
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 3 APPROVED

SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

**SUBJECT MATTER: COMMERCIAL AQUACULTURE HEALTH PROGRAM
STANDARDS**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Commercial Aquaculture Health Program Standards (CAHPS) were initiated by the National Aquaculture Association and developed with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in 2014. The standards set forth a model framework for the health of commercially farmed aquatic animals. CAHPS recognized and built upon current activities and existing guidelines for health of aquatic animals by establishing uniform standards for U.S. farmed aquatic animal health and movement.

The United States Animal Health Association applauds the efforts of the USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for working with the National Aquaculture Association to develop CAHPS. We believe that the program must further evolve to benefit commercial aquaculture especially with regards to national and international trade. The effectiveness and success of the program requires the cooperation of not only industry but also State and federal entities including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association encourages the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to continue to work with industry, State Departments for aquaculture/aquatic animal health, and other entities to explore viable, nationally and internationally recognized strategies to implement the Commercial Aquaculture Health Program Standards.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association regarding CAHPS. In 2019, APHIS will engage Industry, State, and other stakeholders in strategic discussions about the future direction of, including but not limited to, alignment of CAHPS with stakeholder objectives, international standards, and current science.