

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2009 RESOLUTION

OCTOBER 14, 2009, SAN DIEGO, CA

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 4 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

SUBJECT MATTER: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL AQUATIC
ANIMAL HEALTH PLAN

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), the United States Department of the Interior (USDOI) Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries have outlined a proposal for a National Aquatic Animal Health Plan (NAAHP) for the United States. The overall objective of the NAAHP is to assist federal and state agencies and aquaculture industries, combat aquatic animal diseases, meet harmonized interstate and international standard and requirements, and assist the growth of United States aquaculture and protect natural (wild) resources.

Key elements of the NAAHP include: identifying diseases of regulatory concern; developing and validating appropriate laboratory diagnostic assays within a National Aquatic Diagnostic Laboratory Network; and, prevention, control and eradication measures for these diseases. An important component of the NAAHP is the National Advisory Committee for Aquatic Animal Health to provide the opportunity for input from all stakeholders, including representatives from wildlife, agriculture and animal health agencies, the aquaculture industry, veterinary and other fish health experts, and the federal partners.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a Federal Advisory Committee for Aquatic Animal Health as described in the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan (NAAHP).

RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS

We appreciate USAHA sharing its views on the issues in question with our Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and assure you that we will take them under

careful consideration. We look forward to further dialogue with your organization on these and other issues as we evaluate the health needs of animals in our country and move ahead with important animal health initiatives.

We value USAHA'S longstanding partnership with USDA, and look forward to continued collaboration advancing our mutual efforts to safeguard and promote U.S. animal health.

INTERIM RESPONSE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) appreciates the United States Animal Health Association's interest in the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan (NAAHP). VS considers the plan a priority to support aquaculture production in the United States. VS supports the creation of a Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) for aquatic animal health as described in the NAAHP and is currently exploring options for the implementation of such a committee. These options include creating a new committee or creating a venue for aquatic animal health within an existing Secretary's Advisory Committee. VS will continue to actively pursue the establishment of an FAC for aquatic animal health.