9

30.0

2 Source: GSI 2016 Sustainability Report

1 Gallon = 3,75 L





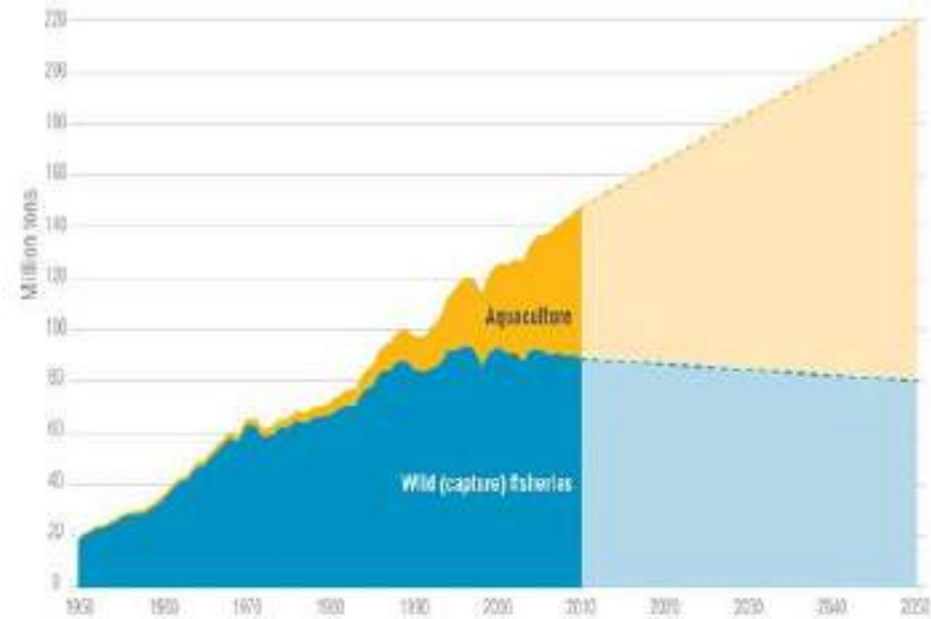
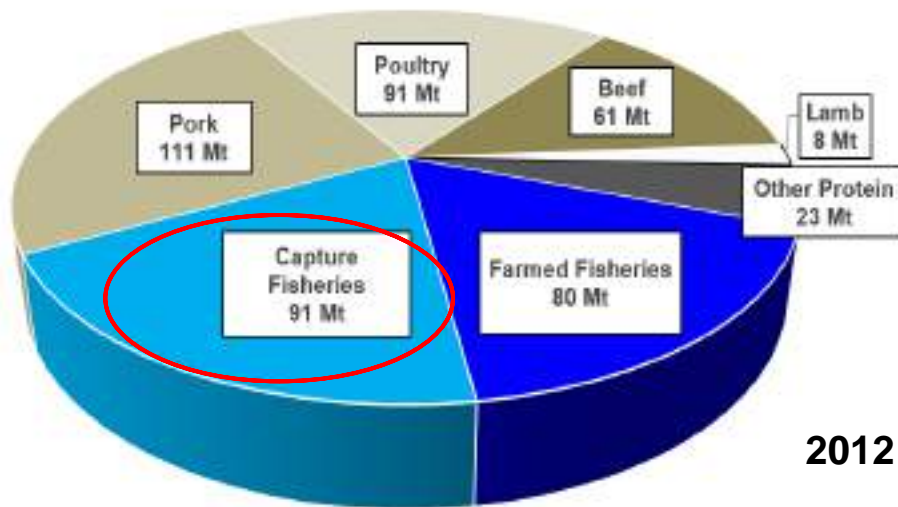
Food Security



“... predictions are that by 2050 half the animal protein consumed by people will come from aquaculture” (Barry O’Neil, President OIE – 2009)

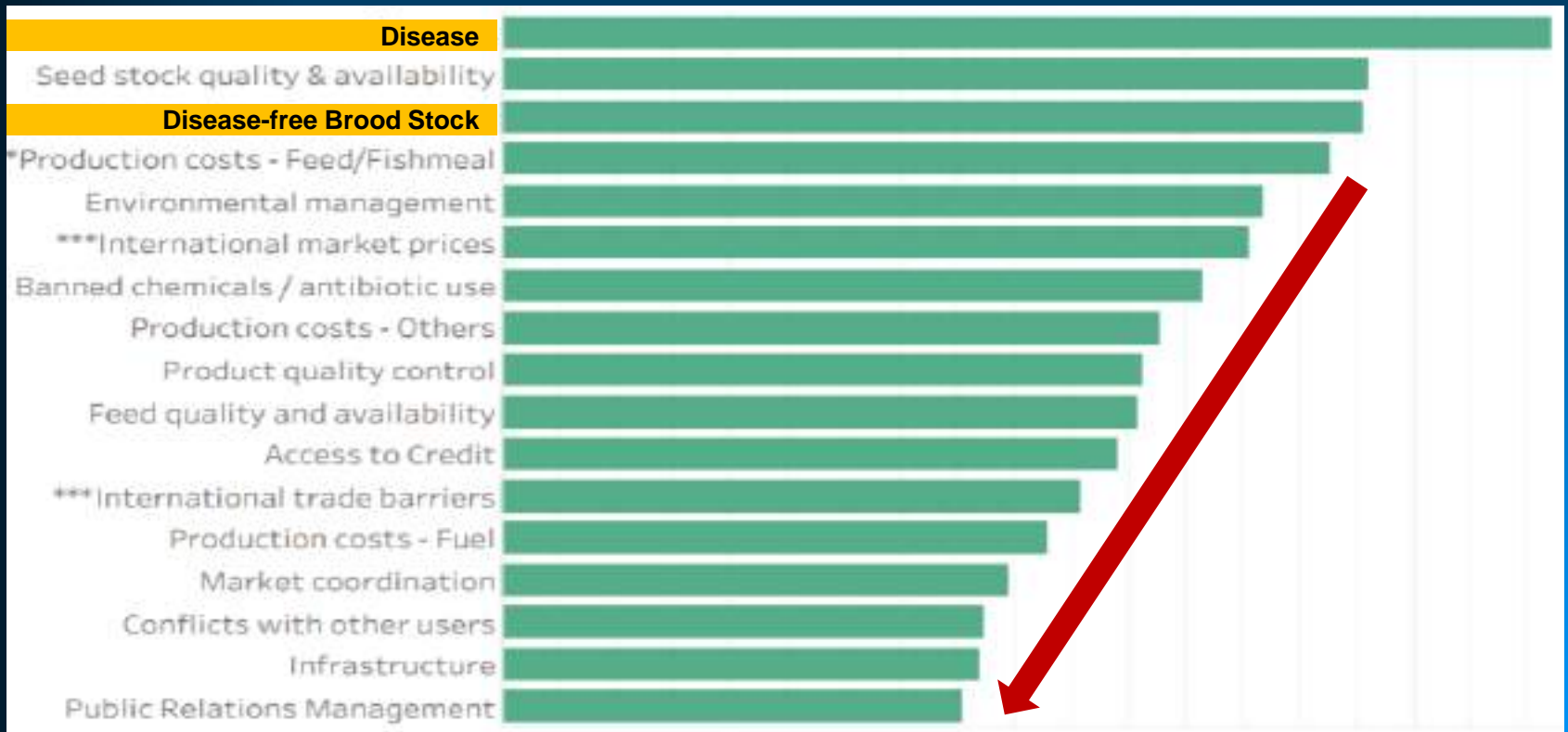
“ ... by 2050 ~100% more food production needed to feed 9.8 billion+ people” (Arni Mathiesen, Assistant Director General, FAO), 2020)

Global Animal Protein Production
(Mt - millions metric tonnes)



Aquaculture Industry Sustainability Problems

GAA Goal 2017 Aquaculture Survey (all countries)



Importance:

Not at all

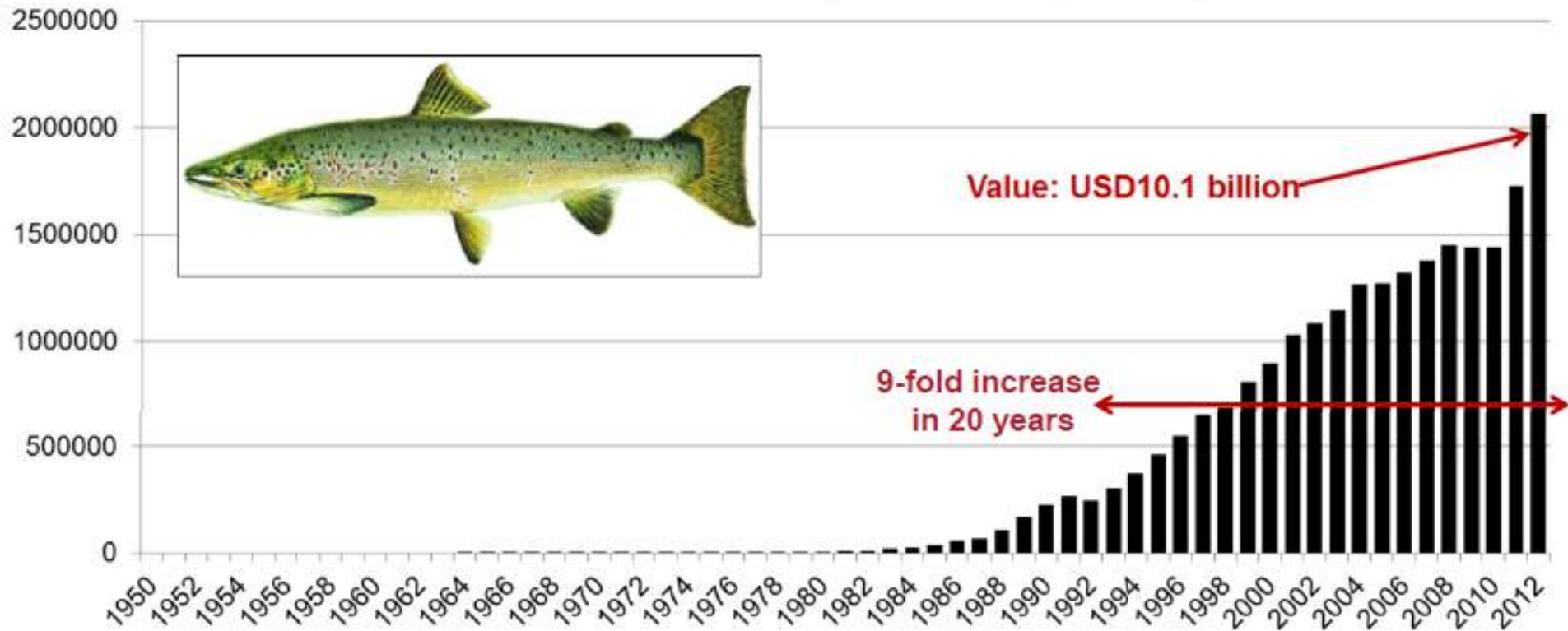
Moderate

Extremely



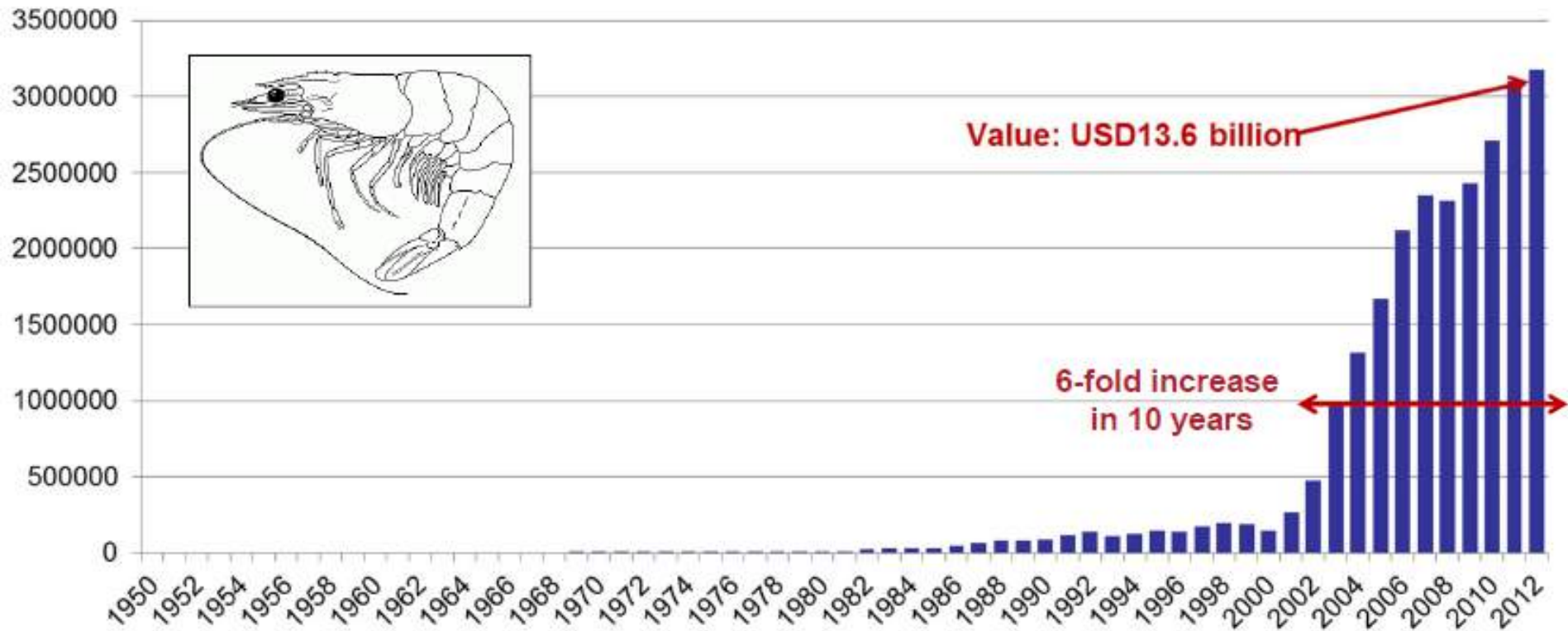
Changes are rapid and imminent

Global Atlantic salmon production (tonnes)



Increase in production = increase in disease risk?

Global *Penaeus vannamei* production (tonnes)



DISEASES OF FISH (10)

Epizootic haematopoietic necrosis
Infection with *Aphanomyces invadans*
Infection with *Gyrodactylus salaris*
Infection with HPR-deleted or HPR0
infectious salmon anaemia
Infection with salmonid alphavirus
Infectious haematopoietic necrosis
Koi herpesvirus disease
Red sea bream iridoviral disease
Spring viraemia of carp
Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia

DISEASES OF MOLLUSCS (7)

Infection with abalone herpesvirus
Infection with *Bonamia ostreae*
Infection with *Bonamia exitiosa*
Infection with *Marteilia refringens*
Infection with *Perkinsus marinus*
Infection with *Perkinsus olseni*
Infection with *Xenohaliotis californiensis*

DISEASES OF CRUSTACEANS (8)

Crayfish plague
Infection with yellow head virus
Infectious hypodermal and
haematopoietic necrosis
Infectious myonecrosis
Necrotising hepatopancreatitis
Taura syndrome
White spot disease
White tail disease

DISEASES OF AMPHIBIANS (2)

Infection with *Batrachochytrium*
dendrobatidis
Infection with ranavirus



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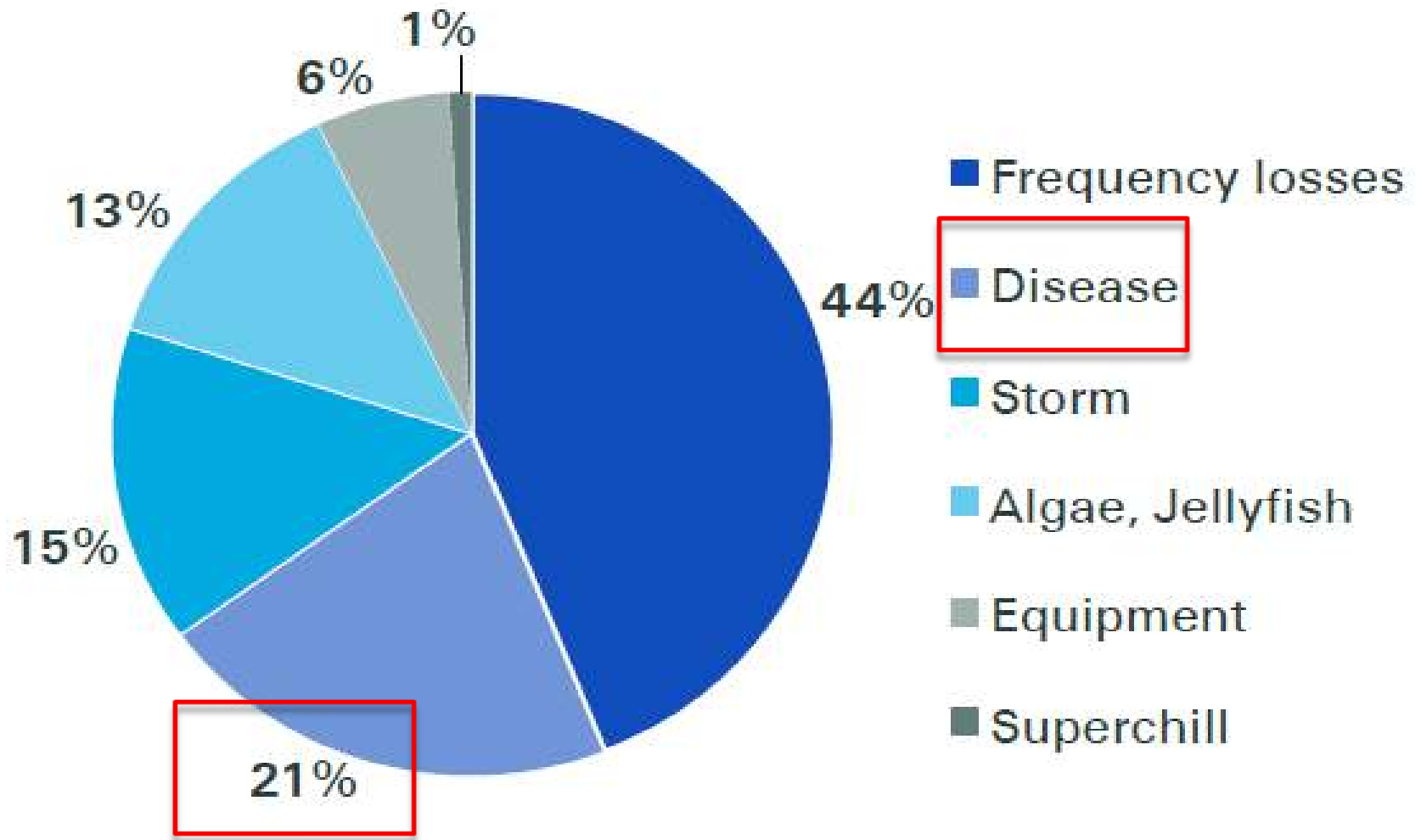
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▶ *Red are diseases introduced on the list since 2000. In 20 years, 19 new diseases...

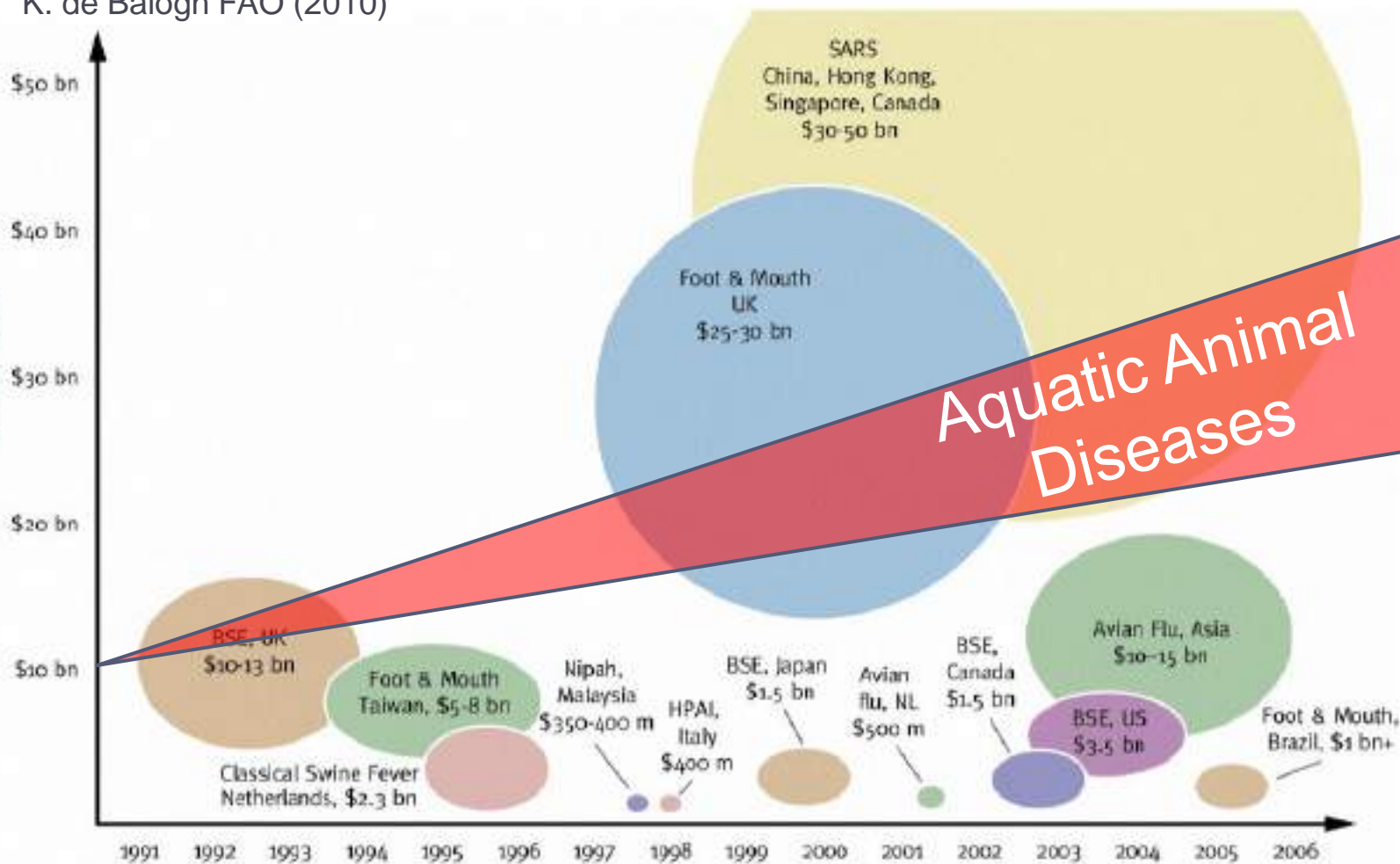
Major Aquaculture Risk Factors



Impact of Disease Outbreaks

Aquatic and Terrestrial Animal Diseases

K. de Balogh FAO (2010)



(Maldonado-Miranda et al., 2022)

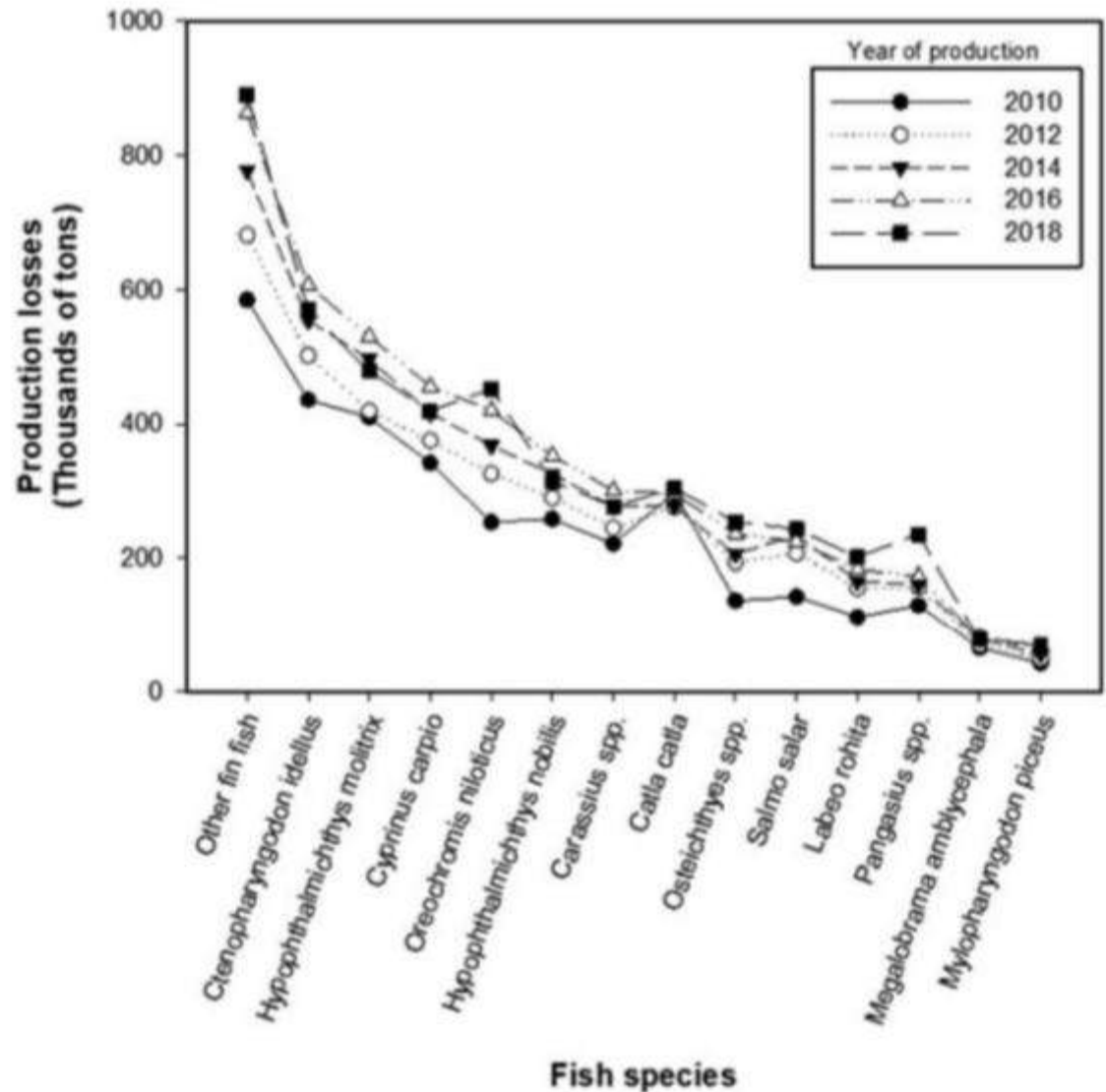


FIGURE 19.3

Economic loss for the principal species of food fish worldwide.

The Problem - Diseases

- ▶ Disease is the major catastrophic risk element in aquaculture.
- ▶ \$1 billion annual losses in Vietnam
- ▶ \$2 billion – cost of ISAV outbreak in Chile
- ▶ Estimated - \$10 billion a year lost globally throughout the value chain.

PREVENTION IS THE KEY
AND
VETERINARIANS CAN HELP



Biosecurity and disease control

- The intensification of aquaculture and the globalization of trade in aquatic products have led to the emergence and re-emergence of infectious diseases representing a significant economic and environmental challenge to society.
- The Progressive Management Pathway for Improving Aquaculture Biosecurity (PMP/AB), endorsed and welcomed by the Tenth session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture (FAO, 2019), is risk-based, collaborative and progressive and builds on management capacity using bottom-up and top-down approaches.
- The adoption of “critical control point thinking” and a “risk mindset” along the value chain is important to identify the hazards and understand and manage the risk at every stage of production from seed source and grow-out operations to market.

- A ten-point biosecurity best practice provides a broad biosecurity landscape:
 1. know your species,
 2. know your system,
 3. know your pathogens,
 4. know your contamination pathway,
 5. source healthy seed,
 6. maintain good husbandry,
 7. use antimicrobials prudently,
 8. respect food safety requirements,
 9. respect the environment and
 10. have a biosecurity plan.

IAVBC Biosecurity Objectives

Effective biosecurity is more than hygienic practices, quarantine, etc.

- ✓ Outcome must be evidence-based with clear end-points
- ✓ Standardized, scientifically sound & justifiable approaches
- ✓ Encompass disease prevention, control & eradication
- ✓ Meets regulatory requirements (Local/State/National)
- ✓ Promote business continuity (fits routine production systems, economical, practical, efficient & effective)
- ✓ Producer, veterinary & government incentives/rewards (government / industry collaboration & cost-sharing)



- Implementing biosecurity practices on aquaculture appears to be a fairly straight forward concept.
- The old adage that “prevention is better than cure” certainly applies to aquaculture diseases, particularly when the economic impacts of disease outbreaks have proven to be huge and, clearly, biosecurity practices can prevent these



Primary Focus & Ultimate Objective of Biosecurity

To ensure that an epidemiological unit is not diseased / infected ...

... and remains that way.

Prevention!...

Control!...

Eradication!



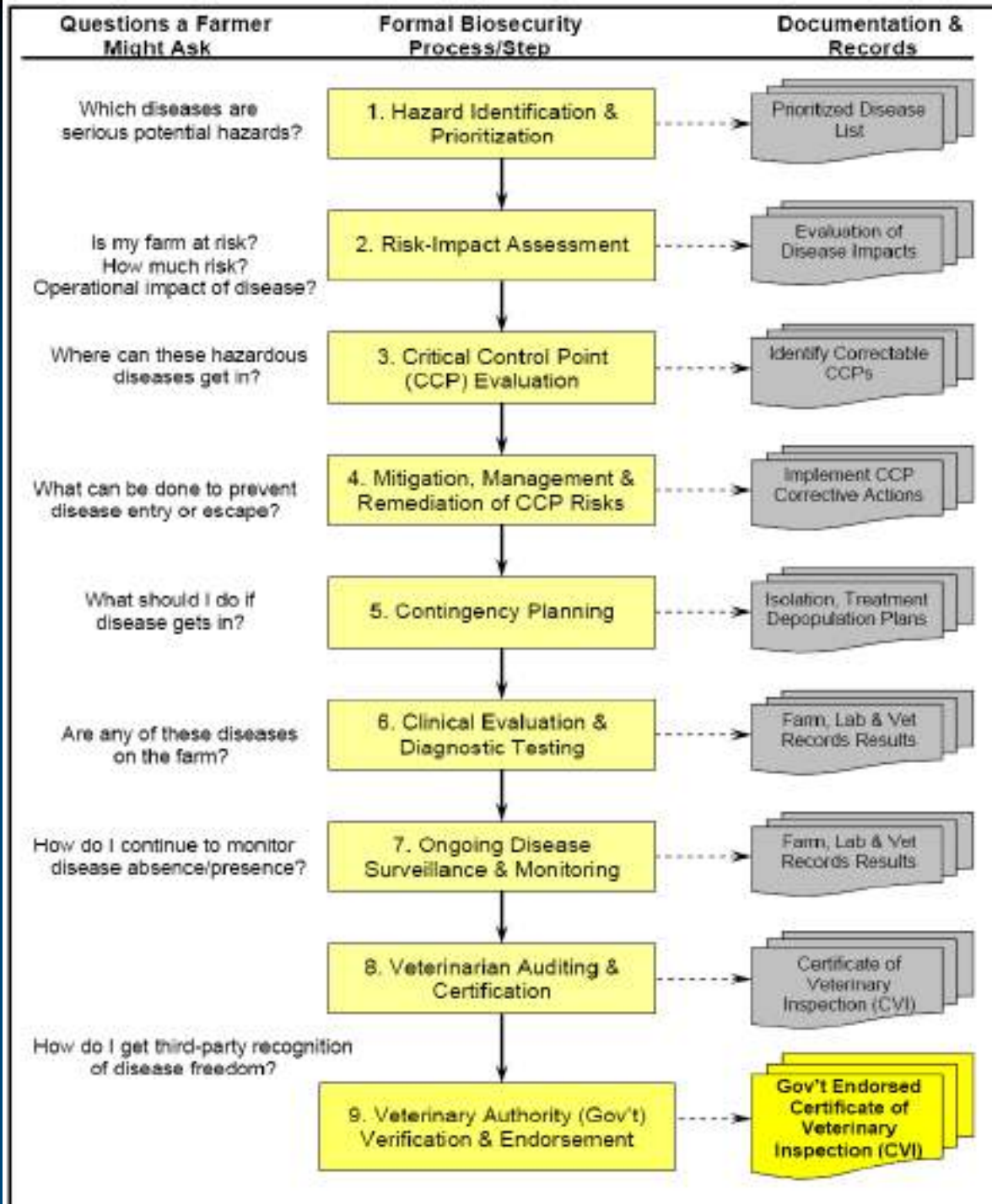
- An Epidemiological Unit, is a group of animals that share approximately the same risk of exposure to a pathogenic agent, within a defined location.
- This may be because they share a common aquatic environment (e.g. fish in a pond, caged fish in a lake), or because management practices make it likely that a pathogenic agent in one group or population of animals would quickly spread to other animals (e.g., all the ponds on a farm, all the ponds in a village system) (OIE, 2019a—Glossary).

IAVBC Biosecurity Components

—
Any Epidemiologic
Unit

- ✓ Establishment
- ✓ Compartment
- ✓ Zone
- ✓ Region
- ✓ Country

20



STAGE PROGRESSION in the PROGRESSIVE MANAGEMENT PATHWAY

MAINTAIN 4: NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENCE IN MANAGEMENT MAINTAINED

4 SUSTAINABLE
NATIONAL AQUACULTURE
SYSTEM

3 NATIONAL
BIOSECURITY
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

FROM 3 TO 4
Competence to sustain
aquaculture health
(defending and maintaining
specified disease freedom)

2 BIOSECURITY
Managed in specific sectors/
compartments

FROM 2 TO 3
National Biosecurity
Management system plan
adopted

1 RISK
ASSESSMENTS

FROM 1 TO 2
Strategic Bioscurity
Action Plan





Definitions

BIOSECURITY means a set of **management and physical measures** designed to **reduce the risk of introduction, establishment and spread** of *pathogenic agents* to, from and within an *aquatic animal* population.

BIOSECURITY PLAN means a plan that identifies significant potential pathways for the introduction and spread of *disease* in a *zone* or *compartment*, and describes the measures which are being, or will be, applied to mitigate the *risks* to introduce and spread *disease*, taking into consideration the recommendations in the **Aquatic Code**. The plan should also describe how these measures are audited, with respect to both their implementation and their targeting, to ensure that the *risks* are regularly re-assessed and the measures adjusted accordingly.



Definitions contd.

BASIC BIOSECURITY CONDITIONS means a minimum set of conditions required to ensure biosecurity for **a particular disease**, in a country, zone or compartment that should include:

1. **Compulsory notification** of the disease or suspicion of the disease to the Competent Authority;
2. An **early detection system**; and,
3. Requirements to prevent the introduction of the pathogenic agent into a free country, zone or compartment, or the **spread** within or from infected zones and protection zones, in accordance with the relevant disease-specific chapter.



Applying Biosecurity to an Epidemiological Unit

- 300,000 lbs. (\$1.5M) annual production
- Integrated production – buys & sells live fish, larvae & fillets internationally
- Imports breeding stock & eggs
- Uses river & groundwater
- ~500 visitors / year
- 50 employees



NO biosecurity plan in place:
HIGH risk of a disease outbreak

1 pund = 1 lb = 0,45 kg



Identify Disease Hazards & Risks

Questions a Farmer
Might Ask

Formal Biosecurity
Process/Step

Documentation &
Records

Which diseases are
serious potential hazards?

1. Hazard Identification &
Prioritization

Prioritized Disease
List

Is my farm at risk?
How much risk?
Operational impact of disease?

2. Risk-Impact Assessment

Evaluation of
Disease Impacts



Process: Determine Disease Hazards & Risks

- ? Which important diseases are present or can potentially affect the farm (Epi-Unit)
- ? What might be the impacts on the farm
 - Decreased production, increased costs
 - Negative product demand & price
 - Regulatory restrictions
- ✓ Create prioritized disease list based on severity of potential impact



Qualitative or Semi-quantitative Risk/Impact Analysis

Risk Matrix		Consequence / Potential Impacts					
		Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Severe	Major	Catastrophic
Likelihood / Probability		0	1	2	3	4	5
Remote	1	0	1	2	3	4	5
Rare	2	0	2	4	6	8	10
Unlikely	3	0	3	6	9	12	15
Possible	4	0	4	8	12	16	20
Occasional	5	0	5	10	15	20	25
Likely	6	0	6	12	18	24	30

Negligible
0

Low Risk
1 - 6

Moderate Risk
7 - 12

High Risk
13 - 18

Extreme Risk >
19



Process: Identified Hazards & Risk Levels

Disease Hazard

Risk Level

Impact

❖ Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia

Extremely High

Extremely High

Endemic - OIE/Nat'l/State regulated / lethal

❖ *Streptococcus iniae*

High

Moderate

Ubiquitous / Unregulated / high morbidity

❖ Columnaris Disease

Low

Moderate

Exotic / State regulated / high morbidity)

❖ Enzootic Ulcerative Syndrome

Low

High

Exotic / OIE/Nat'l/State regulated / low morbidity

➤ Biosecurity Plan tailored to selected disease hazards



Determine & Mitigate Critical Points where can disease can enter or leave



Where can these hazardous diseases get in?

3. Critical Control Point (CCP) Evaluation

Identify Correctable CCPs

What can be done to prevent disease entry or escape?

4. Mitigation, Management & Remediation of CCP Risks

Implement CCP Corrective Actions



Process: Determine Critical Points



- Vectors
- Personnel
- Animals
- Vehicles
- Fomites
- Equipment
- Water
- Feed



Process: Mitigating Critical Points

? What actions will rectify critical points where disease can enter or leave

Vectors & Fomites: ✓ Personnel, ✓ Animals, ✓ Vehicles, ✓ Equipment, ✓ Water, ✓ Feed, etc.



VISITORS
PLEASE
SIGN IN



Developing Contingency Plans (what if ...?)

What should I do if
disease gets in?

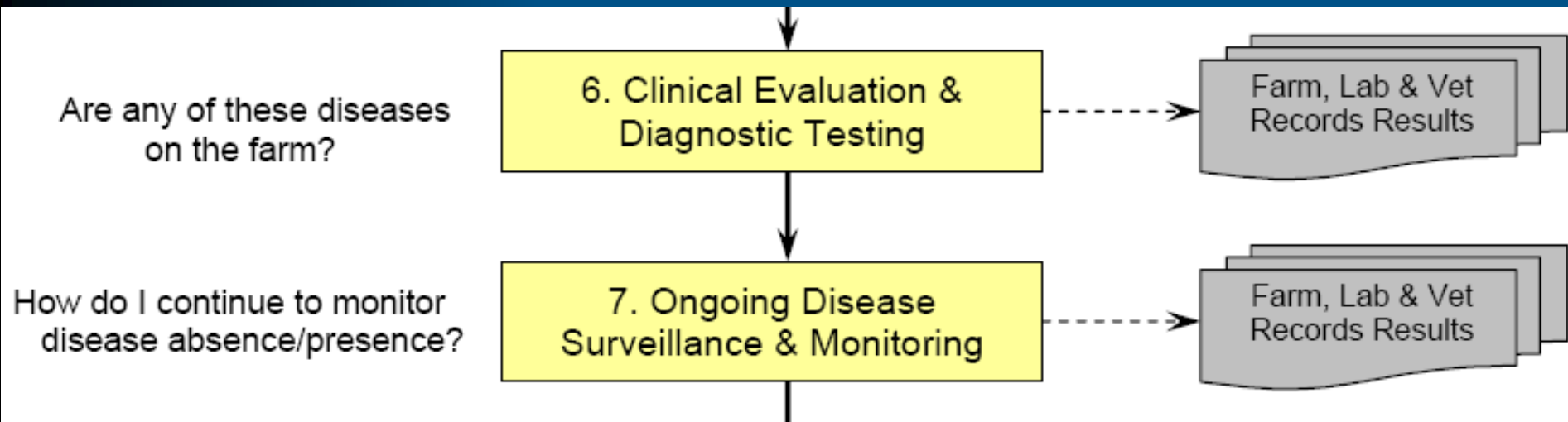
5. Contingency Planning

Isolation, Treatment
Depopulation Plans

- ✓ Isolating (quarantine) epidemiologic unit parts
- ✓ Communicating / reporting disease outbreak
- ✓ Re-evaluating & correcting **Critical Control Points**
- ✓ Implement recovery - depopulation / treatment / vaccination (business continuity



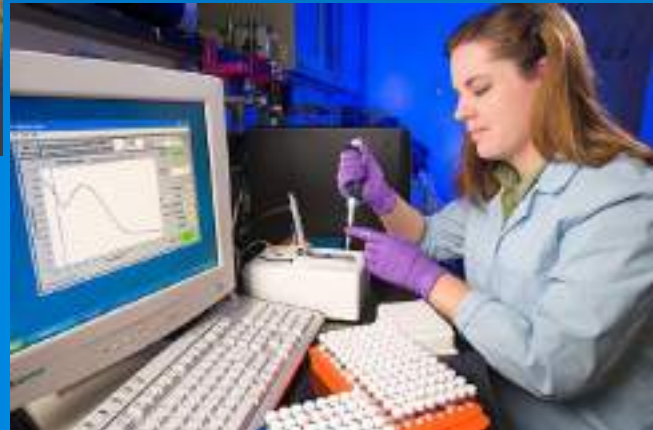
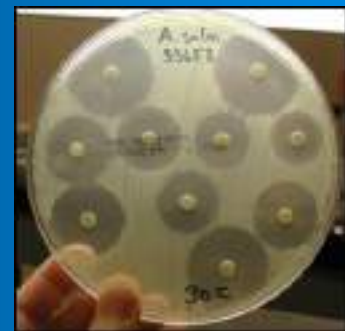
Veterinary Diagnostics, Surveillance & Monitoring



Identifying what's there: Clinical & Lab Diagnostics

Is the disease present or absent?

- Appropriate veterinary clinical evaluation & sampling of all populations
- DX lab confirmation
- Full epidemiological evaluation & diagnostic interpretation



Personnel & Diagnostic Laboratory Resources

Finding veterinarians/para-veterinarians and diagnostic labs to assist

AquaVetMed.Info

Search Directories of

Aquatic Veterinarians and Disease Diagnostic Laboratories

These directories assist veterinarians, veterinary-allied professionals, aquatic animal owners, aquaculture industries, governments, and the general public.

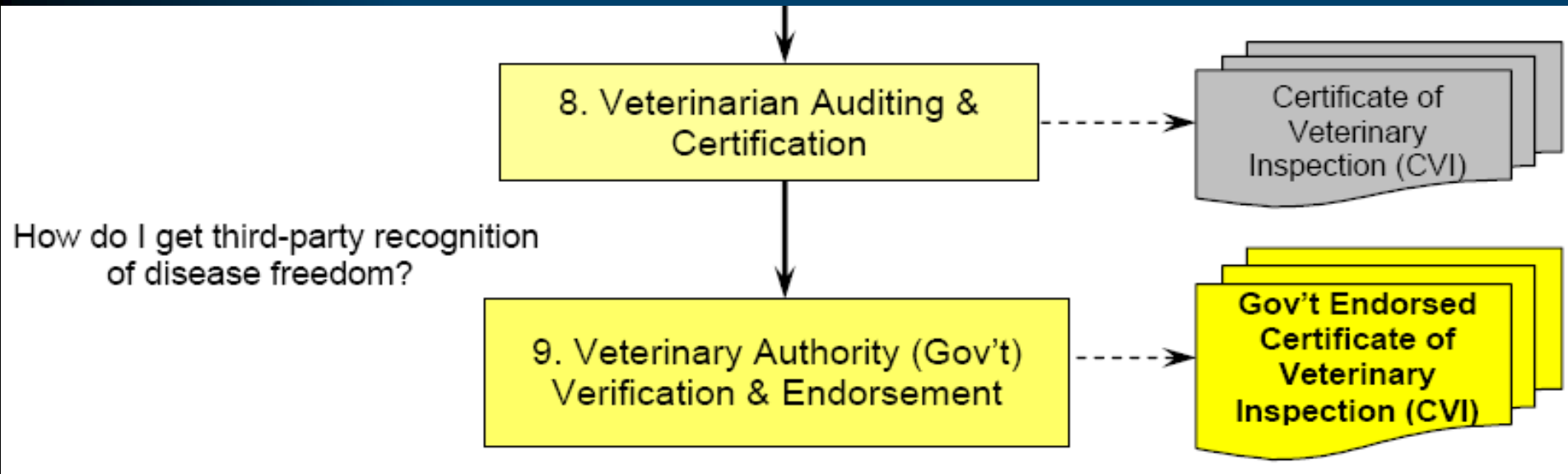
www.AquaVetMed.info

www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/nahln

National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN)



Auditing & Certification



Process: Audit vs. Certify

Audits

Periodic site visits to verify:

- ✓ Processes are in place
- ✓ Examine documentation
- ✓ Assist correcting deficiencies
- ✓ Look for clinical disease

Certification

Issue certificate to validate:

- ✓ Processes are in place
- ✓ Level of biosecurity
- ✓ Disease status of operation



Questions a Farmer Might Ask

Formal Biosecurity Process/Steps

Documentation & Records

Which diseases are serious potential hazards?

BIOSECURITY LEVEL I

Is my farm at risk?
How much risk?
Operational impact of disease?

1. Hazard Identification & Prioritization

Prioritized Disease List

2. Risk-Impact Assessment

Evaluation of Disease Impacts

Where can these hazardous diseases get in?

BIOSECURITY LEVEL II

What can be done to prevent disease entry or escape?

3. Critical Control Point (CCP) Evaluation

Identify Correctable CCPs

4. Mitigation, Management & Remediation of CCP Risks

Implement CCP Corrective Actions

What should I do if disease gets in?

BIOSECURITY LEVEL III

Are any of these diseases on the farm?

5. Contingency Planning

Isolation, Treatment Depopulation Plans

6. Clinical Evaluation & Diagnostic Testing

Farm, Lab & Vet Records Results



Questions a Farmer Might Ask

Formal Biosecurity Process/Steps

Documentation & Records

How do I continue to monitor
disease absence/presence?

BIOSECURITY LEVEL IV

7. Ongoing Disease
Surveillance & Monitoring

Farm, Lab & Vet
Records Results

8. Veterinarian Auditing &
Certification

Certificate of
Veterinary
Inspection (CVI)

How do I get third-party recognition
of disease freedom?

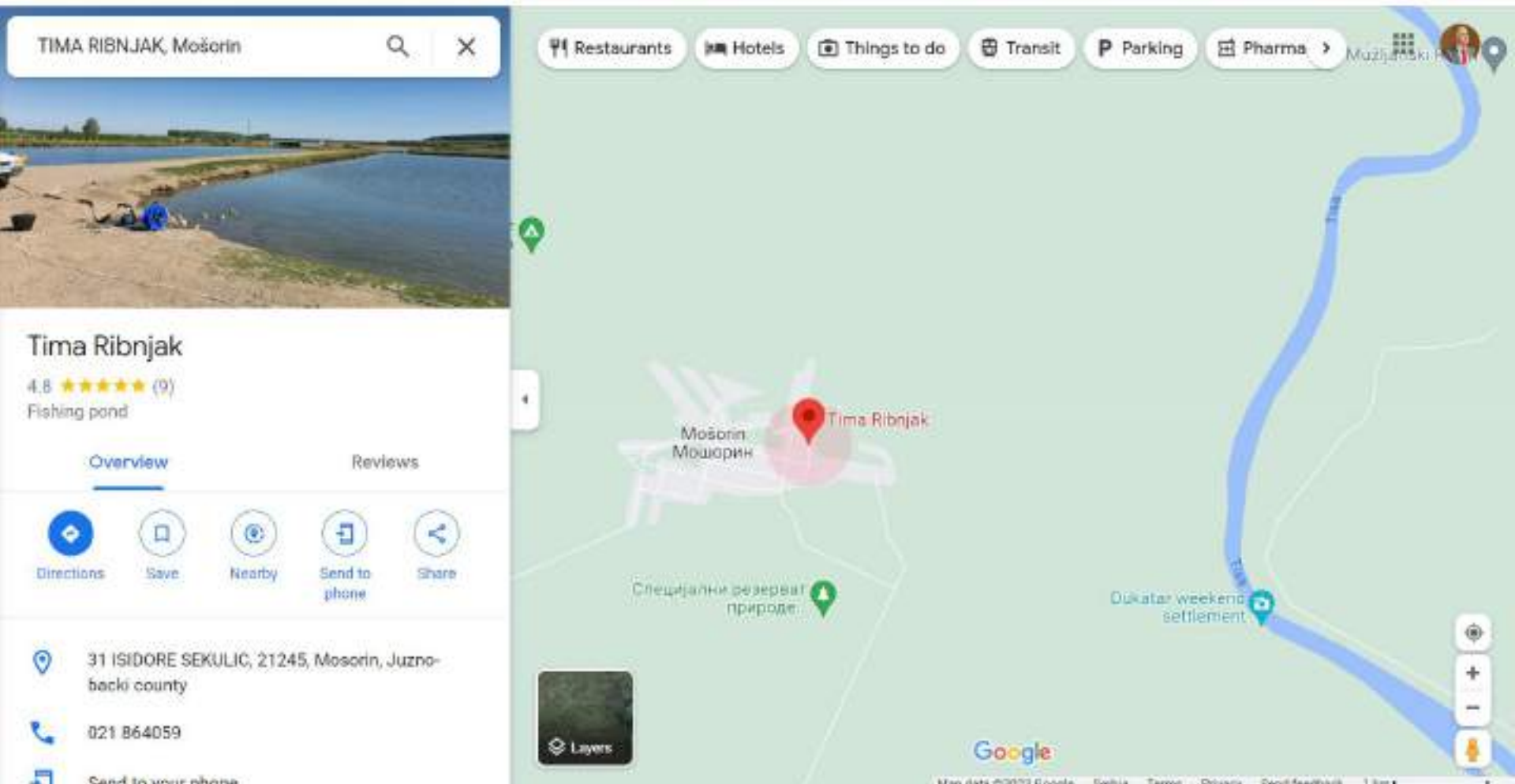
BIOSECURITY LEVEL V

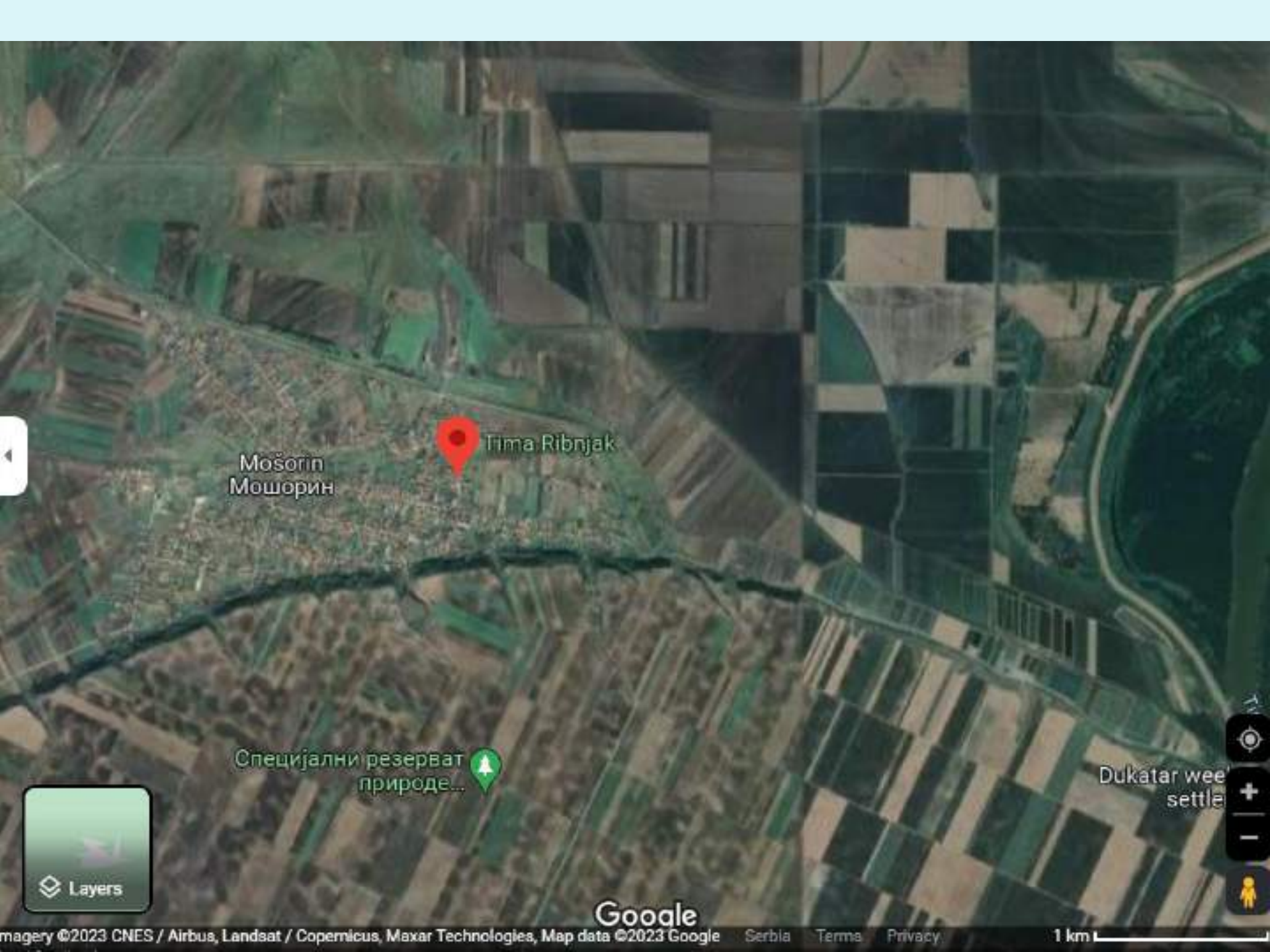
9. Veterinary Authority (Gov't)
Verification & Endorsement

Gov't Endorsed
Certificate of
Veterinary
Inspection (CVI)



GPS: 45.30404947004533,
20.17823480636779





Mošorin
Мошорин

Тима Рибњак

Специјални резерват
природе...

Dukatar wee
settle

Layers

Google

Map navigation controls including a compass, zoom in (+) and zoom out (-) buttons, a street view pegman icon, and a location pin icon.

Cyprinid fish pond in northern Serbia



- Using a novel approach to assess Irish salmon farms, Yatabe et al. (2018) clearly showed that implementing biosecurity practices decreases the number of pathogens a farm will encounter, and it also has been established that modeling risk of disease introduction relative to disease surveillance and monitoring of fish farms represents very important segment of biosecurity practices





- What is the secret of success?
- Right decisions.

- How do you make right decisions?
- Experience.

- How do you gain experience?
- Wrong decisions.

**THANKS FOR
YOUR ATTENTION**

**ANY QUESTION
SEARCH IN GOOGLE**