

Criteria for Test Negative Status from Specific Pathogens in Aquatic Animal Cohorts*

APHIS VS is the Competent Authority for aquatic animal health, and provides oversight and approval regarding this cohort test negative status for a subpopulation on a site.

To **qualify for cohort test negative status** for specific pathogens of concern in aquaculture settings, all the following must be met:

1. A representative sample, appropriate for the purpose of testing and pathogen(s) of concern, must be collected and tested within the past 45 days, and test negative for the pathogen(s) of concern.
2. Samples must be collected by or the under supervision of an accredited veterinarian.
3. At the time of sample collection, the cohort was visually examined, and found to be free of signs of infection and disease. If moribund animals are present they must be included in the sample.
4. Biosecurity practices must be in place for the tested cohort population at the time of sample collection through to time of movement or shipment.
 - a. Once samples have been collected, no animals may be introduced into the sampled population.
 - b. Cohorts must remain isolated OR in the same system in which they were tested with no change in risk of exposure to pathogen(s) of concern.
 - c. During the time of segregation there is no unexplained morbidity or mortality.
 - d. Record-keeping for the time of isolation including if animals are removed from the population that the reason is documented.
 - e. Only water from this site of the same health status as shipment is used in this shipment.

* Cohort may be a sub-population of the farm, life stage or species.