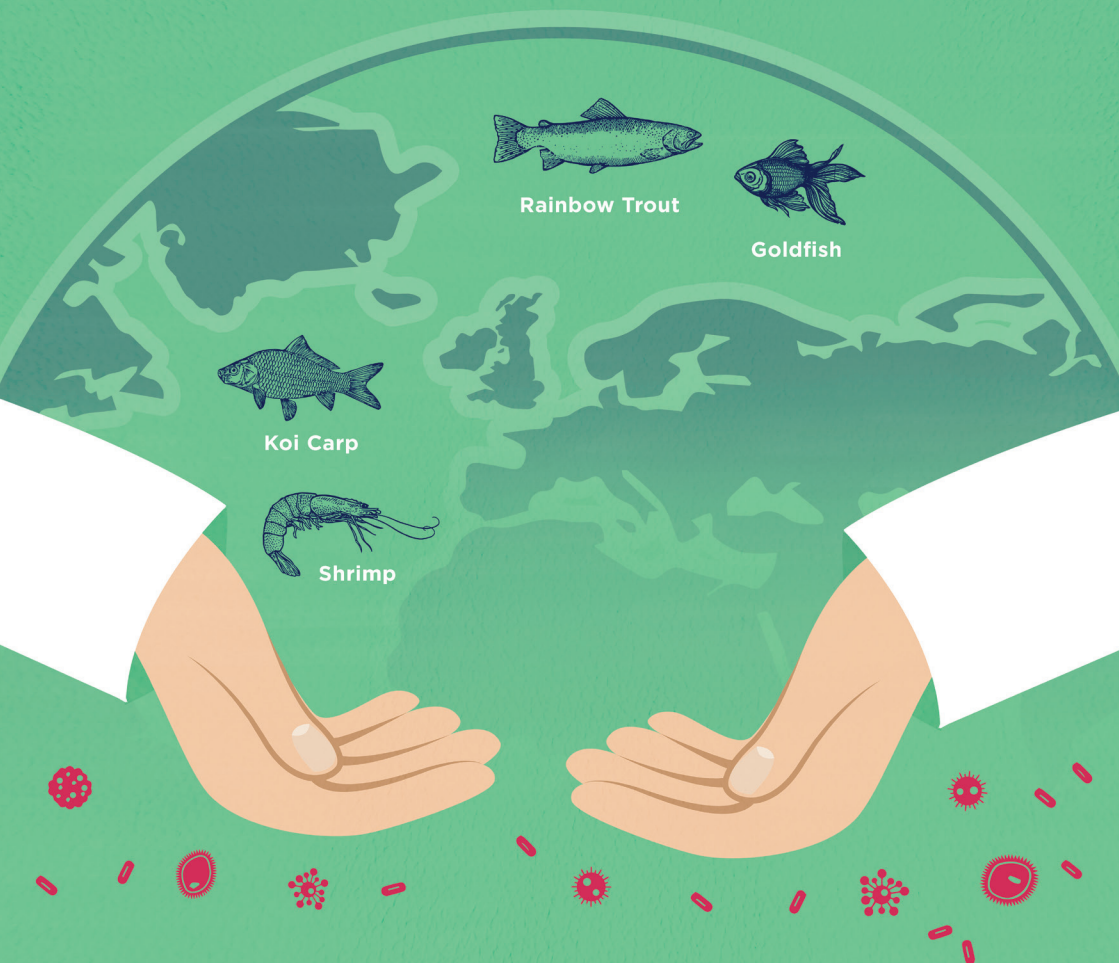




# Cefas

# 17 | 20



Rainbow Trout



Goldfish



Koi Carp



Shrimp

## IMPROVING BIOSECURITY AGAINST AQUATIC ANIMAL PATHOGENS

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# IMPROVING BIOSECURITY AGAINST AQUATIC ANIMAL PATHOGENS

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Aquatic animal diseases, just like their terrestrial counterparts, can cause significant problems for food producers, impact animal welfare and threaten the health of wild populations. The implications for food security and economic development can be serious, and it is essential that effective biosecurity measures are developed and enforced to minimise the risk of disease transmission and, in the case of an outbreak, that the spread of disease is contained. Diseases can be spread through trade in fish or fish products (e.g. ornamental species like goldfish or koi carp, or food species such as trout or shrimps), but also through contaminated clothing or equipment, including humans and human activity (such as fishing).

One of the key roles that Cefas plays is the investigation and control of aquatic animal diseases, both in the UK and overseas. This is illustrated by a case study of an outbreak of viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) in a farmed rainbow trout population in England in 2006. The Cefas Fish Health Inspectorate, the body responsible for the enforcement of aquatic animal health regulations in England and Wales, launched a rapid

response that successfully contained the outbreak and protected the rest of the UK salmonid industry. The investigation into the potential source of the infection highlighted the risk of introduction of exotic pathogens via import of fish products for human consumption, which are subject to less stringent trade conditions compared to live fish imports and revealed a lack of data on factors relevant to the disease risks of fish imports. To mitigate the future risk, Cefas undertook further research and were asked to assist the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE- the international animal health standard setting body for trade in animals and animal products) to review its Aquatic Animal Health Code, which defines health measures to be used by importing and exporting countries.

Cefas contributed to the development of transparent criteria for assessing the risk associated with fish products, which were used to review products previously considered 'safe' for international trade. As a result, several fish products are no longer considered 'safe' for international trade, including eviscerated trout.

For more information please visit:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/fish-health-inspectorate>



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