
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 24 APPROVED

SOURCE: JOINT COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

SUBJECT MATTER: Import Health Requirements for Live Aquatic Animals

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 and four tilapia species considered susceptible to tilapia lake virus (United States Department of Agriculture). All other live aquatic animals are entering the US with no federal requirements with regard to animal health. 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 unregulated imports. The introduction of these pathogens causes livestock losses, 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) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to act proactively to prevent the introduction of foreign aquatic animal pathogens that pose threats to the health of aquatic livestock and natural resources through untested live animal and product imports. As such, USAHA requests that USDA-APHIS-VS immediately initiate comprehensive pathways risk analyses to prevent the introduction of the following World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) listed pathogens or parasites via imported live fish, mollusks and crustaceans: abalone herpesvirus, *Bonamia exitiosa*, epizootic haematopoietic necrosis (EHN), *Gyrodactylus salaris*, infectious hypothermal and hematopoietic necrosis virus (IHNV), infectious myonecrosis (IMN), infectious salmon anemia (ISA), HPR deleted and HPR0; *Marleilia refringens*, *Perkinsus olseni*, red sea bream iridovirus (RSIV), salmonid alphavirus (. taura syndrome virus (TSV), yellowhead -*Macrobrachium rosenbergii* nodavirus, -*Vibrio parahemolyticus* pVA-1 plasmid.

Regarding prioritized pathogens or parasites, and with support of the domestic industry, USDA- APHIS-VS should implement appropriate import health requirements necessary to mitigate the risk of introduction. Further, USAHA requests that USDA immediately

declare the country or regions as free of OIE-listed aquatic animal pathogens that have never been detected in the US.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond.

APHIS recognizes the risk of introducing emerging pathogens, listed by the World Organisation for Animal Health, from imported live fish, mollusks, and crustaceans and is working to address priority pathogens of concern. This includes identifying pathogens that meet provisions established by the World Trade Organization to establish import controls. APHIS is currently working to complete and finalize risk evaluations for infectious hypothermal and hematopoietic necrosis virus and red sea bream iridovirus. The conclusions of these evaluations will be used to identify and evaluate ways possible mitigations, including potential import controls if appropriate. APHIS will share the results of these risk evaluations with the committee once they are finalized.