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Book review — Boekresensie

Diagnostic Manual for Aquatic Animal Diseases

2000. Office International des Épidémiologies, Paris, 270 pp., soft cover. Price €40. ISBN 92 9044 538 6

Rapid developments in aquaculture have necessitated revision of the International Aquatic Animal Health Code and its companion work, the Diagnostic Manual for Aquatic Animal Diseases, by the Fish Diseases Commission of the Office International des Épidémiologies. The 2000 edition of these volumes appeared recently and perpetuates the standard of excellence set by the previous 2 editions¹.

Those familiar with the Code and Manual will find the greatest changes in the sections on crustacean diseases. The increased emphasis on crustacean diseases is largely due to massive losses suffered worldwide in cultured prawn species, with previously undescribed diseases emerging under the crowded and stressful conditions of intensive prawn farming.

The Diagnostic Manual for Aquatic Animal Diseases contains technical information on diagnostic methods for notifiable and significant diseases. Sections on quality management in

veterinary diagnostic laboratories and principles for validation of diagnostic assays have been added.

Considering the increasing emphasis on quality management in diagnostics, these sections are extremely valuable. The Manual is divided into various sections that deal with the diseases of fish, molluscs and crustaceans. Each section contains a background discussion of aspects relevant to diagnostic methods for the group. As in the previous editions, the chapters devoted to specific diseases are detailed and complete. The chapter summaries are extremely useful for quick reference.

Two new diseases of fish are included under significant diseases and the sections on crustacean diseases have been extensively revised. The Manual is required reading for anyone involved in aquatic animal diagnostics and is an essential source of information for those in a regulatory capacity.

A Mouton

*Regional Veterinary Laboratory
Stellenbosch*

¹As this volume went to press, the 2001 edition of the Code was received and will be reviewed in the December issue of the journal.