
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 23

Approved as Amended

SOURCE:

COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

SUBJECT MATTER:

Prioritizing Farms Enrolled in Comprehensive Aquaculture Health Program Standards for Indemnification

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is engaging in rulemaking to codify the voluntary Comprehensive Aquaculture Health Program Standards (CAHPS). CAHPS will establish a framework to improve health management, protect and expand aquaculture business opportunities, promote and facilitate trade and improve resource protection and environmental sustainability. The aquatic animal health teams created within farms enrolled in CAHPS develop and implement Pillar Five, *Response, Reporting and Recovery*, that is triggered by a disease event. This Pillar includes provisions for animal inventory, disposition, cleaning and disinfection. CAHPS enrolled farms should be recognized and qualified for indemnification to support implementation of Pillar Five from the moment of initial disease reporting to USDA-APHIS and/or state animal health officials. The [National Aquaculture Health Plan & Standards \(2021-2023\)](#), includes this provision on page 19.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) make indemnification and other financial assistance available, as a critical component of aquaculture disease risk management, for eligible private aquaculture facilities where depopulation was required by joint state agency and USDA-APHIS decision making due to an aquatic animal disease.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond.

Federal regulations outline the instances in which APHIS may provide indemnity and compensation to producers to remove animals affected with, suspect of, or exposed to diseases of concern and to eliminate pathogens from the environment. APHIS will



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consider incorporating the authority to provide indemnity for aquaculture disease of concern during the CAHPS rulemaking process. Even if codified, the provision of indemnity is subject to funding availability.