Listing EU fish medicines

A listing is now available of all fish medicines including vaccines approved in the European Union!

The FishMedPlus Coalition kindly asked EU legislators to make this listing and the legislation, recognising how beneficial this would be, prepared this listing very rapidly.

This is extremely useful, as now fish veterinarians and producers can easily check for products in other European Countries. The FishMedPlus Coalition greatly thanks CMDv, the Coordination group for mutual recognition and Decentralised procedures for making this listing!

Details about the listing

There are 304 different veterinary medicinal products authorised in the European Union. Authorised veterinary medicinal products intended for fish are few whether compared with the authorised medicines authorised for dogs (more than 10,000) and for cattle (more than 8,000). Moreover, many of the fish medicines are similar, that is with the same ingredients. Around 51% are vaccines, distantly followed by antibiotics, which represent the 29%. The remaining 20% of veterinary medicinal products are hormones (2%), antimicrobials (3%), antiparasitic (2%), sedatives/anaesthetics (5%), and other products such as antisepsics, insecticides and homeopathic products (8%). Note: Not all products authorised in a country are marketed in the country itself.

There is only one centrally authorised product, namely CLYNAV from Elanco GmbH. Centrally authorised products are authorised by the by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and can be used in all European Union countries. Particularly, CLYNAV is a vaccine against salmonid alphavirus subtype 3. All other products are nationally authorised. The only centrally authorised product is aimed at Atlantic Salmon.

Almost 31% of the veterinary medicinal products are aimed to Salmon (including Atlantic and Pacific Salmon), closely followed by Rainbow Trout, which received 20% of these products. The 16% of veterinary medicinal products are directed towards a general category of fish. Other species such as Sea bass and Trout, received the 8% and the 7% of the products, respectively. The remaining 18% of the products are directed towards species such as Ornamental Fish, Carp, Turbot, and Gilthead, among other.

The following graph shows the distribution on the number of veterinary medicinal products intended for the different species of fish per country. Italy is the country which has most authorised veterinary medicinal products for fish, closely followed by Greece, Norway and the UK. Eight countries only have one fish medicine authorised, namely the only one centrally authorised product.
New rules for veterinary medicines and medicated feed adopted

A new EC Regulation regarding veterinary medicines and medicated feed has been published in the EU Official Journal. The new rules aim to stimulate innovation, give incentives to increase the availability and strengthen the rules around antibiotic use.

What will these rules mean in respect to aquatic animals?

- All aquatic animals are classified as MUMS (limited markets), which allows to more easily authorise products.
- Live autologous vaccines will be in the scope, inactivated partially.
- Innovation will be stimulated by longer data protection periods.
- Union database for all VMP will be developed.
- Cascade rules will be changed and become separate for aquatic species.
- Importing products from 3rd countries will become possible.
- Anticipated production of medicated feed with fish medicines will be possible.
- The new rules will enter into force on 28 January 2022, after the adoption of the implementing rules.

Past and Future Events

The FishMedPlus Coalition met on 28 November 2018 in Belgium. At the meeting, two guests of the European Commission joined the Coalition. Mrs. Marta Iglesias, from DG Research, presented the projects currently running in the field of Fish Medicines. The Coalition also discussed with her future research needs. Mr. Christian Siebert, from DG Sante, joined to present the new rules which will apply on veterinary medicines (see previous article).


AquaFarm met in Pordenone, Italy, on 13-14 February 2019. Andrea Fabris presented the new EU veterinary medicines regulations and the work of the FishMedPlus Coalition.