

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE 150th PLENARY MEETING (OPEN)



21 June 2023

09:00-13:30

MINUTES - Agreed on the 30th of June 2023

Location: Web conference

Attendees:

- Panel Members:
ALVAREZ Julio, BICOUT Dominique, Calistri Paolo, CANALI Elisabetta, DREWE Julian, GARIN-BASTUJI Bruno, GONZALES ROJAS Jose Luis, GORTAZAR SCHMIDT Christian, HERSKIN Mette, MICHEL Virginie, MIRANDA Miguel Angel, NIELSEN Søren Saxmose (Chair), PADALINO Barbara, SPOOLDER Hans, STAHL Karl, ROBERTS Helen, VELARDE Antonio, VILTROP Arvo, WINCKLER Christoph.
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
EC: GEOGHEGAN Fiona, COHEN Iulia-Delia, MESMAN Sanna
- EFSA:
ABOAGYE Gizella, AIRES Mariana, ANTONIOU Sotiria-Eleni, ASHE Sean, AZNAR ASENSIO J Inmaculada, BALDINELLI Francesca, BROGLIA Alessandro, CANDIANI Denise Francesca, DHOLLANDER Sofie, FABRIS Chiara, GERVELMEYER Andrea, HEMPEN Michaela, KARAGIANNI Anna, KOHNLE Lisa, LIMA Eliana, MANAKIDOU Aikaterini, MUR Lina, RUSINA Alessia, VAN DER STEDE Yves Pascal, VERDONCK Frank, VITALI Marika
- Observers:
ADAMS Kate, BALCEVIC Agata, BOLDETTI Claudia, BOUSCATEL Lucie, DE MASSIS Fabrizio, DE MATTEIS Giovanna, DEBKOWSKA Magdalena, ENGANA MENDES ROSADO BARAO Susana Maria, FERRARI Nicola, FEUCHT Lara, FUSI Francesca, GOOSSENS Els, GRANADOS CHAPATTE Ana, JACKOVA Anna, KHALDOUNE Nadia, LUKANOV Nadejda, MREKAJOVA Andrea, SARIDAKIS Manousos, SCOLAMACCHIA Francesca, SEPPA-LASILLA Leena, SOSSIDOU Evangelia, STEPANOVA Olgava, STOLDT Ann-Kathrin, TERJEKZsolt.

I. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chair welcomed the participants.
Apologies were received from Mette Herskin.

II. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members.

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



III. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 149th AHAW Panel Plenary meeting held on 04-05 May 2023, held in a hybrid format – at EFSA’s premises in Parma, Italy, and online.

The [Minutes of the 149th Plenary meeting of the AHAW Panel](#) were agreed by written procedure on the 22nd of May, 2023.

V. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and possible adoption

- V.I Art. 29-Request for a Scientific Opinion related to the listing of species of aquatic animals or groups of species of aquatic animals which pose a considerable risk for the spread of listed diseases because of their capability to act as vectors or reservoirs of those diseases, in the framework of the Animal Health Law (M-2022-00138): Scientific Opinions on vectors and reservoirs for listed pathogens of Fish (Tollgate 3).

A summary of the terms of reference, methodology and conclusions of the Scientific Opinion on vectors and reservoir species for listed pathogens of fish was presented to the Panel and observers. All comments received by the reviewers had been addressed before the meeting, and the Opinion was adopted unanimously.

- V.II Art.29-Request for a Scientific Opinion related to the listing of species of aquatic animals or groups of species of aquatic animals which pose a considerable risk for the spread of listed diseases because of their capability to act as vectors or reservoirs of those diseases, in the framework of the Animal Health Law (M-2022-00138): Scientific Opinions on vectors and reservoirs for listed pathogens of Molluscs (Tollgate 3)

A summary of the terms of reference, methodology and conclusions of the Scientific Opinion on vectors and reservoir species for listed pathogens of fish was presented to the Panel and observers. All comments received by the reviewers had been addressed before the meeting, and the Opinion was adopted unanimously.

- V.III Art.29-Request for a Scientific Opinion related to the listing of species of aquatic animals or groups of species of aquatic animals which pose a considerable risk for the spread of listed diseases because of their capability to act as vectors or reservoirs of those diseases, in the framework of the Animal Health Law (M-2022-00138): Scientific Opinions on vectors and reservoirs for listed pathogens of Crustaceans (Tollgate 3)

A summary of the terms of reference, methodology and conclusions of the Scientific Opinion on vectors and reservoir species for listed pathogens of fish was presented to the Panel and observers. All comments received by the reviewers had been addressed before the meeting, and the Opinion was adopted unanimously.



VI. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion

- VI.I Art. 29-Request for a Scientific Opinion related to the listing and categorisation of certain diseases of aquatic animals and the listing of relevant aquatic species, in the framework of the Animal Health Law (EFSA - M-2022-00144): Spring Viraemia of Carp-Tollgate 2: Thorough discussion

The draft Scientific Opinion had been shared with the Panel members for review on 9 June 2023. The comments received from the Panel members, including the deep reviewers, had been well addressed and the Panel agreed that the process of the thorough discussion (Tollgate 2) has been completed.

- VI.II Art. 29-Request for a Scientific Opinion related to the listing and categorisation of certain diseases of aquatic animals and the listing of relevant aquatic species, in the framework of the Animal Health Law (EFSA - M-2022-00144): *Gyrodactylus salaris*: -Tollgate 2: Thorough discussion.

The draft scientific Opinion had been shared with the Panel members for review on 9 June 2023. The comments received from the Panel members, including the deep reviewers, had been well addressed and the Panel agreed that process of the thorough discussion (Tollgate 2) has been completed.

In addition, the Panel was informed that the thorough discussion of the last two Opinions on Listing and Categorisation on Bacterial Kidney Disease and the Salmonid Alphavirus will take place through written procedure. The draft Scientific Opinions will be shared with the Panel on 30 June 2023 and the deadline to submit comments will be on the 17 July 2023 (12:00). In the meanwhile, the comments will be addressed in bilateral discussions.

- VI.III Question and answer session on Scientific Opinions pertaining aquatic animal diseases

No questions were received.

- VI.IV Art. 29-Vaccination against highly pathogenic avian influenza – EFSA-M-2022-00145

A short presentation on the mandate, describing the ToRs, the deadlines, and timelines for the Panel to work on the current opinion was given. The main comments received by the Panel were discussed and addressed. The Panel agreed in specifying in the title that this is the first Scientific Opinion (part.1) on this mandate and it covers the available vaccines and vaccination strategies. The text describing the positive association of vaccine efficacy (VE) for susceptibility, vaccine efficacy for shedding, vaccine efficacy for susceptibility and shedding with the vaccine efficacy to stop transmission will be further adapted excluding consideration on the significance of that association. In addition, it was agreed to express the results of the VE analysis in term of 'certainty'. The 'epidemiological factors' that have been described as triggers for vaccination will be revised, and factors related to the virus (e.g., virus strains) will be included in this section. An explanation of why the value $R > 0.8$ was chosen to discriminate between low and high-risk areas has been added in the text. The full description of the vaccination strategies tested in the kernel model will remain in the assessment section, as their elaboration is part of the results. The complete opinion (all results and suggestions included) will be sent on 28 July to the Panel for them to review again ahead of having a final document to be shared with the EC on 8 September and to be adopted via written procedure starting on 11 September.



VI.V Question and answer session on Scientific Opinions pertaining Avian influenza

A question was received to clarify the reason why the value $R > 0.8$ instead of the value $R > 1$ was used in the kernel model to identify high risk area for HPAI transmission. It was clarified that by taking this conservative approach we accounted for variation in the mean R estimates increasing therefore the certainty of not missing high-risk areas.

A second question was received to ask if there will be any public consultation in relation to the methodology applied. The answer was that no public consultation was foreseen within this mandate.

VI.VI Presentation of published Call for Proposals on animal care and welfare: Welfare-related research on heat-stress during transport; and dairy herd welfare indicators and positive welfare

A call for a partnership and proposals in the field of animal welfare was presented. The first call is a grant with two lots (Lot 1- risk-based model for dairy herd welfare; Lot 2 – modelling effective temperatures inside a livestock truck). The second call is an open call for tender on positive welfare. Both calls will be published between 23 June and 27 June 2023 and will be also announced during EFSA's 88th Advisory Forum meeting (27 June 2023).

VII. Feedback from the Scientific Committee/Scientific Panels, EFSA, the European Commission

N/a

VIII. Update on applications, new mandates

N/a

IX. Other topics for information and/or discussion

IX.I Bird Flu RADAR

EFSA's outsourcing activities for increasing preparedness for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in Europe were presented. The Bird Flu Radar builds up on the Migration Mapping Tool (<https://euring.org/research/migration-mapping>) and uses spatio-temporal risk assessment to estimate the risk of introduction and establishment of HPAI in wild birds. Estimates are provided on a weekly basis and at a high geographic resolution in form of automated risk maps that can be explored in the online user interface. The tool is also accompanied by an alert messaging system through which interested stakeholders may receive weekly summary reports for their country of choice by email. The new procurement was initiated in December 2022 and will be in force for 3 years. In the next couple of months, the automated risk maps will be directly incorporated into the Migration Mapping Tool as additional layers, the risk assessment models will be expanded to poultry, and more developments and enhancements will be implemented.

X. Any other business

X.I Preparatory working groups for future mandates

XI. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 27 September 2023, in a hybrid format.
