

RECOMMENDATION FOR CERTIFICATION  
FISH PATHOLOGIST  
AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY/FISH HEALTH SECTION

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FOR PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE USE

Recommendation from: Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's supervisor/employer     /   /  
Fish health professional                 /   / Application number \_\_\_\_\_

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Applicant's name and address:

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Recommender's name, address, phone number, and E-mail:

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Recommender's occupation, position, employer, and years in occupation:

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Recommender is /   /   is not /   /   applicant's supervisor /   /   employer /   /

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INFORMATION FOR RECOMMENDERS

The Fish Health Section (FHS) provides a peer review system to identify professionals possessing the competence, training, and ethics required to effectively serve the fish health needs of fisheries programs and aquaculture. Individuals meeting the following requirements shall be eligible for certification by the FHS as Fish Pathologists.

The AFS/FHS certified Fish Pathologist is a professional who specializes in the causes, nature, and control of the diseases of fish. Through a regimen of academic education, specialized training, and experience, the individual has developed a thorough understanding of the fish, its environment, infectious and noninfectious diseases, and the interrelationships involved.

The Fish Pathologist is an individual in the fish health field who utilizes various disciplines including fisheries biology, water quality, microbiology, parasitology, toxicology, pharmacology, and histopathology to provide an accurate evaluation and diagnosis of fish health problems. When necessary, the Fish Pathologist is capable of seeking appropriate specialized assistance in determining the cause of a health problem. If a definitive diagnosis is not possible, the Fish Pathologist must have the ability to utilize all available information to establish the most logical cause of the problem.

The Fish Pathologist is competent to conduct fish health inspections, process samples, perform or supervise laboratory work, and interpret in-house results, as well as those from specialized reference laboratories. The Fish Pathologist is also capable of providing responsible recommendations and/or prescriptions (licensed veterinarians only) for control measures for fish diseases within legal constraints.

Technical skills, experience, and high ethical standards enable the Fish Pathologist to serve fisheries programs and aquaculture through the evaluation and diagnosis of fish health problems, through responsible recommendations for disease control, and through the administration of programs designed to enhance the health of cultured and free-ranging fishes.

You are asked to address three items on the applicant's behalf as shown below. It is understood that you may not have direct knowledge of the applicant's entire professional career. With this in mind, please answer these questions to the best of your knowledge, being as specific and complete as possible. If additional space is required, please use additional pages referencing these according to the questions being answered.

When complete, please sign and date this form where indicated and forward to the Chairperson of the Professional Standards Committee.

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1. **Current work status:** Describe the applicant's current professional work; include the specific activities related to fish health and state what percentage of his/her total work time is spent in fish health activities. If you are the applicant's supervisor and/or employer, you may enter his/her position description, if appropriate.

2. **Previous professional work experience:** Describe what you know about the applicant's professional fish health work experience. For each position, give approximate dates and the percentage of the total time spent in fish health activities, which may include (1) disease diagnostics and control; (2) fish disease/health research; (3) fish disease/health instruction at the university level or its equivalent; or (4) administrative work directly related to fish disease diagnostics and control.

3. **Professional ethics:** Can you cite any situation where the applicant acted unethically in conducting his/her professional duties?

\_\_\_\_\_ No            \_\_\_\_\_ Yes - If so, explain.

4. **Summary recommendation:** Please enter a brief statement describing your view of the applicant's suitability for certification as a Fish Pathologist in relation to the intent of this program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Recommender

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

NOTE: Upon submission to the Professional Standards Committee, this document becomes a permanent part of the Committee's confidential files and will not be provided, in original or duplicated form, to any person other than current Committee members during their normal evaluations of applications for certification.