

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 13

Approved

SOURCE:

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 enter the US with no federal animal health requirements. In recent years, detections of World Organization for Animal Health listed pathogens and other emerging pathogens, such as red sea bream iridovirus, infectious hypodermal and hematopoietic necrosis virus, and tilapia lake virus, 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 USDA-APHIS-VS initiate work to zone the United States (US) as free from World Organization of Animal Health (WOAH) listed pathogens that have never been detected in the US, such as salmon alphavirus, epizootic hematopoietic necrosis virus, yellowhead virus-1, and *Perkinsus olseni*. Further, USAHA requests USDA-APHIS-VS immediately impose import controls for those pathogens from which the US demonstrates absence, following the WOAH guidelines to demonstrate freedom.