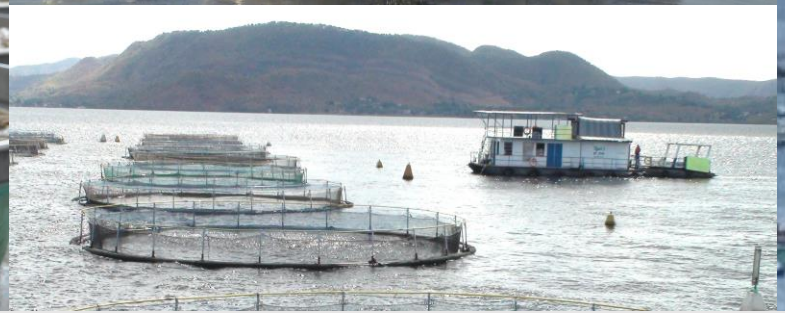
Technical support for the development of a framework for understanding the burden of diseases of farmed aquatic organisms

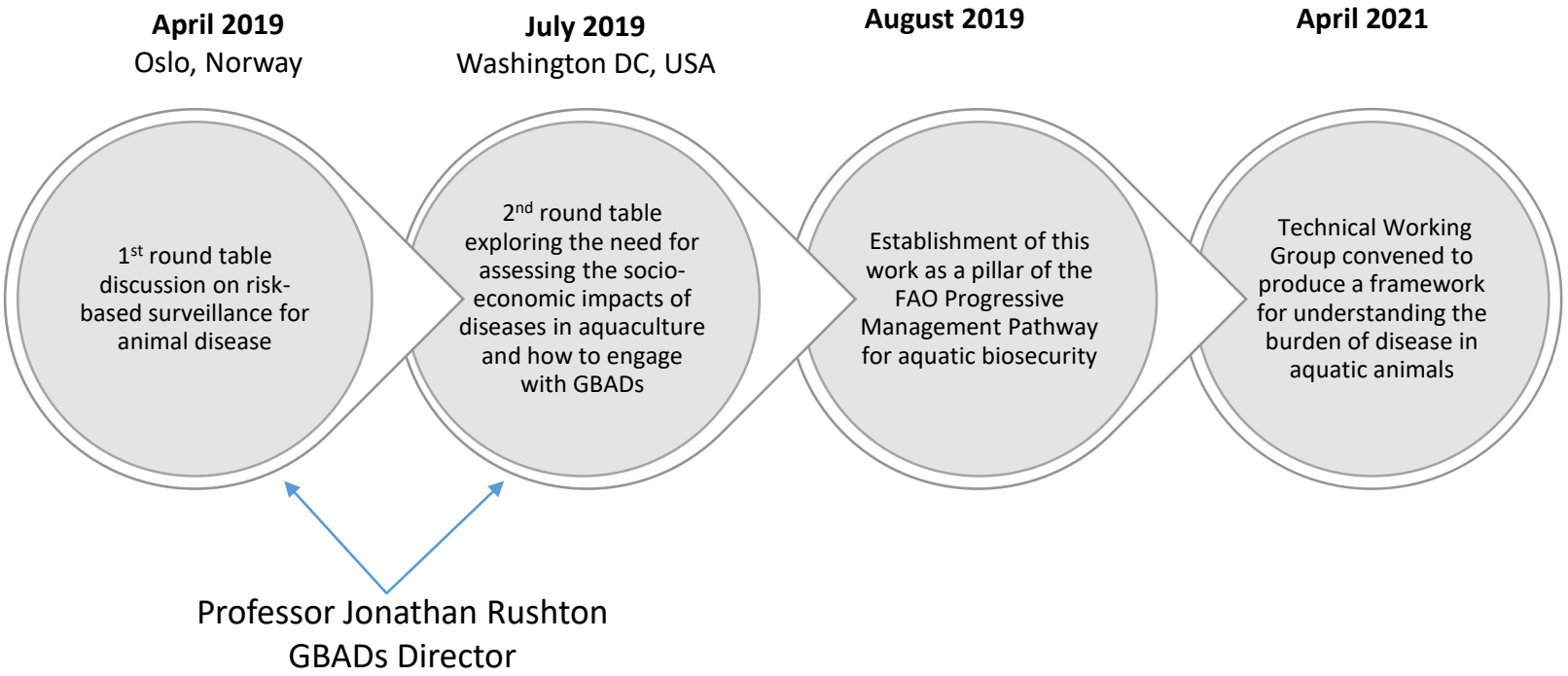
Edna Massay Kallon, Hernán Rojas, Diego Garcia, Ben Huntington,
Jonathan Rushton, Melba Reantaso
And GBADs collaborators



Aquaculture is the fastest growing food-producing sector in the world, with significant scope for risks to animal, human and environmental health through inequitable distribution of animal health technologies

Investment in Lower- and Middle-Income countries' aquaculture sectors is needed for positive outcomes on improved access to animal source protein

Background


April 2019
Oslo, Norway
July 2019
Washington DC, USA
August 2019
April 2021
1st round table discussion on risk-based surveillance for animal disease
2nd round table exploring the need for assessing the socio-economic impacts of diseases in aquaculture and how to engage with GBADs
Establishment of this work as a pillar of the FAO Progressive Management Pathway for aquatic biosecurity
Technical Working Group convened to produce a framework for understanding the burden of disease in aquatic animals
Professor Jonathan Rushton
GBADs Director

Technical Working Group

Participants

- Government
- Academia
- Private Sector

Meetings

- 23 April 2021
- 7 May 2021
- 21 May 2021

Benefits

- Expert advice to support the development and application of the GBADs framework in aquaculture
- Platform for learning and critique that has resulted in refinement of the analytical approach and an understanding of its utility

Outcome

- Decision on the GBADs framework in aquaculture
- Some TWG members have begun to apply the framework in their own country, with the support of the wider GBADs network

Framework

Socio-economic assessment framework of the burden of diseases in aquatic animals must be compatible with terrestrial livestock framework

Policy decisions are made that consider investments across all the animal health and production sectors

Commonalities

- Classification of production systems that reflects the on-the-ground situation yet is flexible enough to permit aggregation and extrapolation where data are scarce

- Production of growth rate models that can be populated with empirical data, and be used to model production under perfect health

- Identification of input and output prices to support the elaboration of the Animal Health Loss Envelope (AHLE) in monetary terms

Key ideas

The relative immaturity of the aquaculture sector **creates risks** through mixing of wild and captive populations and introduction of novel diseases through expansion of production to new geographies

Management of aquatic species as **biomass** rather than individual animals will be a key consideration that has implications for production record keeping and health surveillance activities, and has an implication for consideration of individual animal welfare

Water is critical - as a habitat, risk factor, disease transmission route and a means for application of prevention and control measures

Next steps

- Scoping studies in Vietnam, Ghana in 2021
  - Assessing suitability to move forward to full case studies
- Case studies launched in Norway and Chile during 2021
- Continuing to seek case study opportunities in LMICs with FAO and OIE guidance
- Linking with DECIDE aquatic work - Britt will introduce later

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