Veterinary Services (VS), Surveillance, Preparedness, and Response Services (SPRS) protects and improves the health, quality, and marketability of our Nation's aquaculture by preventing, controlling, and/or eliminating aquatic animal diseases; conducting surveillance and monitoring; and promoting aquaculture production and health. The SPRS Aquaculture/Aquatic Animal Health Program also works in partnership with VS’ National Import Export Services (NIES) and Science, Technology, and Analysis Services (STAS) to provide comprehensive health services to the sector.

**Objective 1: Support national aquaculture and aquatic animal health activities, including the Commercial Aquaculture Health program Standards (CAHPS) and Comprehensive Integrated Surveillance for Aquaculture (CIS-Aq).**

**Activity 1.1: Advance CAHPS with industry and partners.**
- Release the current draft of CAHPS.
- Review and test CAHPS checklists and standard operating procedures and post them on the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Aquaculture webpage.
- Review and evaluate Surveillance Collaboration System Core One program for CAHPS data management.
- Provide CAHPS training, in coordination with Professional Development Staff (PDS), for VS personnel in Orono, ME, from August 14-16, 2018.
- Evaluate CAHPS proof of concept projects for farmed Atlantic salmon in Maine and Washington State.
- Participate in the fiscal year (FY) 2017 CAHPS proof of concept projects involving the trout industry in Idaho and a Koi facility in Florida.
- Complete certification process for pilot CAHPS compartments and facilities at the following locations:
  - Maine: Bingham Hatchery
  - North Carolina: Fresh Keepers Tilapia Growers
- Seek new opportunities for proof of concept projects for CAHPS. If possible, design a multi-State baitfish CAHPS proof of concept project designed to support more efficient testing and animal movement among participating States.
- Continue collaboration with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Marine Fisheries Service to incorporate and implement CAHPS principles in the Gulf Aquaculture Fisheries Management Plan.
Activity 1.2: Advance CIS-Aq with industry and partners.

- Through cooperative agreement funding, support laboratory costs for conducting pathogen surveillance to support zonation.
- Continue partnerships with groups to advise and assist with regional surveillance efforts and decision support.
- Seek new opportunities for proof of concept projects for CIS-Aq. If possible, target shellfish and crustacean aquaculture sectors.

Objective 2: Prepare for and respond to domestic diseases, foreign animal diseases (FAD), and emerging diseases in aquaculture settings and aquatic animals.

Activity 2.1: Ensure preparedness

- Draft new and update existing case definitions for select World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) listed aquatic animal pathogens.
- Work with National Veterinary Services Laboratories to ensure laboratory proficiency for National Animal Health Laboratory Network and approved labs for export testing.
- Participate in the VS Countermeasures working group.
- Work with STAS on priority pathogens for risk pathways assessments.
- Participate in the review of indemnity regulations for aquaculture producers.
- Initiate planning for the second (FY 2019) aquatic animal FAD training, Ames, IA
- Participate in international standard setting activities.  
  - ad hoc groups, OIE
    - Demonstration of disease freedom (aquatic animal).
    - Susceptibility of fish species to OIE list diseases.

Activity 2.2: Appropriately respond to and contain pathogen outbreaks on aquaculture facilities diseases and other emerging and reportable aquatic animal diseases.

- Collaborate with State, Tribal and other Federal agencies to respond and contain outbreaks in aquaculture settings, including:
  - Infectious salmon anemia virus (ISA) and other emerging pathogens.
- Conduct epidemiological investigations to determine source of outbreaks.

Activity 2.3: Improve reporting processes for outbreaks of pathogens listed by the OIE/National List of Reportable Animal Diseases/National Animal Health Reporting System (NAHRS).

- Work with APHIS districts and local district offices, as well as groups and stakeholders, to ensure that aquatic animal pathogen and disease detections are appropriately reported in NAHRS.
Objective 3: Communicate with program stakeholders through outreach, collaboration, and education.

Activity 3.1: Provide aquatic animal health expertise and outreach at meetings, working groups, and conferences.

Attend or present at the following meetings, if funding allows:
- Attend Veterinary Meeting and Expo (VMX, formerly NAVC);
- Attend Aquaculture America (AA18);
- Attend the International Symposia on Aquatic Animal Health (ISAAH);
- Attend the American Veterinary Medical Association annual meeting;
- Attend Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies meetings;
- Present Aquaculture National Veterinary Accreditation Program (NVAP) modules whenever possible at meetings and conferences with veterinary attendance; and
- Participate in East Coast Regional Shellfish Health Management projects to advance hatchery certification and regional database design

Activity 3.2: Update Aquaculture Program public-facing and internal website design and content.

- Work with appropriate VS groups to improve and update Aquaculture Program webpage.
- Work with appropriate VS groups to improve and update Aquaculture Program SharePoint site.

Activity 3.3: Continue to identify and engage under-represented aquaculture sectors.

- Partner with University of Florida’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences in the USDA-National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) grant for aquaculture veterinary training for rural veterinary practitioners.


- Work with NASS and NAHMS to draft the 2020 aquaculture survey and distribution list.

Objective 4: Support the productivity, viability and expansion of U.S. aquaculture industry sectors.

Activity 4.1: Expand and retain export trade markets.

- Work with NIES to continue discussions with trading partners to establish zones and work with trade partners to recognize CAHPS.
Activity 4.2: Support efforts to train and develop a veterinary workforce to support the industry.

- Participate with the University of Florida in a USDA-NIFA grant to implement a Rural Aquaculture Veterinarian Training Fellowship.
- Explore topics for a new NVAP module.
- Explore options for NVAP certification requirements for category II accredited veterinarians.

Objective 5: Explore options for advancing the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan (NAAHP) with Federal partners.

Activity 5.1: Prepare for FY 2020 update and signing of the NAAHP Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

- Review current MOUs and propose changes if needed.
- Review approved changes with NAAHP partners and work with the partner agencies to approve and sign revised MOUs.
- Work with NAAHP partners to produce a 10-year NAAHP status document.
- Promote the tenets of the NAAHP whenever possible with our stakeholders.
- Continue our efforts to develop and implement CAHPS as our implementation of the NAAHP for commercial aquaculture.