

SOA7
Wildlife and diseases of aquatic organisms: A European perspective
(OO1 Action 2)

Priority area | **Operational objective**

Analysis of the role of wild aquatic organisms and circulating pathogens in the expression of diseases in aquatic animal species, including aquatic animal farming and also in wild aquatic animal stocks in European marine and freshwater environments

Identification, assessment of the current scientific and technical knowledge of the main disease problems in aquatic farmed species and wild stocks. Risk assessment and modelling. Prioritisation of future actions

Key words | **Partner participation**

Fish, crustacean, molluscs, diseases, wild animals, aquatic ecosystems, carriers, vectors, transmission

UAB, UGent, SVA, NVI, IZSLT, DTU

Project summary

The general objective, is to explore and assess the role and impact of the aquatic wildlife, as aquatic organisms present in the natural ecosystems, in the epidemiology of relevant diseases of farmed fish and shellfish as well as in diseases affecting relevant species or biodiversity in freshwater and marine aquatic ecosystems and particularly in stocks of fish and shellfish with relevance for marine and freshwater fisheries.

Project objectives | **Outcomes and impacts**

- Task 1: Identification, development of a network of experts and generation of a database and heat map of diseases, impact and prioritisation.
- Task 2: Risks analysis associated to the presence of wildlife/aquatic organisms. Pathogen identification versus risk of disease.
- Task 3: Modelling the role of wildlife on selected relevant specific aquatic animal diseases.

- Technical document with recommendations for risk communication to farmers, competent authorities, fishermen and other stakeholders, report of SWOT of aquatic wildlife disease and pathogen surveillance in Europe and a gap analysis of current research needs and surveillance regulation and control (Deliverable)