DAFF host Aquatic Animal Disease Management Training

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, as the leading authority in promoting animal health and welfare hosted the aquatic animal disease management training on the 11th – 12th April 2012 at the Sea Point Research Aquarium. The training workshop was facilitated by aquatic animal health specialists from Amanzi Biosecurity in Hermanus as part of DAFF’s broader strategic objective of building capacity within the Department in order to create an enabling environment so as to ensure quality and sustainable advisory and support services to the growing aquaculture sector. Participants who attended the training included Provincial (Free State and Gauteng) representatives of Department of Agriculture, National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS) representatives and representatives of DAFF from Sustainable Aquaculture Management, Aquaculture Technical Services and Aquaculture Research Directorates.

The main purpose of the training workshop was:

- to improve understanding of diseases on farmed fish, nationally and internationally, by aquatic animal producers, sector’s veterinarians etc.;
- to raise awareness of the requirements for effective aquatic animal health management;
- to provide practical guidance on analysis of epidemiological data obtained from disease events’
- to highlight responsibilities of key players in aquatic animal health and disease management.

The first day of the training workshop introduced different types of disease and biosecurity procedures for controlling and managing diseases at farm level. The afternoon session was devoted to case studies assessing disease risk associated with a new farm and analyzing epidemiological data from a disease outbreak.

Picture 1: Participants of the Aquatic Animal Disease Management training at the DAFF’s Sea Point Research Aquarium.
The training workshop was completed with lectures on disease control at both national and international levels as well as with case studies on evaluating animal health certificates and interpreting results of stock inspections.

It is hoped that this training workshop has contributed significantly towards empowering DAFF, Provincial Department and NRCS representatives and that, as a co-benefit, the workshop has provided a good platform for networking amongst the attendees which will yield the desired co-operative governance amongst the various authorities.

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