

**Member Highlights of Activities for the  
Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Meeting  
May 6-8, 2015**

**Member Agency: APHIS  
Submitted by: P. Gary Egrie**

**Key ANS Activities from November 2014 through May 2015:**

*Major Accomplishments (bullets):*

APHIS Veterinary Services Aquaculture Program offered for public comment the Commercial Aquaculture Health Program Standards (CAHPS) which is a concept for establishing a nonregulatory voluntary framework for the improvement and verification of the health of farmed aquatic animals produced in U.S. commercial aquaculture industry sectors to facilitate trade. Principles outlined in the CAHPS may be used by industry, Federal, State, Tribal, and regulatory and private veterinary authorities to provide for early disease detection, surveillance, reporting and response for the control of aquatic animal pathogens—especially those listed by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)—and to prevent pathogen dissemination via movement and trade of aquatic animals.

The CAHPS are a new initiative that sets forth a model framework for the health of commercially farmed aquatic animals. The CAHPS recognize and build on current activities and existing guidelines for health of aquatic animals and aim to establish uniform standards for U.S. farmed aquatic animal health and movement. The goal of CAHPS is to provide uniform standards for U.S. commercially farmed aquatic animal health and movement and a template for known national aquatic animal health status. Implementation of CAHPS will provide leverage for APHIS in trade negotiations.

*Ongoing Work (bullets):*