

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2008 RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 8 **APPROVED AS AMENDED**

SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD JOINT COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

SUBJECT MATTER: FEDERAL FUNDING FOR AN AQUATIC ANIMAL
LABORATORY NETWORK

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In 2006, aquaculture within the United States (US) produced an estimated 360,305 metric tons of product generating approximately \$1.2 billion with over half of the production being utilized for human consumption (Current Fisheries Statistics No. 2007, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Fisheries Statistics Division; US Department of Commerce). Thus, disruption in aquaculture production, either via natural or intentional disease outbreaks, could impact a portion of the food supply as well as lead to a direct economic impact on the US. A recent example of this is the outbreak of infectious salmon anemia virus (ISAV) in Maine. Similar situations could occur in any region within the US from catfish and shrimp production in the Southeast to trout, salmon and oyster production in the Northwest. Due to this concern, representatives from federal, state, university and private aquatic diagnostic laboratories have been in discussions regarding the need for the development of an Aquatic Animal Laboratory Network which could be utilized for the detection of aquaculture disease outbreaks as well as disease surveillance. Such a network would be expected to limit disease outbreaks and economic impact associated with the outbreaks as well as to provide confidence in the quality of US aquaculture products on the world market and thus enhance foreign trade. In addition, such a network would be highly compatible with the 2007 NOAA-Fisheries 10-year Plan for Marine Aquaculture in regards to expansion of aquaculture in the United States Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to request initial funding of \$2 million for a pilot Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory Network in FY2009 and \$3 million in FY2010 and in FY2011.

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the United States Animal Health

Association's (USAHA) concerns. VS considers the development of a National Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory Network as a keystone and priority activity within the overall implementation of the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan and will continue to seek the funding necessary for aquaculture activities through all appropriate channels within the USDA. In the meantime, VS has begun to organize stakeholder input and hold working group meetings with key stakeholders, including members of the USAHA/American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians Joint Committee on Aquaculture to consider appropriate models for such a network.