



Fish Health Section



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

FHS NEWS

JOINT ANNUAL FHS MEETING AND 52ND WESTERN FISH DISEASE WORKSHOP

June 14-16, 2011
Nanaimo B.C.

The Aquatic Animal Health Section at the Pacific Biological Station in Nanaimo, BC invite you to attend the **2011 Joint AFS Fish Health Section and Western Fish Disease Meeting** on June 15-16, 2011 at the Nanaimo Conference Center. The workshop will be preceded by a full day continuing education session on June 14th. Registration and additional information will be available soon at <http://www.fisheries.org/units/fhs/index.php>. **Now is the time to reserve the dates on your calendar and make your room reservations.**

***Please remember that if you are traveling from the US, a valid passport is now mandatory for both air and land travel.**

Lodging: There are 2 hotels in the downtown area of Nanaimo that will be offering conference rates for this meeting. These hotels are situated directly across from each other and are ½ block away from the Conference centre.

Best Western Dorchester: www.dorchesternanaimo.com

Room rates: \$109/night. Rooms will be held under “Western Fish Disease Workshop” for individual call reservations. Please call the Toll Free reservations telephone line at 1-800-661-2449 to confirm reservations with this group.

Coast Bastion Inn:

http://www.coasthotels.com/hotels/canada/bc/nanaimo/coast_bastion/overview

Room rates: \$129-\$189/night. Rooms will be held under “Western Fish Disease Workshop” for individual call reservations. Please call the toll free reservations telephone line at 1-800-663-1144 to confirm reservations with this group. To book online please go to website below to check for availability and enter group code CBI-GFC7234 on reservation page.

Room block cut off date: May 13, 2011

Recreational Opportunities:

Vancouver Island is a prime holiday destination for enjoying fishing, hiking, scenic outings and generally a fun time. Hence it is a great venue for conferences and meetings. Please visit <http://www.hellobc.com/en-CA/RegionsCities/VancouverIsland.htm> to get a preview.

**Important Dates: April 29, 2011
June 01, 2011**

**Deadline for abstract submission
Deadline for registration**

Contact Information: If you have any questions at this time please contact either:

Mark Higgins
Aquatic Animal Health Section
Pacific Biological Station
3190 Hammond Bay Road
Nanaimo, BC V9R 5K6

or Dr. Eva Jakob
Aquatic Animal Health Section
Pacific Biological Station
3190 Hammond Bay Road
Nanaimo, BC V9R 5K6

Email: Mark.higgins@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Phone (250)756-7072

Eva.Jakob@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Phone:(250) 756-7035

ABSTRACTS DUE APRIL 29, 2011

Please prepare abstracts in Microsoft Word format and email as an attachment to Dr. Simon Jones (Simon.Jones@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) by April 29, 2011. Power Point will be the format for all oral presentations.

Guidelines for Abstract Preparation

1. Abstract must fit on single side page with margins set at 1.5" on all sides.
2. Use Times New Roman 12 pitch font
3. Center the title and use all capitals. Genus and species names should be in italics.
4. Provide a double space between the title and authors.
5. For each author provide first name, middle initial and last name. Use bold script for author presenting the paper. Follow each name with a numeric superscript to denote affiliations.
6. Provide a single space between authors and affiliations. Affiliations should include mailing address plus postal/zip code.
7. Provide double space between affiliations and body of the abstract.
8. Provide a double space between the body of the abstract and an indication of whether you prefer oral presentation or poster.
9. If you are a student presenter and wish to be considered for the Best Student Paper Award, write student after Oral Presentation.

CONTRIBUTED POSTERS WELCOME FOR FHS-SPONSORED SYMPOSIUM AT 141ST ANNUAL AFS MEETING IN SEATTLE, WA: ABSTRACT DEADLINE FEBRUARY 25, 2011

We have just received notification that a proposal for an FHS-sponsored symposium on ecology of infectious and parasitic diseases in wild fish populations has been accepted for the annual American Fisheries Society meeting September 4-8, 2011, in Seattle, WA. The half-day symposium program of invited oral presentations will highlight some of the recent advancements in

disease ecology of wild fishes from an international perspective.

Because the AFS Program Committee received far more symposium proposals than can be accommodated in the meeting schedule, we are extremely pleased that the FHS symposium proposal was accepted. Although the schedule of invited oral presentations has been set, we invite FHS members to submit abstracts for contributed presentations (preferably posters) related to the symposium topic. Even with an expanded number of concurrent sessions, the Program Committee expects space for contributed oral papers to be very limited.

Therefore, potential attendees are encouraged to submit abstracts for posters rather than contributed oral papers. The poster space available is huge, with excellent traffic flow, so the AFS program committee expects that poster contributors will be very pleased with the experience. Abstracts must be submitted online by **February 25, 2011** at:

<http://afs.confex.com/afs/2011/contributed/cfp.cgi>

A description of the symposium follows:

Ecology of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases in Populations of Wild Fish

Session Organizers: Paul Hershberger <phershberger@usgs.gov> and Diane Elliott <dgelliott@usgs.gov>

Unlike traditional fish health research, which has focused primarily on the identification, treatment, and prevention of diseases in hatchery and cultured fishes, research in the field of disease ecology typically involves understanding, forecasting, and mitigating the detrimental impacts of diseases on wild populations. Historically, the few investigations involving infectious and parasitic diseases in wild fishes have been limited primarily to periodic pathogen prevalence surveys and pathological responses to epizootic fish kills. These approaches, although valuable for identifying pathogens of concern and documenting some population-level impacts of disease epizootics, are largely ineffective at determining sub-epizootic effects of diseases, understanding environmental conditions that preface diseases, or mitigating disease impacts on wild populations. However, new insights into the ecology of diseases in wild fish populations have recently been realized using novel approaches that combine methodologies and principles from traditional fish health, pathology, molecular biology, epidemiology, population biology, and specific etiological disciplines (i.e. virology, bacteriology, parasitology) with well-controlled empirical studies that ascribe cause-and effect disease relationships between host, pathogen, and environmental variables. This symposium highlights some of the recent advancements in disease ecology of wild fishes by providing case histories where this research approach has been effective. The intent of this symposium is to demonstrate the utility of disease ecology research for understanding temporal and spatial fluctuations in population sizes and demographics that are typically veiled within the natural mortality constant (M) of fishery population models.

Thank you for your interest,

Diane Elliott and Paul Hershberger

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

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

**AQUATIC DRUGS SESSION AT THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
VETERINARY PHARMACOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS SYMPOSIUM – see
attached AAVPTagenda poster brochure.pdf**

There will be an Aquatic Drugs Session at the American Academy of Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics Symposium in Madison Wisconsin in May.

Talks include:

Approved Drugs and Unmet Needs in the US: Roz Schnick

Unique Aquatic Drug Pharmacology and Pharmacokinetics and their use in drug approval: Bill Hayton and Sanja Modrick

Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership - an unique approach and research protocols for approving aquatic drugs: Mark Gaikowski

Advances in Minor Use, Minor Species Drug Approval and Regulations: Sanja Modrick

Availability, Environmental, Resistance, and Other Issues Facing Aquatic Drug Use: Panel Discussion

Further information on abstract submission, registration (coming soon) and program can be found at <http://aavpt.org/17thBiennial.shtml>.

JOBS

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

EUROPHARMA AQUATIC VETERINARY POSITIONS OPEN

February 2, 2011

Application deadline: February 28, 2011

Europharma Scotland Ltd. is hiring aquatic veterinarians in order to form a new and producer independent fish health service for Scottish aquaculture.

Europharma is the leading supplier of fish health products for the Norwegian fish farming industry with sister companies in Chile, Canada and the United Kingdom. With systems for pharmaceutical retailing and our own ATPase laboratory already in place in Scotland, the next step is to form a veterinarian fish health service to directly serve Scottish fish farmers. This venture will form the strategic starting point for the launching of similar services in other European countries.

As an aquatic veterinarian for Europharma you will work closely with Scottish fish farmers in order to ensure good fish health, be it through preventive measures or pharmaceutical treatment. Scientific competence is highly rated in Europharma, and producer independence reinforces the scientifically unchallenged status of our veterinarians. The position may involve some traveling.

We seek candidates with relevant educational degrees and work experience as fish health veterinarians. Good communication skills are vital, as is your team work ability.

We offer competitive salaries and benefits and an opportunity to participate in the continued expansion of a remarkable group of companies which totaled a combined 2009 turnover in the excess of £80m. Amongst the subsidiaries are companies involved in development, production and sale of fish feed, pharmaceutical development, pharmaceutical pre-wholesale and transport management.

For further information please contact:

Jim Nordly – Ph: +47 906 32 722; Email: jrn@nordly.no

Paal Kruger – Ph: +47 954 53 6201 Email: paal.kruger@europharma.no

Submit your application by e-mail before February 28th to: jrn@nordly.no

RESOURCES

NEWS

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD OPEN FOR UNAPPROVED ANIMAL DRUGS –
[see comments Unapproved Animal Drugs_Bowker.doc](#)

FHS members -

Well, it's time to provide comments to FDA relative to unapproved animal drugs. FDA posted a request for comments in the Federal Register on strategies to address the prevalence of animal drug products marketed in the U. S. without approval or legal marketing status. Several options were proposed, including better use of publically available literature and revisiting enforcement discretion. Although these proposals may have some merit, the real problems are what is required to gain approval of a drug for use in aquaculture and the lack of enforcement. This dilemma has resulted in some serious discussion about how to best provide comments: whether it's best to provide comments on the proposals or be direct in our belief that the system is broke and it needs to be fixed.

Attached is a cover letter and a document of "boiler-plate" comments in which we've tried to do both. We encourage everybody who has a vested interest in the availability of approved or legally marketed drugs for use in aquaculture or fisheries management to take the time to read through and submit the comments...as is or revised to reflect your thinking on this. Without your help, the status quo will not change.

Jim Bowker

Help address the prevalence of animal drug products marketed in the U. S. without legal marketing status

The U. S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) is requesting comments on approaches for increasing the number of animal drug products with legal marketing status. More specifically, they wish to explore various mechanisms to increase the number of approved or otherwise legally marketed animal drugs. In addition, FDA is requesting comment on the limited use of enforcement discretion as an element of their overall strategy.

The FDA drug approval process ensures that (1) animal drugs are safe and effective, (2) the sponsor demonstrates that their manufacturing process can reliably produce the drug at the expected identity, strength, quality, and purity, (3) product labels contain information necessary to understand the products' risks, and (4) adverse effects of a drug are reported by the sponsor even after an approval is granted to assist FDA in continuously assessing risks that might be associated with particular products.

The FDA recognizes that drugs that are not approved, conditionally approved, or indexed are routinely used. They also recognize that many of these drugs are, or were, the standard of care in treating animals, and some are essential to protecting animal health, ensure an adequate food supply, identify populations, or used to minimize stress due to handling.

This is an opportunity for fisheries professionals to have our voice heard, and to provide comments that may allow for greater, legal access to aquaculture drugs in the future.

This announcement is being distributed by the American Fisheries Society Fish Culture Section Working Group on Aquaculture Drugs, Chemicals, and Biologics (WGADCB). Co-chaired by representatives from industry, academia, and federal and state agencies, the mission of the WGADCB is "to enhance the health and production of aquatic animals cultured in the United States through support of the development, and safe and legal use of aquaculture drugs, chemicals and biologics." To this end, several WGADCB co-chairs and others have provided comments that have been incorporated into the attached document and will ultimately be submitted to the FDA on this issue. The attached comments **can**

be modified or used directly by any individuals or groups in providing their own comments to FDA.

Please join us in providing FDA with this important feedback. There are several ways to submit your comments to FDA:

Electronic comments can be submitted via the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow the instructions for submitting comments. Briefly – click on Submit a Comment, select Notice from the dropdown menu as the document type, enter Unapproved Animal Drug in the Enter Keyword or ID box, scroll down and click on Submit a Comment, fill in your contact information, and download the comment file.

Written submissions can be mailed to the Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061, Rockville, MD 20852

All submissions received must include the agency name (U.S. Food and Drug Administration) and docket number for this rule making (FDA-2010-N-0528).

Provide FDA with your comments by February 18, 2011

DOC AND NOAA DRAFT AQUACULTURE POLICY RELEASE

NOAA and the Department of Commerce have released complementary draft national aquaculture policies. The policies are available via the NOAA Aquaculture Program website:
<http://aquaculture.noaa.gov>

They will be seeking public comment on these draft policies for the next 60 days. There are two remaining national call-ins to brief the public on the policies on Feb 16 and Feb 23. Information on the call-ins is available on the website along with copies of the draft policies and online comment forms:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/aquaculture/policy2/>

The draft policies respond to public input submitted to NOAA during 2010 by emphasizing the protection of wild species, and acknowledging the importance of sound science for management decisions. The draft DOC policy focuses on sustainable aquaculture within the context of the key Commerce goals of encouraging economic growth and employment opportunities in the United States and of enhancing United States competitiveness in, and exports to, global markets. The intent of NOAA's draft policy is to guide NOAA's actions and decisions on aquaculture and to provide a national approach for supporting

sustainable commercial production, expanding restoration aquaculture, and researching and developing new technologies.