

---

**RESOLUTION NUMBER:** 8 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

**SUBJECT MATTER:** Update of a National Plan for Aquaculture and Aquatic Animal Health

---

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The United States Animal Health Association applauds the efforts of the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for working with a representative group from the National Aquaculture Association to develop a new national plan for aquaculture and aquatic animal health. A strong national plan that protects all aquatic animal health and provides a national framework for consistent inspection and testing of aquatic animals cultured in the United States will benefit all domestic aquaculture and protect natural resources. The effectiveness and success of the program requires the cooperation of industry and state, tribal and federal entities.

**RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports the proposed update of the 2008 National Aquatic Animal Health Plan by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services. USAHA requests that USDA-APHIS be the lead federal authority for aquatic animal health and implement a national plan that protects the health of United States aquaculture and natural resources.

**INTERIM RESPONSE:**

USDA, APHIS, VS, appreciates the support of USAHA for the VS Aquaculture Program and its initiatives. In section 10 of Executive Order 13921, *Promoting American Seafood and Economic Growth*, USDA was tasked to examine the 2008 National Aquatic Animal Health Plan and lead the development of an updated national plan. The updated plan will address aquatic animal and aquaculture health infrastructure gaps as well as provisions for animal health in aquaculture settings located in Federal waters. APHIS continues to work with relevant federal agencies and key industry representatives on elements of the revised national plan. We anticipate sharing a working draft with stakeholders and partners early in the second quarter of FY2021.