



RESOLUTION NUMBER: 4 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: **USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON aquaculture**

SUBJECT MATTER: **Commercial Aquaculture Health Program Standards**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Commercial Aquaculture Health Program Standards (CAHPS) were initiated by the National Aquaculture Association and developed with the United States Department of Agriculture. The standards set forth a model framework for the health of commercially farmed aquatic animals. CAHPS recognizes and builds on current activities and existing guidelines for health of aquatic animals and aims to establish uniform standards for United States (U.S.) farmed aquatic animal health and movement. The goal of CAHPS is to provide uniform standards for U.S. commercially farmed aquatic animal health and movement and a template for known national aquatic animal health status. Implementation of CAHPS will provide leverage for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) in trade negotiations.

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) applauds the efforts of USDA-APHIS for working with the National Aquaculture Association to develop the CAHPS. We believe that the program will be a tremendous benefit to commercial aquaculture especially with regards to trade both nationally and internationally. The effectiveness and success of the program requires the cooperation of not only industry but also state and federal entities. USAHA encourages these entities including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration to adopt and participate in these efforts.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association encourages the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to ensure sufficient funds are available in the Fiscal Year 2018 Aquaculture Health Line to implement the Commercial Aquaculture Health Program Standards program.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services recognizes the interest of the U.S. Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond.

The APHIS Aquaculture Program is committed to finalizing and implementing the Commercial Aquaculture Health Program Standards (CAHPS). The National Aquaculture Association (NAA) and APHIS continue to refine the program standards and conduct outreach to receive input on the principles and the enactment of CAHPS for interested commercial aquaculture businesses. APHIS is developing a budget for CAHPS pilot projects in volunteer States and industry sectors, both public and private. CAHPS remains a high priority in the APHIS Aquaculture Business Plan, which describes how APHIS plans to use aquaculture funding.