

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2006

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 3 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

SUBJECT MATTER: SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION OF STANDARDIZED DIAGNOSTIC REAGENTS FOR THE LISTED DISEASES OF AQUATIC ANIMALS

DATES: MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, OCTOBER 12-18, 2006

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) supplies and distributes reagents for the diagnosis of important terrestrial animal diseases. Currently there is not a single standardized source of reagents available for the diagnosis of important diseases of wild and cultured aquatic animals. A source of standardized diagnostic reagents is extremely important in protecting wild and cultured aquatic animals from foreign aquatic animal diseases as well as surveillance and control of endemic aquatic animal diseases. The Fish Health Section of the American Fisheries Society is available to assist in prioritizing the diagnostic reagents that are needed.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) develop and make available a standardized source of reagents, that are not readily available from commercial sources, for the diagnosis of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) notifiable diseases or the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan listed diseases.

RESPONSE:

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS)

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) recognizes that a major component of a national animal health management program is the detection of economically and biologically important diseases and their causative agents. Standardized reagents are critical to detection and accurate diagnosis. Reagent development and standardization by the NVSL would require a functional aquatic animal wet laboratory. NVSL has been unable to secure funds to renovate or replace the

existing aquatic animal wet laboratory which does not meet current biosafety or animal care standards. Reagent development and standardization is an activity that is part of the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan. USDA- APHIS recognizes that development and standardization of reagents will require resources. As such, APHIS will continue to request Congressional line item funding for the NAAHP.