

The official link to the FHS website is: <http://www.fisheries.org/units/fhs>

Reminder: An archive of these updates is posted on the website with the password: fhs

FHS NEWS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (OCTOBER 2009):

Probably the most significant event which has occurred since my term has begun has been the completion of the final draft of the **National Aquatic Animal Health Plan (NAAHP)**. As all of you are well aware, this has been a lengthy process, involving numerous stakeholder input meetings held throughout the nation, led by representatives of USDA-APHIS, NOAA, and the USFWS. The draft can be reviewed at:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_dis_spec/aquaculture/downloads/naahp.pdf

Reading through the document, it will become clear that the roles of AFS-Fish Health Section certified professionals (Aquatic Animal Health Inspectors and Pathologists) are prominent, and the Section's "Bluebook" is cited along with the OIE Manual as references for collection and testing procedures. An important component of the NAAHP is the establishment of a National Advisory Committee for Aquatic Animal Health (NACAAH), which would be composed of representatives of all the stakeholder groups that have a vested interest in how the NAAHP is implemented (aquaculture, natural resource managers, researchers, etc). This committee's function is to provide input and guidance to the three federal agencies in implementation and administration the NAAHP. As would be expected, funding for this committee has not yet been appropriated, so it is important that stakeholder groups encourage the Secretary of Agriculture to strongly consider funding and establishing the NACAAH. The current President of AFS, Don Jackson, with FHS encouragement, has sent a letter of support for funding the NACAAH to Secretary Vilsack.

The AFS- Fish Health Section Website has a bright new look, and new features will be sprouting on it in the coming months (thanks to Luke Iwanowicz). Please visit the site and explore the newest features, which include a discussion forum and other member-only benefits which now require password to access. If you are a member, register on the site for your username and password to access these new features. If you know of others that would benefit from being a member, encourage them to join the AFS-FHS! Your professional networking is not complete without membership to the FHS!!!!

I attended the AFS Governing Board in Nashville in late August (what a town!), and came back with some concern about the status of our Journal of Aquatic Animal Health. Low submission numbers have lead to the consideration of journal elimination, but I am happy to say that the majority of the Governing Board members recognized the unique field supporting the JAAH, and were not willing to take such drastic actions. All the AFS Journals have provided the bulk

of income to the Society, so discussions about converting all the journals to electronic only format took place with the resolution that further information on cost savings and member input was required before this was implemented. But at this time I would like to encourage our members and their associates to consider submitting their research for publication in the JAAH. Quicker time-to-publication depends upon having larger numbers of submissions to fill the journal. Review articles are usually a popular component of journals. With the increasing number of emerging diseases, environmental and climate change issues, authors that are willing to devote time to a review submission to the JAAH will find that they will attract many readers, and there is evidence that review articles are cited in other publications more frequently.

Lastly, stay tuned for announcements and information on the 2010 International Symposium on Aquatic Animal Health, hosted in Tampa, FL by the AFS-FHS on September 5-9, 2010. Visit <http://aquaticpath.epi.ufl.edu/isaah6/> for more details!!!!

Trish Barbash
AFS-FHS President

SIXTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH (ISA AH-6)

Sept. 5 - 9, 2010, in Tampa, Florida, USA

<http://aquaticpath.epi.ufl.edu/isaah6>

The symposium venue will be the beautiful Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel, which features elegant accommodations, a choice of restaurants, an outdoor pool, and waterfront terraces. Base room rates have been specially-negotiated at \$129 USD, single or double. Tampa is an eclectic city, with many nearby attractions, and is served by an excellent international airport.

Registration, abstract submission, travel grant applications, and hotel reservation information, will be available in early spring 2010. More information is available on symposium website.

WEBSITE UPDATES

1. Esteban Soto is the new "Student of the Semester"
http://www.fisheries.org/units/fhs/student_feature.php

2. The Listserv files are now posted on the FHS website at
http://www.fisheries.org/units/fhs/list-serve_updates.php

In order to access these files members need to register with the FHS website and log in. These files will all be converted to a PDF format and the file will no longer be password protected.

3. The discussion board/ forum is now active and provides a mechanism for members to add content independent of the listserv. This will allow members to advertise jobs, meetings, workshops ASAP. The board can also be used for timely discussion.

4. We would like include images of all past presidents and Snieszko Award Winners. Members that have photos of the above are encouraged to send them to liwanowicz@usgs.gov

5. We would very much like feedback on the website... Changes are still on progress, but we would like to know how the site can better serve our members.

MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS - FOR INFORMATION ON THESE AND OTHER UPCOMING MEETINGS GO TO THE WEBSITE:

<http://www.fisheries.org/fhs/meeting.htm>

JOBS

RESOURCES

NUTSHELL NEWSLETTER – see attached NUTSHELL NEWSLETTER #26.PDF

See attached newsletter for the latest on invasive species news. Article on whirling disease on p2

BURBOT CELL LINE AVAILABILITY

A burbot cell line has been developed and demonstrated susceptibility to IHNV and VHSV but was refractive to IPNV (please see attached abstract for details). This cell line has currently been passed ~100 times in vitro and was tested to be mycoplasma-free at passage 87. If you are interested in obtaining or would like more information regarding this cell line, please contact Dr. Ken Cain at the University of Idaho.

email: kcain@uidaho.edu

REQUEST FOR SURVEY HELP – see attached HUCmap.jpg

We are writing to request help with a project being conducted by the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences at Virginia Tech. We are creating risk assessments for future fish invaders in the Mid-Atlantic region, and we are in need of expert opinions on the abundance and impacts of existing non-indigenous fish species in this region.

We are seeking fish biologists who are familiar with the fish communities of Atlantic Slope rivers. We will be conducting a survey

on the impacts of non-indigenous fishes later this fall. The survey will ask about the abundance and impact of non-indigenous fishes, and should take about 15 minutes to complete. Responses will be used to build risk assessments based on species traits (e.g., diet, fecundity, maximum size, etc.) of successful fish invaders in this region; new species with similar traits will be predicted to pose the greatest risk.

We expect to complete the project this spring, and will send our results to fisheries managers throughout the region. We hope our predictions will aid managers in focusing prevention and education efforts on potential invasive species that pose the greatest threat.

We are defining assessment areas based on the USGS hydrologic unit code (HUC) system, at the HUC-6 scale (please see the enclosed map of HUC-6 drainages).

Our project will focus on the following drainages:

- Upper Susquehanna
- West Branch Susquehanna
- Lower Susquehanna
- Upper Chesapeake
- Potomac
- Lower Chesapeake
- James
- Roanoke
- Albemarle-Chowan
- Pamlico
- Neuse

At this stage, we are seeking additional respondents for the survey. Please contact us at introducedfish@vt.edu if you are willing to help, are familiar with the fish communities of any of these drainages, and have not already been in communication with us.

Thank you very much for your help,
Sincerely,
Richard Pendleton, Nick Lapointe, and Paul Angermeier
(See attached file: HUCmap.jpg)

NEWS

VHSV INTERIM REPORT ON STAKEHOLDER RESPONSES

New National Lab Network Proposed
Andy Goodwin

The US Animal Health Association (USAHA) and the American Association of Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories (AAVLD) are national organizations that meet together once a year in a joint conference where expert committees formulate important policy recommendations for agencies like USDA. One of these committees is the USAHA/AAVLD Aquaculture Committee chaired by Kevin Snekvic (AAVLD) and Andy Goodwin (USAHA). At the 2009 meeting two weeks ago in San Diego, Kevin and Andy presented a draft model for a new national aquatic animal pathogen testing network. This model has been under development for several years in a process that included input from APHIS, NOAA, USFWS, University, Federal and private labs, and the aquaculture industry. According to the draft, the purpose of the network would be to "To protect the health of wild and cultured fish and shellfish, to provide quality inspections in support of interstate and international trade, and to meet challenges associated with implementation of the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan." The draft plan envisions a lab network that uses standardized protocols developed by the joint USFWS/AFS-FHS Inspection Committee. The network is overseen by a committee consisting of the participating laboratories, APHIS, NOAA, and the USFWS. The draft plan is modeled after the National Poultry Improvement Program. It would encourage participation by all fish health laboratories including federal, state, university, and private facilities. Presentation of the draft plan in San Diego resulted in the following USAHA motion "The USAHA-AAVLD urges the USDA-APHIS-VS in partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries to provide funding for, facilitate, and participate in a pilot national aquatic animal pathogen testing laboratory network as conceptualized in the USAHA-AAVLD aquaculture committee draft plan." The next step in the process will be a formal response to the motion by APHIS.

INDUSTRY NEWS