

Aquatic Animal Health: Federal  
Programs to Address Industry  
Concerns

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# [ Topics ]

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- Veterinary Services Mission
- Examples of VS Programs:
  - Infectious Salmon Anemia Program
  - Spring Viremia of Carp Program
  - Taura Syndrome Virus outbreak Texas 2004
- Development of a National Aquatic Animal Health Plan (NAAHP)

# APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) Mission Statement

- Veterinary Services protects and improves the health, quality and marketability of our nation's animals, animal products and veterinary biologics by preventing, controlling and/or eliminating animal diseases, and monitoring and promoting animal health and productivity.

# [ ISA Program – APHIS Roles ]

- Provided indemnity funds for depopulation through Commodity Credit Corporation
- Cooperate with State, industry and Canada on
  - Depopulation, cleaning and disinfection
  - Epidemiology and surveillance
  - Biosecurity audits and inspections

# [ ISA Program Partnerships ]

- NOAA wild marine fish survey
- QA/QC Testing
  - University of Maine
  - MicroTechnologies Inc.
  - New Brunswick DAFA
  - NVSL
  - Research and Productivity Council (RPC)
- Environmental Monitoring
  - MicroTechnologies Inc.
  - New Brunswick DAFA
  - Industry
- ISA Program Activities
  - Maine DMR
  - Industry
  - Maine Fish and Wildlife
  - Micro Technologies Inc.

# Spring Viremia of Carp – APHIS Roles

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- Provided indemnity funds for depopulation through Commodity Credit Corporation
- Cooperate with State, Industry, Federal Agencies and experts on
  - Depopulation, cleaning and disinfection
  - Epidemiology and surveillance

# [ SVC Program Partnerships ]

- Action Plan
  - FWS
  - Subject Matter Experts
  - NOAA
  - USGS
  - State DNR
  - State Fish and Game/Conservation
  - State Agriculture
  - Industry
- Surveillance
  - MOU with FWS
- Training
  - Wisconsin Workshop

# [ Taura Syndrome Virus ]

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- APHIS had a limited role in assisting Texas Parks & Wildlife with the Taura outbreak in southern Texas in 2004
- Industry, State and academia (Texas A&M) requested APHIS assistance
  - Retrospective epidemiologic study
  - Potential sources and vectors
  - Administrator's contingency fund

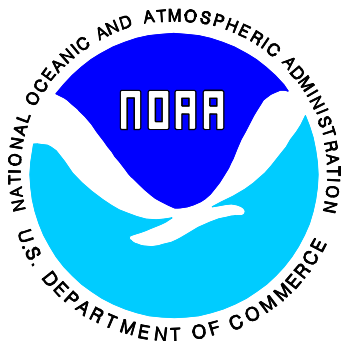
# [ The NAAHP – Who started it and why? ]

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- Industry concerns regarding international and interstate trade
- Resource agencies concerned about introduction of exotic pathogens
- Desire for a baseline of aquatic animal health activities administered and funded by the Federal Government

# Who is developing this NAAHP?

- The Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture's National Aquatic Animal Health Task Force on Aquaculture (NAAHTF)
- The NAAHTF is comprised of the three Federal agencies with primary authority for aquatic animal health:



# Is the NAAHTF Developing the NAAHP on its own?

- Task Force identifies elements of NAAHP
- Stakeholder input received through work group meetings
- Task Force writes chapters; reviewed by JSA and stakeholders
- Federal agencies implement the Plan

# [ Working Groups ]

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## Formation:

- Invitations sent from Task Force
- Broadest representation possible

## Activity

- Meet in person at least once

## Purpose:

- Input to Task Force from all perspectives represented
- Task Force incorporates Working Group information as appropriate

# Current and Future Working Groups

- |      |   |                            |
|------|---|----------------------------|
| 1)   | Health professional roles<br>and certification    | Jan 2004                   |
| 2)   | Pathogens and Surveillance                        | Jan 2004                   |
| 3)   | Laboratory Methodologies                          | April 2004                 |
| 4-9) | Species – Specific Disease<br>Program Standards   | Summer '04<br>- Spring '05 |
| 10)  | State Resource Agencies                           | July 2005                  |
| 11)  | Research – Federal collaborative efforts          | October 2005               |
| 12)  | Education – Particularly for health professionals | 2006                       |
| 13)  | Tribes  | 2006                       |

# [ Species-Specific Working Groups ]

- Salmonids – Twin Falls, ID. September, 2004.
- Warmwater finfish/foodfish – Biloxi, MS. November, 2004
- Ornamental/tropical fish – Tampa, FL. December, 2004
- Mollusks – Seattle, WA. March, 2005
- Baitfish – Memphis, TN. March, 2005
- Crustaceans – Tucson, AZ. May, 2005

# Purpose of Species-Specific Working Groups

- Validate list of diseases from work group 2 by commodity;
- Discuss need/desire for programs (certification, control, eradication, etc.)
- Identify logical pathogen zones;

## Purpose of Species-Specific Working Groups, Cont.

- Discuss surveillance schemes
- Discuss methods to facilitate interstate and international commerce
- Discuss methods to prevent the introduction of exotic pathogens/diseases
- Address quarantine, management, eradication scenarios
- Discuss indemnification schemes, biosecurity, emergency planning and training

# [ How Do I Provide Input? ]

- Via industry leaders and work group participants
- Directly through the Task Force
- Directly via website and e-mail address:

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/aqua/naah\\_plan.html](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/aqua/naah_plan.html)

- Task Force Technical Representatives:

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# When will the NAAHP be Finished?

- Draft document to be complete by Spring 2007
- Entire document open to stakeholder review and comment
- Implementation to come **after** the NAAHP is complete
- Flexibility to implement needed programs, i.e. ISA, SVC, White Spot, etc.

# [ Is the NAAHP a Regulation? ]

- **NO** – recommendations for programs that may vary by species and disease
- Will there be regulations related to the NAAHP?
  - Import Protocols
  - Indemnity
  - Eradication/Control/Management Programs

## Once the NAAHP is Complete, is the Process Complete?

- The NAAHP must be flexible to continue to be valid and meet the needs of ALL stakeholders
- Need for a forum to periodically review and revise the NAAHP
  - Mechanism to suggest changes(i.e. NPIP or ISSP)
  - Mechanism for voting for changes
  - Mechanism for implementing changes (including regulation changes)

# Will the NAAHP Meet All Aquatic Animal Health Needs?

- States
- Industry
- Tribes
- Public and Private Hatcheries
- THE NAAHP CAN'T BE EVERYTHING TO EVERYONE!
- Baseline of activities to meet SOME of everybody's needs!

# [ Take-home message! ]

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- ***APHIS activities and successes depend on cooperation and collaboration with our partners and stakeholders***

