



USAHA News Release

United States Animal Health Association

PO Box 8805, St. Joseph, MO 64508

816-671-1144

www.usaha.org

Contacts: *Ben Richey* - (816) 671-1144 - brichey@usaha.org
Larry Mark - (703) 451-3954 - ldmark@erols.com

For immediate release:

SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM FOR VHS IN FISH NEEDED

Reno, Nev., Oct. 22, 2007 – A call for a national surveillance program for viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) virus highlighted discussions at the meeting of the U.S. Animal Health Association (USAHA) Committee on Aquaculture here this week. Such a surveillance program would help determine which fish species were infected with VHS as well as the geographic distribution of the disease.

The committee called on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to obtain funding to develop, implement and maintain a national VHS surveillance program and then to disseminate information obtained through the program to commercial and public aquaculture managers.

The committee also discussed the topic of inspection of fish health and issuance of certificates for intra- and inter-state movements of fish and which individuals should carry out these procedures. No action was taken by the committee on this topic.

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