

## **Chapter 2, DRAFT #3 10/20/03**

### **2. DEFINITIONS**

**Accredited Fish Health Inspector:** A person recognized by the Fish Health Section, American Fisheries Society (FHS/AFS), as competent and ethical in the conduct of fish health surveillance and monitoring. FHS/AFS maintains a roster of Accredited Fish Health Inspectors.

**Accredited Fish Pathologist:** A person recognized by the Fish Health Section, American Fisheries Society as competent and ethical in the conduct of fish health management, surveillance, and monitoring. FHS/AFS maintains a roster of Accredited Fish Pathologists.

**Accredited inspector:** The individual responsible for conducting monitoring and surveillance of farmed and wild aquatic animals for diseases and pathogens of concern. This person must be an Accredited Veterinarian, an Accredited Fish Health Inspector, or an Accredited Fish Pathologist. A list of accredited inspectors will be jointly maintained by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries. APHIS-issued health certificates must be signed by a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) accredited veterinarian.

**Accredited Veterinarian:** A person recognized by USDA/APHIS as competent and ethical in the conduct of aquatic animal health management, surveillance, and monitoring for diseases and pathogens of aquatic animals; is licensed to practice veterinary medicine in the United States, and is on the roster maintained by USDA/APHIS of Accredited Veterinarians.

**Appropriate level of protection (ALOP):** The level of sanitary measures necessary for the protection of human, animal, or plant life determined by a country as appropriate to its needs, as described in the SPS Agreement.

**Approved laboratory:** A laboratory in a member Office International des Epizooties (OIE) country that is approved by the Competent Authorities of that country.

**Aquaculture:** The rearing of aquatic animals under controlled and managed conditions for one or more of the following purposes: providing food for human consumption; enhancing and supplementing free ranging/wild populations; restoring depleted or endangered aquatic animal species; and providing economic opportunities and development.

**Bluebook:** The most current edition of the “Suggested procedures for detection and identification of certain finfish and shellfish pathogens” published by the American Fisheries Society, Fish Health Section (AFS-FHS) including the section specific to inspections entitled “Standard procedures for aquatic animal health inspections” published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the AFS-FHS.

**Certifying official:** The person authorized by the Competent Authorities of a member OIE country to sign health certificates for aquatic animals. NOAA Fisheries, FWS, and APHIS will jointly maintain a roster of certifying officials in the United States.

**Competent Authorities:** APHIS, FWS and NOAA Fisheries will be recognized as Competent Authorities by each other and by our trading partners as defined in legislation and interagency MOU's.

**Disease:** Clinical or non-clinical infection with one or more of the etiological agents of the diseases listed in this plan or in the OIE Code, or any other etiological agent of importance to the United States.

**Diseases notifiable to OIE:** The list of transmissible diseases considered to be of socio-economic and/or public health importance within countries and are significant in the international trade of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products. Reports are made annually to the OIE by member countries concerning the presence or absence of notifiable diseases in those countries, with the exception that OIE is to be notified within 24 hours of the finding of a disease notifiable to OIE if this is the first occurrence in a free country or zone or a re-occurrence in a country or zone in which the disease was thought to have been eradicated. (For the list of specific diseases that are notifiable to the U.S. Government and the OIE, see Appendix B).

**Diseases of significance:** Diseases that are of national or regional significance, including the list of diseases notifiable to the OIE. In addition to the diseases notifiable to the OIE, the United States or a region within the United States may establish its own list of diseases of significance, provided they can demonstrate that the diseases in question are of socio-economic and biological importance to their country/zone, and that a mandatory control program for said diseases does not exist in the respective country/zone.

**EEZ:** The Exclusive Economic Zone. This area is the marine waters from 3 to 200 miles off the coasts of the United States and its territories as specified in the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

**Emergency exotic pathogen (EEP):** A pathogen not previously known to occur in a zone/region and is known to cause significant economic and biological impacts. An emergency exotic pathogen may be present in a host without clinical disease. Finding of a pathogen in this classification will result in immediate management actions.

**Fallowing:** The process by which aquatic animal premises are kept vacant for a period of time for the control and management of aquatic animal pathogens.

**Federal Executive Committee (FEC):** The voting members of the Task Force who represent USDA/APHIS (chair of FEC), Department of the Interior/FWS (vice-chair) and Department of Commerce/NOAA Fisheries ( vice-chair).

**Free aquaculture establishment:** An aquaculture facility that fulfills the requirements for recognition as free of the specified pathogens of significance as specified by this technical working document and recognized as such by the Competent Authorities.

**Free country:** A country that fulfills the requirements for recognition as free of the specified diseases/pathogens of significance as specified by regulation.

**Free zone:** A zone that fulfills the requirements for recognition as free from the specified diseases/pathogens of significance as determined by regulation.

**Health certificate:** The official document signed by a certifying official attesting to the health and pathogen status of aquatic animals.

**Incidence:** The number of new outbreaks of disease within a specified period of time in a defined aquatic animal population.

**Infected zone:** A clearly defined zone in which a disease/pathogen of significance has been diagnosed. This area must be clearly defined (as per this consultation) according to the area's physical dimensions and boundaries, the different ecological and environmental factors involved, and the epidemiological factors.

**Inspection:** The procedure conducted by or under the direct supervision of an accredited inspector in order to determine the status of aquatic animals with regard to diseases or pathogens considered in this plan. The inspection may include a clinical examination, laboratory tests, and the application of procedures that could reveal the presence of infection in the population.

**Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture (JSA):** The interagency Federal subcommittee to the Committee on Science, National Science and Technology Council, Office of the President.

**Lot:** A group of aquatic animals of the same species in one aquaculture establishment. The group must have originated from the same spawning population, and must have always shared the same water supply.

**Notifiable pathogens (NP):** The pathogens that cause diseases of aquatic animals that are considered to be of economic and/or biological importance within regions/zones in the United States, and that are significant in the international trade of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products. A notifiable pathogen may be present in a host without clinical disease.

**Notification:** The procedure by which the Competent Authorities, State, tribal, and other appropriate regulatory authorities are informed of the finding of a notifiable pathogen.

**OIE Code:** The most current edition of the International Aquatic Animal Health Code of the Office International des Epizooties.

**OIE Diagnostic Manual:** The most current edition of the Diagnostic Manual for Aquatic Animals of the OIE.

**Pathogens of regional significance:** The causative infectious agents of diseases of significance listed in this plan or designated as such for a zone within the United States. A specified pathogen of regional significance may be present in a host without clinical disease.

**Population:** A group of aquatic animals of the same species residing together within the same zone. The group must have a similar history of exposure to diseases/pathogens of significance.

**Prevalence:** The total number of infected aquatic animals expressed as a percentage of the total number of aquatic animals in a lot or population at one specific time.

**Quarantine:** Maintaining aquatic animals in containment to prevent exposure of the aquatic animals or effluent from the containers to other animals or the environment.

**Reference laboratory:** A laboratory identified by the competent authorities of the United States or OIE as capable of conducting tests confirming the identity of a specific salmonid pathogen. A list of reference laboratories and their associated pathogens can be found in Appendix X.

**Risk:** The probability of an adverse event occurring that involves aquatic animal health or public health, or is of economic importance (such as a disease outbreak), and the magnitude of the event or harm that would result.

**Risk Assessment:** The process of identifying and estimating the risks associated with the movement of aquatic animals or aquatic animal products and evaluating the consequences of taking those risks.

**Specific Pathogen-Free Water (SPF Water):** Well, spring, or treated water demonstrated to be free of pathogens of significance diseases notifiable to the OIE.

**SPS agreement:** The *Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures*, WTO.

**Surveillance:** A systematic series of investigations of a given population of aquatic animals to detect the occurrence of disease or pathogens for control purposes, and which may involve testing tissues or fluids from aquatic animals in the population.

**Suspect:** A susceptible aquatic animal population or individual animal, or the parents of the aquatic animal in question, that have been exposed to a notifiable pathogen due to the presence of the infectious agent in cohorts, or via horizontal exposure due to the presence of the disease/pathogen in other aquatic animal populations or vectors within the zone.

**Task Force:** The members of the National Aquatic Animal Health Task Force (NAAHTF) commissioned by the JSA.

**Transfer:** Any movement of aquatic animals or their larvae, eggs, or gametes between or within a zone, including any movements between culture facilities, watersheds, or designated zones.

**Watershed:** Geographically distinct river basins that have separate entrances to marine and/or estuarine areas. A watershed may include one or more primary river systems.

**Zone:** A portion of one or more countries comprising an entire catchment area from the source of a waterway to the estuary, more than one catchment area, part of a catchment area from the source of a waterway to a barrier, or a part of coastal area, or an estuary with a precise geographical delimitation that consists of a homologous hydrological system.

**Zoning:** Identifying zones for disease control purposes.