



ASSOCIATION *of*
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES

The voice of fish and wildlife agencies

Hall of the States
444 North Capitol Street, NW
Suite 725 • Washington, D.C. 20001
Phone: 202-624-7890
Fax: 202-624-7891
E-mail: info@fishwildlife.org
www.fishwildlife.org

October 29, 2007

Dr. Edward Knipling, Administrator
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service
Jamie L. Whitten Building, Room 302-A
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington DC 20250

Dear Dr. Knipling:

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, the Association's Drug Approval Working Group, and the National Coordinator of Aquaculture New Animal Drug Applications.

I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the fiscal support and excellent accomplishments of the Harry K. Dupree Stuttgart National Aquaculture Research Center (HKD-SNARC) of the Agricultural Research Service and particularly the scientists of the therapeutics evaluation and disease research section under the leadership of Dr. David Straus. The HKD-SNARC scientists have made valuable contributions to address Project needs in drug and chemical development. The capability of HKD-SNARC scientists to address the four major technical sections for drug approval (Human Food Safety, Efficacy, Target Animal Safety and Environmental Safety) has evolved over the duration of the Project and is exceptional. Through collaborative technical contributions, two chemicals (copper sulfate and potassium permanganate) have received partial approval for various label claims as therapeutants in aquaculture, and we anticipate great progress in the near future. Efforts by HKD-SNARC scientists and their partners are ongoing to obtain approvals for the remaining drugs under the Project and to address other important chemical needs identified by various cooperators since the Project's inception. This work will continue to have great positive impact on fisheries and the aquaculture industry.

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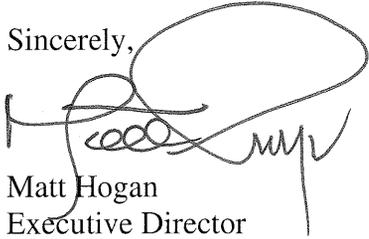
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The Association strongly supports the continued efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service and the Harry K. Dupree Stuttgart National Aquaculture Research Center in drug and chemical development to address the continuing needs of public and private aquatic resource management. The Project's collaborative effort of state and federal organizations is a powerful partnership that will result in continued drug approvals and fishery management chemical registrations to assist aquaculture and fisheries professionals in the protection and management of our nation's aquatic resources far into the future. Thank you for your continued contributions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Hogan", with a large, loopy flourish above the name.

Matt Hogan
Executive Director

Cc: Dr. Jeff Silverstein
Dr. Dan Upchurch
Dr. Don Freeman