
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 7 APPROVED

SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

SUBJECT MATTER: Comprehensive Aquaculture Health Program Standards

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Comprehensive 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 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. The program must be implemented within a national framework to benefit all domestic aquaculture, especially with regard to national and international trade. The effectiveness and success of the program requires the cooperation of industry and state and federal entities.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to engage states to identify how the Comprehensive Aquaculture Health Program Standards (CAHPS) may be utilized in conjunction with existing aquaculture health inspections for animal movement. USAHA further urges USDA-APHIS-VS to engage States with 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, appreciates the opportunity to respond and the continued support of USAHA for CAHPS. APHIS prioritized the development, implementation, and rollout of CAHPS in the VS aquaculture five-year business plan. Further, CAHPS is presented as a health inspection option in the proposed revised national plan on aquaculture health. APHIS will explore partnerships in CAHPS development with States with vibrant aquaculture programs. APHIS continues to engage with industry; to date, APHIS has several companies interested in enrolling in CAHPS. APHIS encourages the USAHA/AAVLD Aquaculture Committee to also be an active proponent of the CAHPS program to States and others to increase awareness, support, and participation.

FINAL RESPONSE:

USDA, APHIS, VS, appreciates the opportunity to respond and the continued support of USAHA for CAHPS. APHIS prioritized the development, implementation, and rollout of CAHPS in the VS aquaculture five-year business plan. Further, CAHPS is presented as a health inspection option in the revised National Aquatic Health Plan and Standards published on July 1, 2021. APHIS will explore partnerships in CAHPS development with States with vibrant aquaculture programs. APHIS continues to engage with industry. To date, APHIS has several companies interested in enrolling in CAHPS. APHIS encourages the USAHA/ American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians Aquaculture Committee to also be an active proponent of the CAHPS program to States and others to increase awareness, support, and participation.