

Preface

The preparation of written lectures in training courses at SEAFDEC/AQD was initiated in 1982. This was spearheaded by Dr. Chua Thia Eng upon implementation of the Training Course for Senior Aquaculturists in Asia and the Pacific, a collaborative venture among SEAFDEC/AQD, the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia (NACA) and the University of the Philippines in the Visayas (UPV). Since then, the Fish Disease course of NACA set the format for the Fish Health Management training courses at SEAFDEC/AQD that began in 1987. The compiled lecture notes became a reference for SEAFDEC trainees and the students of local fisheries schools. Thus, in response to the Iloilo State College of Fisheries (ISCOF) urgent need for a textbook, the fish health researchers at SEAFDEC endeavored to modify their written lectures to textbook standards. Despite existing lecture notes, it took more than a year to complete.

This is the first textbook on diseases of cultured warmwater fish and shrimps in the Philippines. Eleven chapters cover essential information on the basic principles of disease causation, major diseases of cultured fish and crustaceans, particularly shrimps, and methods of prevention and control. Emphasis is made on major diseases that occur in the Philippines and other countries in the Asian region. Included also are topics on harmful algae, immunology and molecular biological diagnostic techniques. Each chapter begins with a brief preview of its contents, followed by an in-depth discussion that culminates in a summary. The basic concepts presented were derived from textbooks on microbiology and fish health published by authors outside of the Philippines while the scientific information put forth were drawn from the research and diagnostic findings of the authors, colleagues at SEAFDEC and other institutions in the Philippines and in other countries. The figures and photos included were selected from the authors' collection of disease cases or shared by colleagues in this field, duly acknowledged at the end of the book. Specific citations were omitted in the text as students are enjoined to refer to references used for each chapter. To make the concepts more understandable, a glossary is included. An index is also part of this textbook for quick location of desired subtopics. Finally, although laboratory protocols are an essential aspect of fish disease diagnosis, it is best dealt with separately. Interested readers are referred to published manuals.

Though the authors have strived to make this book learner-friendly, we realize that a first edition leaves much room for improvement. We, therefore, encourage colleagues to suggest ways of enhancing the future second edition responsive to the needs not only of students but those of aquaculturists as well. It is hoped that this textbook will answer questions on fish health in scientific ways and enhance aquaculturists' ability to prevent diseases and deal with outbreaks effectively.

Finally, this textbook has become a reality with the support of SEAFDEC/AQD and its Chief, Dr. Rolando Platon; ISCOF President Dr. Elpidio Locsin Jr; Rene Agbayani, Pastor Torres Jr, Mila Castaños, Nicanor Primavera Jr, Edgardo Ledesma and Dr. Evelyn Grace de Jesus.

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