

PROFESSIONAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JOB Title:	Fish Biosecurity Consultant (FBC)
Employer:	National Fisheries Development Program (NFDP)
Duty Station:	Home based, (quarterly visits to KSA)
Duration:	2 years (renewable)

I. Background

National efforts to establish biosecurity measures in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) are being strongly acknowledged and supported by all stakeholders of the aquaculture industry. The Saudi Aquaculture Society (SAS), under the supervision of the Aquaculture Directorate of the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture (ADMEWA), and the collaboration of all aquaculture projects (farms), has been successfully performing a multiannual biosecurity monitoring and control program, that has lead to the very highly biosecure status of the industry.

Under VISION 2030, the further development of aquaculture has become one of the national priorities. In this respect, the newly established National Fisheries Development Program (NFDP), which operates under MEWA and has been tasked with the authority and responsibility to supervise and coordinate all efforts towards the attainment of the VISION 2030 objectives for aquaculture, is seeking to complement the current monitoring program, improve local scientific and technical capacity, and provide the necessary support for the development and implementation of a National Aquatic Animal Health Program (NAAHP).

II. Role

The scope of the position of the FBC is to provide the necessary scientific and technical support to NFDP, and the relevant authorities (ADMEWA) and organizations (SAS) entrusted with the task of safeguarding the high biosecurity status of the national aquaculture industry, and to assist –in parallel- in the building of local scientific and technical expertise.

The above are expected to be achieved through the cooperation of the consultant with all relevant stakeholders and with direct visits to the farms, on a quarterly basis or when so might be urgently required.

III. Duties & Responsibilities

The FBC, working under the supervision of the NFDP Biosecurity Manager, and in direct cooperation with the SAS/ ADMEWA Technical Consultant and the SAS Biosecurity Supervisor, will have the following duties and responsibilities.

- Understand the key KSA aquaculture biosecurity challenges and transform them into scientifically-based proposals and process/technical suggestions.
- Assist the relevant authorities towards the design and implementation of a National Aquatic Animal Health Plan (NAAHP), through suggestions based on successful international practices.
- Cooperate with the local FAO office and its appointed experts towards the development of a regional aquatic animal health strategy.
- Cooperate with SAS, and identify key areas for improving of the national biosecurity surveillance and control program.
- Visit aquaculture facilities and evaluate infrastructure and practices in respect to the biosecurity protocols and SOP's approved by ADMEWA. Propose mitigating measures in the event of non-compliance.
- Critically review, and update -when/where necessary- the Manual of Biosecurity and of Standard Operating Procedures for Fish Farming.
- Review and evaluate the results of the monthly biosecurity surveillance and control program.
- Collaborate with the Jeddah Fish Health and Safety Lab (JFHSL), or any other national laboratory assigned, for improving of the analytical capacity of the staff towards the detection of specific pathogens.

- Provide scientific support and technical advice in the case of a biosecurity emergency (mortalities and / or disease detection) and collaborate with all necessary stakeholders (government, private company/ies) for the mitigation of any biosecurity issue that may arise, through the recommendation of case specific actions.
- Provide technical knowledge and support for the establishment of a regional reference center for aquatic animal health.
- Provide technical knowledge and support for the establishment of a national center for vaccine testing and development.
- Act as a shadow support to the ADMEWA appointed OIE representative.
- Provide training and capacity building support on AAH issues.

IV. Minimum requirements and qualifications

- Advanced University degree in veterinary sciences with specialization in Aquatic Animal Health issues (a PhD or MSc specialization degree would be preferred)
- At least fifteen years of proven professional experience in the field of fish pathology and epidemiology in aquaculture.
- Strong understanding of the contemporary marine fish aquaculture biosecurity issues and challenges
- Strong understanding of the structure and operation of international organisms related to aquatic animal health and aquaculture (OIE, FAO etc)
- Good knowledge of National Aquatic Animal Health programs/plans and relevant regulatory requirements
- Adequate scientific and professional networking
- Fluent in written and spoken English
- Relevant experience in the GCC or wider MENA region would be preferred.

V. Additional skills required

- Good interpersonal and communications skills
- Ability to work and collaborate efficiently in a multicultural environment
- Ability to travel abroad
- Strong report writing and oral presentation capabilities (in English)
- Arabic language will be an asset

VI. Duty station

The position is home-based, as the FBC is not required to be present in KSA on full time basis. However, he/she will need to be available for contacting via phone or email on full time basis (ie any working day per week), and expected to travel to KSA :

- on a quarterly basis, in order to perform a site visit and biosecurity status evaluation of all or selected marine fish farms and participate on the quarterly national biosecurity workshop (5-8 days per trip)
- on an *ad hoc* basis, in case of an emergency that will require the consultant's presence and *in situ* advice.

VII. Remuneration

The position comes with a highly competitive compensation, based on the experience and profile of the candidate.

VIII. How to apply

Apply through the career page: <http://sas.org.sa/ar/careers>

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interview

DEADLINE for applications: 25th March 2019