

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 12

Approved

SOURCE:

COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

SUBJECT MATTER:

Comprehensive Aquaculture Health Program Standards

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Animal Health Association applauds the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services for working with the National Aquaculture Association to develop the new National Aquaculture Health Plan and Standards (NAHP&S) which incorporates and operationalizes critical components needed to support Comprehensive Aquaculture Health Program Standards. A strong national plan protects all aquatic animal health and provides a national framework for consistent inspection and testing of aquatic animals cultured in the United States, supports international trade and private and public aquaculture, and protects natural resources. The effectiveness and success of NAHP&S requires the cooperation of the aquaculture farming community and state, tribal and federal entities.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) strongly urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to initiate the rulemaking process to codify the Comprehensive Aquaculture Health Program Standards in the Code of Federal Regulations as a voluntary aquatic animal livestock health management plan. Further, USAHA strongly encourages USDA-APHIS-VS to partner with other federal agencies, states, tribes, accredited veterinarians, and laboratories conducting inspections and testing to ensure consistency within the program by developing training programs.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

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

APHIS is initiating the rule-making process to codify the Comprehensive Aquaculture Health Program Standards (CAHPS) as a voluntary health certification program. APHIS is also planning related collaborative training activities in 2023.