

**Outline for: Work Plan for Federal Aquaculture Regulatory Task Force**  
**August 1, 2019**  
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1	<b>Executive Summary</b> ( <i>1 page</i> )
2	<b>Introduction</b> ( <i>1 page</i> ) Federal strategic goal of improving regulatory efficiency and predictability under existing laws and regulations for freshwater and marine aquaculture Key interagency and federal-state issues raised by aquaculture regulations Key science and technology needs to facilitate streamlined regulations and timely management decisions under these regulations
3	<b>Goal 1. Improve the Efficiency and Predictability of Aquaculture Permitting in State and Federal Waters</b> ( <i>8 pages</i> )
4	Objective 1.1: Try to expand categories of use for Army Corps nationwide permit 48 and NPDES general permits or develop new general permits
5	Objective 1.2: Maintain and update state-by-state information on shellfish farming requirements
5	Objective 1.3: Set up, as needed, regional interagency coordinating groups and regional coordinated permit processes similar to the one operating for authorization of new operations in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico
7	Objective 1.4: As appropriate, develop coordinated processes for permit application and development, compliance with federal review and consultation requirements (NEPA, ESA, EFH, etc.), monitoring, inspections, and other elements of regulatory programs
9	Objective 1.5: Provide guidance to aquaculture producers (freshwater and marine) on the expectations of the NPDES program, including clarification on which operations are required to obtain permit coverage and mechanisms for meaningful input to the permitting and compliance processes
10	Objective 1.6: Establish a way to accredit veterinarians for activities in federal waters Objective 1.7: Establish federal process for testing and certifying the human health requirements of product grown in federal waters so that product may enter commerce
11	<b>Goal 2. Implement a National Approach to Aquatic Animal Health Management of Aquaculture</b> ( <i>8 pages</i> )
12	<b>Subgoal 2.1: Aquatic Animal and Aquaculture Health</b> ( <i>6 pages</i> )
12	Objective 2.1.1: Work with partners and stakeholders to establish proficient, efficient and equivalent standards or guidelines for aquatic animal and aquaculture health including inspections and diagnostics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Review, evaluate and update of the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan</li> <li>– Review the Aquatic Animal Health Task Force Memorandum of</li> </ul>

- Understanding by USDA/APHIS, NMFS, and FWS (expires 2020)
  - Incorporate the Commercial Aquaculture Health Program Standards (CAHPS) into the updated NAAHP
  - Assess laboratory standards and needs to support aquatic animal health
  - Participate and assist with the update of the American Fisheries Society’s Blue Book on guidance for diagnostics and inspection
  - Establish a diagnostic standards committee to establish criteria and methods for aquatic animal pathogens
  - Draft case definitions for priority and emerging pathogens of aquatic animals
- 14 Objective 2.2.2: Improve efficiencies for drug approvals, biologics, and feed ingredient reviews
- 15 Objective 2.1.3: Review NEPA analyses of specific pathogen risks and pharmaceutical/chemical use, including concerns of effluent
- 15 Objective 2.1.4: Review and clarify requirements for domestic movement of live aquatic animals across state lines<sup>16</sup>
  - Improve coordination and communication of Lacey Act implementation and impact on farm raised aquatic animals
  - Clarify federal ANS regulations and review standards for implementation and enforcement
  - Work with states to clarify requirements for movement of shellfish across state lines (Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Commission and state requirements)
  - Examine opportunities to streamline/minimize the regulatory burden on stakeholders engaged in interstate movement of aquatic animals
- 17 Objective 2.1.5: Develop surveillance strategies and emergency response plans for priority aquatic animal pathogens
  - Define federal and state agency authority for reporting and responding to priority aquatic animal pathogens
  - Surveillance strategies to support domestic zoning or regionalization for specific aquatic animal pathogens
  - Establish a communication plan and standard operating procedure for reporting detections of priority aquatic animal pathogens
- 18 **Subgoal 2.2: International Trade** (*1 page*)
  - Objective 2.2.1: Clarify and define federal agency roles in aquatic animal health attestations/certifications and import/export
    - Review and renew the Memorandum of Understanding between APHIS, NOAA, and FWS (expires in 2020) for interagency export coordination
    - Establish communication standard operating procedures and points of contacts for federal and state agencies involved in the movement (import/export) of aquatic animals
- 19 **Goal 3. Refine and Disseminate Tools for Aquaculture Regulatory Management** (*8 pages*)
- 20 Objective 3.1: Identify needs and prepare work plans for additional science information needed to inform federal and state permit reviews, consultations, and policy decisions
- 21 Objective 3.2: By [insert date], identify two areas of marine waters where methods for improving efficiencies in the siting, permitting, and authorization of aquaculture operations can be tested and demonstrated, in partnership with state agencies where appropriate.

22	Objective 3.2: Implement priority actions in tool development, which may include, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Refine AquaMapper and Ocean Reports, extend these siting tools to state waters</li> <li>– NEPA analysis of finfish net pen operations</li> <li>– Eelgrass issues and shellfish farming</li> <li>– Entanglement risks posed by aquaculture gear and design and management practices to avoid or minimize those risks</li> <li>– Genetic/escape models</li> <li>– Water column and benthic impact models</li> <li>– Analysis of potential efficiencies in water discharge regulatory approaches for pond and land based aquaculture</li> <li>– Bird predation</li> <li>– Exotic species screening</li> <li>– Socioeconomic analyses of regulatory efficiency measures</li> <li>– Educational, decision making, and reference tools for federal and state agency staff (e.g., online databases of permitted projects, consultation reference material, screening tools, NEPA analyses, webinars, videos, “virtual tours” of various types of aquaculture facilities/operations)</li> </ul>
27	<b>Implementation Plan</b> ( <i>2 pages</i> )
29	<b>Summary of Stakeholder Engagement</b> ( <i>1 page</i> )