

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

### **NOTE FROM THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**Aquatic Animal Health Inspector and Fish Pathologist certificate holders must remain FHS members during the entire five year period between their recertification dates.**

A gentle reminder, from the Professional Standard Committee to all certificate holders who want to be recertified in the future, - stay current with your Fish Health Section membership. As stated below from the *Standards and Procedures for Certification and Recertification*, it is a requirement for recertification and of equal importance - your membership supports the Section.

#### **B. Requirements**

1. To be considered for recertification, the applicant must meet all of the following criteria.
  - a. During the previous five-year certification period, the individual must have been actively engaged at a minimum rate of 10% of the total work time (full time employment) in the conduct or direct supervision of fish health inspections and surveillance testing for a minimum of three years.
  - b. At the time of application for recertification, the applicant must be actively engaged at a minimum rate of 10% of the total work time (full time employment) in the conduct or direct supervision of aquatic animal health inspections and surveillance testing.
  - c. **Each individual must remain a member of the AFS/FHS for each of the five years prior to recertification.**

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

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

## JOBS

### **ASSISTANT LEADER – FISHERIES**

Idaho Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit  
U.S. Geological Survey, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID

Closing: September 9, 2009

Salary: \$67,613 – 87,893

Permanent full-time appointment

Major Duties: The scientist is an Assistant Unit Leader (AUL) of the Idaho Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit and is, by appointment, a member of the Graduate Faculty of the University of Idaho. The AUL is responsible for the development of independent research programs within broad guidelines established by Cooperators of the Unit. The AUL will conduct policy and management relevant research on fisheries management and aquatic conservation issues, with an area of emphasis the physiological responses of freshwater and/or anadromous fishes to environmental conditions using relevant molecular, ecological, cellular and physiological tools in field and laboratory studies; mentor post-doctoral researchers, mentor both MS and PhD level graduate students; teach one graduate-level course per year; provide technical services to cooperators, particularly the Idaho Department of Fish and Game; and participate as a faculty member housed in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources at the University of Idaho.

Qualifications: PhD in fisheries science or related field; experience in post-doctoral, agency or faculty research in applied fisheries management, fisheries science, fish ecology, and/or aquatic ecology and conservation; publication and grant record corresponding with experience; demonstrated ability to develop a productive research program involving academic and agency collaborations; interest in application of structured decision making and adaptive management for natural resource management; and ability to teach graduate-level courses in area of expertise.

Web link and to apply: <http://www.usajobs.gov>

Announcement number WR-2009-0362

Contact: J. Michael Scott [mjscott@uidaho.edu](mailto:mjscott@uidaho.edu) or Kerry Reese [kreese@uidaho.edu](mailto:kreese@uidaho.edu)

## RESOURCES

**AQUACULTURE BIOSECURITY 101 – see attached Fish\_Health 2\_09.pdf**

**NUTSHELL NEWSLETTER #3 – see attached**

**REQUESTS FOR US OIE INFORMATION – see attached OccurrenceCodes.pdf and OIE Aquaculture Reportable Diseases.doc**

It is that time of year again. As you may know, the U.S. does not yet have a centralized database to collect information about World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) notifiable aquatic animal pathogens. Nevertheless, USDA APHIS Veterinary Services is responsible for notifying to the OIE through a regularly submitted six-month report on the presence, absence and emergence of

diseases listed by the OIE, and findings of epidemiological significance to other countries with respect to diseases that are not listed.

As such, we are requesting your assistance in compiling an accurate picture of the aquatic animal pathogen/disease status of the U.S. from the period between January and June, 2009.

Attached are two documents. The WORD document is a draft version of the report we will send to the OIE. The PDF document describes the occurrence codes used to fill out the report. Please take a minute to review the documents and let me know if and how the report should be amended based on information you may have by COB Monday, August 24, 2009. Please feel free to distribute this email to others who may have valuable information to support an accurate reporting of aquatic animal disease occurrences in the U.S.

For your information there were some questions last time that I thought I'd share with all of you in case you had similar concerns.

Question:

The "Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia" on the chart...is that limited to reports of VHSV type IVb or for all VHSV isolations? The OIE, at this time, does not recognize strain differences on these 6-month regular reports. Hence, VHSV is inclusive of all strains that may have been detected.

Question:

The Pacific Northwest may have several isolations of IVa during the reporting period. For the "Infectious haematopoietic necrosis" designation, do you want all of those cases (we have many isolations in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho and California), or are those in the "limited zone"? Where are the "limited zones" for that virus? Good question..."limited zones" is up to each country to define and defend, if necessary. As part of the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan (NAAHP), APHIS, FWS and NOAA have not yet had those discussions, therefore I have been using "limited zones" with respect to these reports with broad strokes. For example, I would not say that *Flavobacterium* is in a "limited zone"...it is everywhere. If IHN is, as you described, limited to the Western half of the U.S., then we can describe it as being in a "limited zone". We will not be asked to specify what states are in that limited zone, but if, for example, we try to ship Rainbow Trout from Florida to country X, and we argue that the producer should not have to test for IHN because it originates from a zone free of IHN, then we may need to defend that position with surveillance information, etc... In this case, however, the OIE will not be asking us to defend any statements we make on these reports unless we contradict what we have said in previous years.

Question:

For your report, does "confirmed" have to be through NVSL? Again good question. As part of the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan (NAAHP), APHIS, FWS and NOAA have not yet had those discussions, therefore I have been using "confirmed" to refer only to those samples in which NVSL receives original tissues and conducts the test themselves, OR if the report comes from an OIE reference laboratory in the U.S., such as Don Lightner's lab for crustacean diseases. We are having those discussions regarding a National Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory Network, and as that process evolves we undoubtedly will discuss 'confirmation' by other labs such as the FWS Fish Health Centers. For APHIS, confirmation is necessary prior to APHIS taking regulatory actions. We will need to discuss this topic as the NAAHP develops.

Thank you in advance for your time!

Gary

P. Gary Egrie, VMD  
Senior Staff Veterinary Medical Officer, Aquaculture Program  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
4700 River Road, Unit 46  
Riverdale, MD 20737  
(301) 734-0695 (Office)  
(301) 734-4982 (Fax)  
(240) 460-5986 (Cell)

## **NEWS**

### **PASSING OF DR. NIKOLA FIJAN**

I have the sad duty to relay the passing of Dr. Nikola Fijan. He was a fish pathologist at the University of Arkansas prior to Dr. Andy Goodwin and also of international stature. He died in Zagreb, Croatia yesterday after a year's battle with lung cancer. (received July 30 from Peter Perschbacher)