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**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 3      APPROVED**

**SUBJECT MATTER:      Import Health Requirements for Live Aquatic Animals**

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

At present, there are only United States (US) federal import health requirements for the importation of live salmonid species and their gametes [United States Fish and Wildlife Service], as well as eight cyprinid species considered susceptible to Spring Viremia of Carp Virus [United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)]. All other live aquatic animals are entering the US with no US federal requirements with regard to animal health. In 2019, USDA responded to the first detection of Tilapia Lake Virus (TiLV), which was linked to infected fingerlings imported from Thailand. These fingerlings entered the US and the destination state legally with no mandatory health requirements, even though the country of origin was known to be positive for TiLV. Further, over the last several years, detections of World Organisation for Animal Health-listed pathogens and other emerging pathogens, such as Red Sea Bream Iridovirus, Infectious Hypodermal and Hematopoietic Necrosis Virus, and Ostreid Herpesvirus, have been linked to imports. The impact of these detections are felt by domestic industry because of animal loss, facility quarantines, export bans, and the need for enhanced surveillance. Import controls would not be intended to ban trade but to ensure that aquatic animals entering the US are healthy and do not pose risks to domestic aquaculture production or natural resources.

**RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) immediately initiate a comprehensive pathways risk analysis for the introduction of World Organisation for Animal Health-listed pathogens from imported live fish, mollusks and crustaceans. Regarding prioritized pathogens, and with support of the domestic industry, USDA-APHIS-VS should implement appropriate import health requirements necessary to mitigate the risk of introduction.

**INTERIM RESPONSE:**

USDA, APHIS, VS recognizes the concerns of USAHA and appreciates the opportunity to respond. APHIS recognizes the risk of the introduction of World Organisation for Animal Health-listed pathogens from imported live fish, mollusks, and crustaceans. APHIS will work closely with our scientific analysis staff to conduct a risk review of these diseases and look at what will be the appropriate ways to mitigate these concerns.

Additionally, to gather input from industry, federal and state, VS has invited key domestic subject matters experts (SME) to participate in the newly formed *Aquatic Animal Health Diagnostic Working Group*. In February 2020, members of the working group will meet to identify priority activities and develop a strategic plan to establish goals, objectives and desired outcomes for this workgroup.

**FINAL RESPONSE:**

USDA, APHIS, VS appreciates the recommendation from USAHA and the opportunity to respond. APHIS recognizes the risk of the introduction of OIE-listed and emerging pathogens from imported live fish, mollusks, and crustaceans. As of August 25, 2020, APHIS is conducting six risk evaluations for the following pathogens: infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis virus , red sea bream iridovirus, TiLV, decapod iridescent virus, virulent *Aeromonas hydrophila*, and ostreid herpesvirus-1; the conclusions of which will be used to evaluate appropriate ways to mitigate these concerns, including potential import controls.