

# NC AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2015



*Aquatic Animal Health Update and Aquaculture Health Certification*

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# Aquaculture Industry in NC

- Trout (71)
- Catfish (15)
- Hybrid Striped Bass (14)
- Tilapia (9)
- Crawfish (5)
- Sturgeon (2)
- Ornaments (2)
- Fresh Water Prawns (11)
- Sturgeon (2)
- Yellow Perch (2)
- Black Sea Bass (1)
- Soft Shell Crabs (287 shedding permits)
- Oysters (227 leases)
- Flounder (3) ?
- Eels (1) ?

# Aquatic Animal Health Update and Certification

- VHS Federal Order Lifted (June 2014)
- Interstate Movement
- Zoonotic Disease Issues
- Facility Registration for Export
- Commercial Aquaculture Health Program Standards (CAHPS)



# VHS Federal Order Rescinded

- Put in place in 2006
- Rescinded June 2014
- VHS Remains a Disease of Concern
- Interstate Movement Plans need to be carefully Considered



# Spring 2015

- Request to import Susceptible Species From Great Lakes Region
- Concerns over introduction of disease into wild and farmed populations
- Can this be done? Should this be done?

# Is it Possible? or Is it too Risky?

Group assessment by

- NC Wildlife Services
- NC Department of Agriculture
- USDA APHIS VS
- Approved Laboratory
- Interested Producers
- NC Cooperative Extension Service
- NC Aquaculture Association



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# Assessment/ Outcome

- Accurate information essential to making good decisions
- Producers need be involved in regulatory process
- Collaborative effort to assess the situation
- Group discussion
- Plan development that minimizes risk





# Zoonotic Disease



# *Fish Handlers Disease (Mycobacterium marinum) in NYC*

- Where did it come from?
- What can be done about it?
- It doesn't affect the fish so why be concerned?
- Zoonotic Disease- Public health Issue
- Multiple Regulatory Agencies Involved
- Limited knowledge of Aquaculture industry !!!!!



# Facility Registration and Certification for Export



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# Facility Registration for Export

## 2 Types of Registration

1. Canadian Export of Finfish and Crustaceans for Retail, Food Service or Further Processing
2. Aquaculture Facility Registration for Export (Needed for export to Mexico or EU)



# Why Get Registered?

## Program 1 Food Fish to Canada

- no document endorsement required

## Program 2 Aquaculture Facility Registration

- needed for export to most countries



# Commercial Aquaculture Health Program Standards (CAHPS)

## Commercial Aquaculture

**The business of farming aquatic animals for sale or trade, with some sort of intervention in the rearing or farming process.**



# CAHPS Concept

## Five Principles:

1. Aquatic animal health team
2. Risk characterization & management
3. Surveillance
4. Investigation and reporting
5. Response



# Aquatic animal health team (AAHT)

- Actively engaged with site
- Comprised of:
  - ❖ Veterinarians, AFS certified professionals, laboratorians, & other subject matter experts
- Has a designated leader
- Develops AAHT communication plan
- Assists with Site-Specific Health Plan





# Risk Characterization & Management

- Guided by the AAHT
- Identifies pathogens of concern & site-specific risks
- Develops strategies & training for early disease detection
- Identifies threshold triggers for disease investigation
- Results in a written biosecurity plan



# Surveillance

- Guided by the AAHT
- Sampling strategies are specific to site & species
  - ❖ Meets criteria for trade if CAHPS not accepted
- Based on site-specific surveillance plan
- Addresses any OIE-listed disease for susceptible species



# Investigation and Reporting

- Led and guided by leadership of AAHT
- Triggered when thresholds are exceeded
- Investigation varies depending on scope of problem
- Reports OIE-listed or emerging diseases to appropriate officials



# Response

- Led and guided by leadership of AAHT unless otherwise determined
- Dependent on the pathogen identified & the impact of pathogen



# Why CAHPS?

- Assist with International and Interstate Movement
- Facility Disease Free Status????
- Zones or Compartments of Reduced Risk or Disease Free Status

# CAHPS

- Voluntary, non-regulatory
- Not for every aquaculture business or site
- Living document
- Implementation will need cooperation



# CAHPS Next Steps

- Your input is needed!
  - APHIS VS Aquaculture webpage
  - <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/aquaculture>
  - ❖ [Email: VS.SPRS.Feedback@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:VS.SPRS.Feedback@aphis.usda.gov)
  
- Focus groups to -
  - Refine standards
  - Create partnerships and buy-in
  - Tackle implementation and compliance
  
- Ongoing efforts



# My Observations

- Someone contacted somebody to get assistance (HELP!!!!)
- Make contact with people before a crisis arises
- Understanding the Process
- Be patient and get involved in the process









# Questions?



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