

# USAHA/AAVLD Aquaculture Committee Agenda 2011

Co-Chairs Kevin Snekvik & Andy Goodwin

**1. An update on the APHIS funded multi-lab project to validate real-time rtPCR for VHS surveillance testing directly in tissues:** Following a 2008 USAHA/AAVLD resolution entitled “Use and Interpretation of Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Results for Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Virus (VHSV)”, APHIS-NVSL (in collaboration with a consortium of fish health diagnostic laboratories) has been working on the validation of a real time PCR assay for VHSV. Representatives of APHIS, NVSL, and Nick Phelps will provide a progress update on this effort.

**2. The role of Secretary of Agriculture's Advisory Committee on Animal Health (SACAH) in aquatic animal health and the formation and role of the National Advisory Committee on Aquatic Animal Health, a subcommittee of the SACAH:** Last year, the USDA formed the SACAH. The SACAH suggested an aquatic subcommittee to advise it on matters of aquatic animal diseases. Representatives of APHIS will be asked to discuss the development of this committee and its future charge. We anticipate that this committee will be active in implementation of the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan (NAAHP) and in will be involved in overseeing the NAAPT (see below)

**3. Current status of the development of a National Aquatic Animal Pathogen Testing Network (NAAPT) as suggested in previous USAHA resolutions:** The NAAPT was developed and detailed by our committee. APHIS representatives will discuss how that effort is progressing and where they see it headed.

**4. The current status of a VHS rule:** This is an issue that has long interested our committee. We'll get an update from Federal representatives.

**5. Update on regulating diseases under the Lacey act. Clarification of USFWS and APHIS roles in aquatic animal diseases:** Last year a resolution was approved by the USAHA/AAVLD Aquaculture committee entitled “Use of the Lacey Act to regulate animal pathogens” recommending that the US Fish and Wildlife Service not use the injurious species provisions of the Lacey Act to regulate animal pathogens. It went on to further ask that APHIS, USFWS and NOAA clearly determine the appropriate federal agency for regulatory oversight of wildlife diseases and domestic animal diseases, without regulatory duplication. Representatives from the USFWS and APHIS will provide an update on this issue.

**8. Clarification of permit issues for labs using live aquatic pathogens:** Aquatic animal disease laboratories have received conflicting information regarding which aquatic animal pathogens require a *United States Veterinary Permit For Importation and Transportation of Controlled Materials, Organisms, and Vectors*. Representatives from the USDA-APHIS and NVSL will provide clarification regarding which aquatic animal pathogens are in need of a permit for movement into or between laboratories.