



Fish Health Section

August 23, 2010

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

FHS NEWS

ISAAH REMINDER - LAST CHANCE TO GET ON BOARD!

This ISAAH meeting will host this year's AFS Fish Health Section annual meeting.

September 5- 9, 2010

Tampa, Florida, USA

The program for talks and posters is online:

<http://aquaticpath.phhp.ufl.edu/isaah6/scientificprogram.html>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (AUGUST 2010)

As my term as Fish Health Section President "winds up" at the International Symposium on Aquatic Animal Health in Tampa (Sept. 6-9), I am looking forward to the meeting in more ways than one! The ISAAH is hosted by several organizations worldwide, the AFS-Fish Health Section being its host every four years in North America. Andy Kane and Sarah Poynton have been working diligently with the international community to provide us with a fantastic meeting, as is now evident in the recent posting of the Symposium Program which can be linked from the FHS website or directly at <http://aquaticpath.phhp.ufl.edu/isaah6/>. This year's Symposium highlights numerous domestic and international issues of aquatic animal health management and regulation. Those planning to attend should start reviewing the excellent presentations now to decide how best to divide your time between concurrent sessions. If you have not yet decided to go – registration is still open, and lodging is still available!!! This is an aquatic animal health gathering not to be missed!

Activities throughout the year have lead to several accomplishments for the Section, but I take credit for none of them. Below are just a few of the highlights:

- The bluebook 2010 Edition is nearly ready for distribution, thanks to Sonia Mumford and the Technical Standards and Inspection Manual Committees. Visit the FHS website for availability and ordering information.
- The FHS is now a RACE provider of courses thanks to Al Dove and the Continuing Education Committee.
- The FHS has provided financial or other support to:
 - the 2010 Whirling Disease Symposium held at the Western Fish Disease Workshop
 - The National Coordinator for Aquaculture NADA with thanks from Roz Schnick for our support over the 15 years she has been in the position. This will be her last year as coordinator as she plans to retire.
 - The AADAP's newest poster on Fish Biologics which will be available to all interested parties shortly.

- The FHS has awarded travel funds to 11 domestic and foreign students to help in their attendance at the 2010 ISAAH, thanks to money made at the annual meeting hosted by Dave Groman in PEI in 2008.
- Jointly with the Fish Culture Section, the FHS has submitted a Motion to Establish Affiliate Member Subscription rate for AFS Publications to the AFS Governing Board for consideration at the upcoming Annual AFS meeting in Pittsburgh, PA.
- We have sent letters of support to USDA Secretary Vilsak on issues concerning formation of a National Advisory Committee for implementation of the NAAHP.
- We have recommended our VP Andy Goodwin to Secretary Vilsak to serve on his Advisory Committee on Animal Health.
- Most notably to me is the communications received by AFS President Don Jackson, who had sent a letter of support to the Fish Health and Fish Culture Sections jointly, encouraging our two Sections to become more involved with Society activities and meetings. Don acknowledged that over the years, a political rift formed that created a distance of sorts between AFS and our Sections. He has come to recognize that this rift is doing nothing but damage to the American Fisheries Society as a whole, and has extended an open hand of support in our Sections' effort to maintain and increase membership, and to boost interest in the JAAH and the North American Journal of Aquaculture. As a result, the FHS has realized important activities that the FCS has been involved in that demand our attention and support as well, most notably their efforts to improve the New Animal Drug Approval process. And I feel it would be most beneficial to all Society members if the FHS made sincere attempts to organize a part-day session devoted to aquatic animal health issues at each Annual AFS Meeting. Our own annual meetings and workshops will continue to be invaluable to Section members, but often are not appropriate for fisheries managers, culturists and administrators, despite their need for updates on current fish health issues. The 2011 AFS meeting will be in Seattle, so stay tuned for possible participation if you have an important message to present to the general AFS membership!

For those FHS members that cannot make it to the ISAAH 2010, I'd like to extend my sincere thanks for stepping up to participate on a committee or in some other capacity for the FHS. We are a Section of over 300 dedicated professionals from all walks of the aquatic animal health community. Recognize the importance of what the Fish Health Section can do as a collective force, and stay a strong member of that force!!!

For those of you who will be in Tampa, I look forward to seeing you and thanking you personally!!!

Trish Barbash
AFS-FHS President

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

<http://www.fisheries.org/units/fhs/meeting.php>

5TH AQUATIC ANIMAL MODELS IN HUMAN DISEASE

September 20-22

Oregon State University

(<http://oregonstate.edu/conferences/event/aamhd2010/index.html>)

If you are currently using aquatic models and are interested in learning about recent advances in their use for human health related research or if you are interested in learning how these models may be used for translational research, this conference is for you. The conference brings together researchers, industrial leaders, and funding agency representatives to discuss how the unique advantages of aquatic models are being exploited to accelerate our understanding of the cause of human diseases and for the discovery of novel treatments.

JOBS

RESOURCES and ISSUES

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON FDA GUIDANCE ON THE JUDICIOUS USE OF
ANTIMICROBIAL COMPOUNDS IN AQUACULTURE – See attached
boilerplate**

FDA has requested public comments on a draft Guidance Document #209, “The Judicious Use of Medically Important Antimicrobial Drugs in Food-Producing Animals”. This draft guidance is intended to inform the public of FDA’s current thinking on the use of medically important antimicrobial drugs in food-producing animals, including fish, and focuses on the issue of developing antimicrobial resistance through use of these compounds in animal production. Specifically, the document sets forth principles that, if adopted by the aquaculture industry, could affect the way in which antimicrobial compounds are accessed and applied.

Attached are instructions for submitting your comments to FDA, as well as draft comments prepared by the co-chairs of the Fish Culture Section Working Group on Aquaculture Drugs, Chemicals, and Biologics. Feel free to use or modify these comments in preparing your own submission to FDA.

Remember, this is your opportunity to have your voice heard—provide your feedback to FDA today!