



**ASSOCIATION of
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES**

The voice of fish and wildlife agencies

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October 29, 2007

Stephen F. Sundlof, D.V.M., Ph.D.
Director, FDA/Center for Veterinary Medicine
7519 Standish Place
Rockville, MD 20855

Dear Dr. Sundlof:

On behalf of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Association), I am writing with regards to the Federal State Aquaculture Drug Approval Partnership Project (Project). Established in 1994, the Project has received the support of 38 member state fish and wildlife agencies and extensive expertise and funding from the Center of Veterinary Medicine of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Geological Survey. The effort to obtain approval for eight important aquatic drugs has required tireless efforts of these federal agencies, a Drug Approval Working Group, and the National Coordinator of Aquaculture New Animal Drug Application.

I would like to take the opportunity to express our gratitude for the overall sustaining support of the Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) and in particular for the contribution of technical expertise from the Aquaculture Drugs Team and other groups in the Office of New Animal Drug Evaluation. The Project has benefited from continuous feedback and proactive guidance from CVM from its inception. The innovative and thoughtful approach of the Aquaculture Drugs Team has made a significant difference in accomplishing the considerable challenges of approving drugs for multiple species, differing environmental culture conditions across the nation, stringent human food safety requirements including tissue residue and microbial food safety, and implementing the new provisions of the Minor Use and Minor Species (MUMS) Animal Health Act. Results in the form of the first-ever approved drugs for treating significant hatchery diseases such as bacterial gill disease, columnaris disease, and bacterial coldwater disease in finfish are being received with great enthusiasm!

The Association is grateful for the enduring efforts of FDA/CVM, the Office of New Animal Drug Evaluation, and Dr. Donald Prater and the Aquaculture Drugs Team in their pursuit to address the ongoing needs of public aquatic resource management. The Project's collaborative effort of state and federal organizations is a powerful partnership that will result in continued drug approvals to assist fisheries professionals in the protection and management of our nation's aquatic resource far into the future. Thank you for your many and varied contributions.

Sincerely,

Matt Hogan
Executive Director

cc: Dr. Bernadette Dunham
Dr. Steven Vaughn
Dr. Joan Gotthardt
Dr. Donald Prater

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