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**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2      APPROVED**

**SUBJECT MATTER:      Commercial Aquaculture Health Program Standards**

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**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 farm raised aquatic animals. CAHPS recognized and built upon current activities and existing guidelines for health of aquatic animals by establishing uniform standards for United States 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 the CAHPS. We believe that the program must further evolve to benefit all domestic 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.

**RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) strongly encourages the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to engage with states to identify how the Commercial Aquaculture Health Program Standards (CAHPS) may be utilized in conjunction with existing health inspections for animal movement. USAHA recommends that USDA-APHIS-VS engage with states having well established aquatic animal health policies, which could become a national model for the acceptance and integration of CAHPS to meet state regulatory requirements for aquatic animal health.

**INTERIM RESPONSE:**

USDA, APHIS, VS, recognizes the concerns of USAHA and appreciates the opportunity to respond. In 2020, VS will continue engaging the industry, state, and other stakeholders in strategic discussions about the future direction of the Commercial Aquaculture Health Program Standards (CAHPS), including but not limited to alignment of CAHPS with stakeholder objectives, international standards, and current science.