



ASSOCIATION of
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES

The voice of fish and wildlife agencies

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Dr. Mark D. Myers, Director
U.S. Geological Survey
John W. Powell Federal Building
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, Virginia 20912

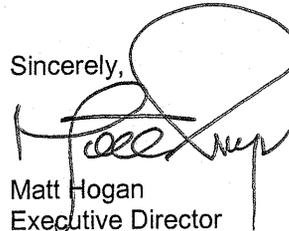
Dear ~~Dr. Myers~~: Mark

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 fiscal support and excellent accomplishments of the U.S. Geological Survey to address Project needs. The Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center (USMEC), Chemistry and Physiology Branch, has been a remarkable leader in fishery management drug and chemical development for not only the duration of the Project, but throughout a long and distinguished history spanning 40 years. USMEC's capacity to address four major technical sections for drug approval (Human Food Safety, Efficacy, Target Animal Safety, and Environmental Safety) is unique and unparalleled. Through their collaborative technical contributions, four chemicals (Aquaflor®, 35% PEROX-AID®, formalin, and oral oxytetracycline) received initial approval or additional label claims for use in fish culture and fisheries management. Efforts by USMEC and their partners are ongoing to obtain approvals for the five remaining drugs under the Project as well as other important chemical needs identified by state cooperators since the Project's inception.

The Association strongly supports the continued efforts of the U.S. Geological Survey and the USMEC in drug and chemical development to address the continuing 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 and fishery management chemical registrations to assist fisheries professionals in the protection and management of our nation's aquatic resource far into the future. Thank you for your continued contributions.

Sincerely,



Matt Hogan
Executive Director

Cc: Mr. Virgil Moore
Mr. Steve Sharon
Mr. Ron Regan
Dr. Amber Pairis
Dr. Sue Haseltine
Dr. Robert Szaro
Dr. Doug Beard
Mr. Timothy Petty

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