

DECEMBER 2024

SeaBOS Code of Conduct

Reducing Antibiotic Use and Risk of Inducing Antibiotic Resistance

Antimicrobial resistance is a global health threat, from the wide ranging and sometimes inappropriate use of antibiotics. This does not only include treatment of humans, but also treatment of husbandry animals and plants. Aquaculture is diverse in its practices and species use, and can include high and erroneous use of antibiotics, including antibiotics which the World Health Organisation (WHO) identified as critically important for human healthcare (CIA). The objectives with the Code of Conduct are to help SeaBOS member companies to improve the health of farmed seafood they farm themselves or procure; to demonstrate progress in responsible antibiotic stewardship; and to develop solutions which enable a general reduction of antibiotics and especially elimination of the critically important antibiotics, starting with the highest priority antibiotics (HPCIA). Through these commitments, SeaBOS will show the way forward for responsible antibiotic stewardship in aquaculture and generate insights which can help the broader aquaculture sector to improve animal health and reduce antibiotic use.

Through this Code of Conduct*, SeaBOS members commit to:

- Demonstrate improved antibiotics stewardship in own production and upstream value chains and to reduce the overall use of antibiotics.
- Specifically target eliminating/reducing the use of critically important antibiotics (CIA) according to individually established timelines, and recognising that there will be circumstances for occasional use of CIA.
- Report on use of all antibiotics on an annual basis within the scope of this Code.
- Adequately considering individual company's sensitive information and obtaining their agreement, to transparently share aggregated report data internally and externally to show our commitment and verify performance and progress.
- Use the SeaBOS Roadmap on Antimicrobial Stewardship as a basis for progress and reporting on progress achieved.
- Collaborate in research to increase the understanding about existence and drivers of AMR in aquaculture by supporting collective AMR monitoring/testing in selected aquaculture locations.
- Support research and development to improve animal health and find practical and efficacious alternatives to antibiotics. And
- Share best practices being implemented to support improved health and alternatives to antibiotics within SeaBOS and externally.



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* Supplementary information provides more specific details for accomplishing the Code of Conduct.