



## Permanent Advisory Network for Diseases in Aquaculture (PANDA)

The PANDA project aims to establish a permanent network of aquatic animal health specialists (researchers and diagnosticians) to provide a forum for the debate of issues concerning diseases in European aquaculture, and to communicate the results of these discussions to the European Commission with provision of advice on EU policy and legislation for aquatic animal health.

PANDA consists of five scientific work packages : risk analysis, epidemiology, diagnosis, environmentally safe strategies for disease control, training in research and diagnostics. These workpackages are lead by PANDA consortium members, supported by small task force of specialists, with wider input from experts registered in the PANDA network. Focused workshops and ongoing online discussions on subjects related to aquatic infectious diseases are being held for exchange of scientific information and opinion.

A consortium of eight institutes is leading the project. The project website is the hub of the network. It presents information on project objectives, progress and joining the network. For registered members there are discussion forums, a searchable database of experts and online document editing. 200 worldwide experts have joined the network: **what about you?**



Partner	Representative	Function / work package
CEFAS Weymouth, UK	Barry Hill	Project co-ordinator
Danish Veterinary Institute, Aarhus, Denmark	Ellen Ariel	Steering group member
IFREMER, La Tremblade, France	Isabelle Arzul	Steering group member
IRTA, Tarragona, Spain	Chris Rodgers	Risk analysis
National Veterinary Institute, Oslo, Norway	Edgar Brun	Epidemiology
CIDC, Lelystad, The Netherlands	Olga Haenen	Diagnostic methods
Federation of European Aquaculture producers, Belgium	Panos Christofologiannis	Environmentally safe disease control
National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland	Maura Hiney	Training needs and opportunities

### Risk analysis

A questionnaire to assess the risk posed by exotic, emerging and re-emerging diseases has been produced, and from this scoring, the most significant hazards to European aquaculture have been identified. Work identifying consequences of introduction of these diseases is coming next.

*If you would like to view the list of diseases identified, score a disease you are familiar with, comment on the scoring criteria, please visit the website.*

### Epidemiology

The epidemiological characteristics of the diseases identified by the risk analysis work package will be collated and stored on a database which has been designed to hold information in a form which can be used by risk analysts. Once this process is complete, the information will be used as a basis for the development of surveillance schemes for these diseases and contingency plans should outbreaks occur.

*If you have data on exotic, emerging or re-emerging diseases that you feel should be included, please visit the project website.*

### Diagnostic methods

Questionnaires have been produced for assessing the available diagnostic methods for the diseases identified by risk analysis. Once these have been completed, discussed at workshops held at the National Reference Laboratories for Fish and Shellfish diseases annual meetings, recommendations for improvements, standardisation, validation and implementation will be produced.

*If you would like to contribute to the assessment of the diagnostic methods, please visit the project website*

### Environmentally safe control strategies

Environmental impact and clinical efficacy of disease control methods are being assessed. Experts in these fields have been consulted, and information provided will be collated into a series of articles in Fish Farming International. A workshop to discuss the findings have been held in alongside the FEAP General Assembly in Greece in May 2005, in order to produce recommendations for the best control techniques and policy/legislation options for the application of environmentally safe control methods.

*If you want to contribute to the debate on this subject, please visit the project website.*

Join the network:  
[www.europanda.net](http://www.europanda.net)

### Training needs and opportunities

A links based database of training opportunities has been designed, and information is being collated on training opportunities relevant to the diseases identified by risk analysis. Once this process is completed, a workshop will be held to training requirements which are not currently met will be identified.

*If you can supply information on aquatic animal health related training opportunities, or would like to participate in the workshop, please visit the project website.*



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