

Aquaculture/Aquatic Animal Health Program Operational Plan Fiscal Year 2018 Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Veterinary Services

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.

Activity 3.4: Promote 2019 National Agricultural Statistics Service Aquaculture Census and 2020 National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) Aquaculture Survey.

- 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.