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Resolution 2013-04-06 Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership Program Funding

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Resolution 2013-04-06

AQUATIC ANIMAL DRUG APPROVAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM FUNDING

WHEREAS, the Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership Program (AADAP) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) serves an essential and unique federal role in drug approvals for public and tribal activities in aquaculture and fisheries management; and

WHEREAS, AADAP currently provides 21 Investigational New Animal Drugs (INAD) that would not be otherwise available to control stress in our nation's fish hatcheries and in the wild, initiate spawning for key species, and reduce preventable disease outbreaks; and

WHEREAS, AADAP provides services to 48 states including 237 public programs and 38 state fish and wildlife agencies; and

WHEREAS, the National INAD program administered by AADAP is essential to the restoration, recovery, and management activities of state, federal and tribal fish and wildlife agencies for 40 threatened and endangered (T&E) species and numerous other native species of concern; and

WHEREAS, AADAP is an irreplaceable partner in a collaborative aquatic drug approval effort that includes state fish and wildlife agencies, the USFWS, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration–National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA-NMFS), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), private aquaculture and numerous drug companies; and

WHEREAS, the USFWS is an active member of the five-year Memorandum of Agreement between USFWS, USGS, NOAA-NMFS, and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) to continue joint aquatic drug approval activities through October 10, 2017; and,

WHEREAS, the 2013 Strategic Vision for Fish and Aquatic Resource Conservation in the Fish and Wildlife Service recently released by the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council specifically identifies AADAP's "essential and unduplicated services to the USFWS and its partners" and outlines individual Activity and Outcome objectives for the program; and

WHEREAS, the USFWS has reduced the FY2014 AADAP budget by \$400,000 and is proposing zeroing out the budget in FY2015 in favor of a user pay model; and

WHEREAS the states have already invested over seven million dollars in the development of the Federal-State Aquaculture Drug Approval Partnership Project; and

WHEREAS, the states are now dependent on the federal investment to continue operating this Partnership; and

WHEREAS, the states, to assist the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) manage its federal obligations under the Endangered Species Act, use drugs to treat federally-listed threatened and endangered species while they are propagated in state operated hatcheries and in field based fishery management; and

WHEREAS, federally recognized Treaty Tribes use drugs to manage fish production for subsistence and traditional uses;

Adopted September 11, 2013
Portland, Oregon

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies strongly encourages the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to work closely with the Fisheries and Water Resources Policy Committee and the Drug Approval Working Group to:

1. Coordinate efforts to obtain full funding for the FY2014 AADAP budget through various strategies both within and outside of the USFWS budget to cover the estimated \$300,000 deficit;
2. Maintain full operations of AADAP and the National INAD program throughout the FY2014 budget year; and
3. Revisit the importance of the AADAP program for FY2015 and beyond to develop annual budget strategies that include adequate base funding to maintain and insure continuation of collaborative drug approval efforts.

Submitted by the Drug Approval Working Group of the Fisheries and Water Resources Policy Committee