

## Aquatic Livestock Committee Report

2014 NIAA Annual Conference

Tuesday, April 1, 2014



The Aquatic Livestock Committee met on Tuesday, April 1, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. during the 2014 NIAA Annual Conference in Omaha, Nebraska, with about 19 people present. Mr. Todd Low and Dr. David Scarfe served as Co-Chairs.

The committee session focused the precautionary principle and the draft resolution. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to the regulatory environment and how it affects aquatic livestock operations:

**Ronald L. Stotish, PhD – President and Chief Executive Officer of AquaBounty Technologies**, presented “Food Fight: Policy and Politics”

**Mr. Kevin Maher – Founder - Director of Business Development of GlobalVetLink**, presented “50-State eCVI and eVFD System for Improved Animal Health”

### Old Business:

### New Business:

- Consensus Points for NIAA White Paper Development
  - The seafood industry is worth an estimated \$100B with \$50B in aquaculture. The majority of today’s value is imported products. There is an immediate opportunity to develop a domestic aquaculture industry around rising seafood demand and the need for food security and safety.
  - The aquatic livestock industry is fragmented around species, regions and use (food/sport/ornamental). Exacerbating this disorientation is the non-alignment of Federal and State regulatory entities regarding jurisdiction, philosophy and organizational mandates.
  - Many of the issues and challenges of the aquatic livestock (ex: the precautionary principle) are mirrored in the other livestock segments. Aquatic livestock must learn from and be supported by the other livestock sectors to take advantage of synergistic opportunities and develop a stronger presence for overall domestic protein production. The NIAA is the only US organization to coalesce the livestock industry into an effective forum which can provide the necessary infrastructure to support aquaculture development.
- The committee voted to pass the draft resolution as presented (motion by Glenn Fischer, seconded by Tony Forshey)

### Background:

The lack of a national aquaculture plan, with committed resources, has led to a fragmented industry that is often at odds with itself when competing for funds, markets or political support.

Global shifts in production and demand have combined with this domestic environment to create a seafood security crisis in the US. The growing seafood demand has created a 2011 trade deficit of \$11.2B. The deficit will only increase as the US ranks second in the world in seafood consumption but represents only 0.8% of global aquaculture production. With fisheries production capped, domestic aquatic livestock production must increase to reverse the trade deficit and provide a safe and secure source of seafood.

**Resolution:**

The NIAA Aquatic Livestock Committee will plan an aquatic livestock stakeholder meeting to be held in the fall of 2014 to discuss increasing domestic aquatic livestock production and the creation of a National Roundtable for Sustainable Seafood (NRSS). The NRSS will coordinate collaboration between the wild-catch and aquatic livestock industries, leverage food system linkages, and begin to discuss the national aquaculture plan issue(s). Special attempts will be made to bring on board aquaculture/seafood sectors which have not traditionally been engaged, such as distribution, consumption and recycling.

**General Discussion:**

Committee Session adjourned at 12:30PM.