

## **UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION-2006**

### **RESOLUTION NUMBER: 4 APPROVED**

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

**SUBJECT MATTER:** NATIONAL AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH PLAN

**DATES:** MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, OCTOBER 12-18, 2006

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

For the past three years a National Aquatic Animal Health Task Force, composed of representatives of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the United States Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries and the United States Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service has been engaged in developing a National Aquatic Animal Health Plan (NAAHP) for the United States (US). During multiple stakeholder meetings throughout the country with various aquatic industry and natural resource agency groups as well as state, federal and university personnel, the National Aquatic Animal Health Task Force has been soliciting input and drafting chapters for the NAAHP. Key elements of the plan include identification of diseases of regulatory concern, measures to protect US aquatic species from the introduction of exotic diseases, plans for control should an introduction occur, importation standards for aquatic species and wild species/cultured species interface issues. Implementation of the NAAHP will require significant resources.

### **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), the United States Department of Interior and the United States Department of Commerce to propose line item funding in future budgets to adequately fund the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan.

### **RESPONSE:**

#### **Department Of Interior, Fish And Wildlife Service**

The Service recognizes the importance of the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan and the significant potential benefits of its development and implementation to the Nation's natural and commercial resources. As co-chair of the National Aquatic Animal Health Taskforce, the Service has actively been, and will continue to be, thoroughly engaged in both the development and implementation of the plan. The Service remains fully committed to continuing our work with our Federal partners in the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce, as well as with state and tribal agencies. In collaboration with our partners, the Service will determine the best use of

available resources to implement the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan in the most effective manner possible

**United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS)**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services considers the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan a priority in order to support aquaculture production in the United States. APHIS will continue to seek the necessary funding for our aquaculture activities through all appropriate channels within the Department.