



UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

2016 Resolution

120th Annual Meeting

October 13-19, 2016 ~ Greensboro, NC

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 8

APPROVED

SOURCE: AAVLD/USAHA COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

SUBJECT MATTER: Quality Assurance Training for Aquatic Animal Laboratories

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Pathogen testing is a legal requirement for transport, export and management of aquatic animals in many jurisdictions within the United States and beyond. It is critical that the results of this testing be accurate, credible and beyond reproach. Currently, many laboratories performing this testing have little or no quality assurance/quality control programs in place and no training available. Many smaller state, federal or tribal laboratories feel they do not have the resources to accomplish accreditation through World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) or International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 17025.

A grassroots effort has been initiated through the Fish Health Section (FHS) of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) to create and implement a voluntary, multi-tiered approach for quality assurance, based largely on Chapter 3 of the FHS/United States Fish and Wildlife Services Blue Book, as well as key ingredients of other accreditation programs. A standing committee consisting of several state, federal and private partners has created the first Tier (pre-qualification) which was announced in January 2016. The second Tier (recognition) is under development. The committee is exploring ways to partner with other agencies with ongoing programs to help further this effort.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association encourages the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the National Animal Health Laboratory Network to provide support and initiate quality management training for the American Fisheries Society (AFS), Fish Health Section (FHS) Quality Assurance Initiative which can be provided at regional meetings of the aquatic diagnostic testing community (e.g., AFS-FHS annual meeting, Eastern Fish Health Workshop, and Western Fish Disease Workshop).