



Government  
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# NAAHP

National Aquatic  
Animal Health Program



Canada

**D**isease is a significant threat to sustainable farmed and wild aquatic stocks world wide. In the Spring 2005 budget, the Government of Canada announced a \$59 million investment over five years with permanent funding thereafter for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) to implement and deliver a National Aquatic Animal Health Program (NAAHP). This new program is designed to meet international aquatic animal health management standards to protect Canadian aquatic resources (wild and farmed) from serious infectious diseases and to maintain competitive international market access.

## **What is the National Aquatic Animal Health Program (NAAHP)?**

The NAAHP is a science-based regulatory program for aquatic animal diseases which have been designated reportable or notifiable in Canada because of their potential impact on trade and our economy. The program consists of measures needed to prevent, control and/or eradicate aquatic animal diseases of concern. The NAAHP is modeled after Canada's internationally recognized terrestrial animal health program and will respect the health measures of the Aquatic Animal Health Code of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

The NAAHP is comprised of the following key elements for listed diseases of concern:

- Listing of aquatic animal diseases meeting international and national criteria for mandatory reporting
- Legislation, regulations and policies
- Surveillance (early detection), monitoring and reporting
- Zonation (regionalization)
- Disease databases

- Laboratory diagnostic testing and capacity building
- Quality Assurance/Quality Control
- Scientific research and technology development
- Import controls
- Export certification
- International relationships (influencing setting of standards, trade negotiations)
- Contingency planning
- Disease control and eradication (containment standards and quarantine, disease preparedness and response, etc.)
- Education and training
- Risk analysis
- Awareness
- Animal welfare
- Record keeping (tracking and tracing)
- Codes of practice
- Hatchery Program

## **Why does Canada need a National Aquatic Animal Health Program?**

As a member of the OIE and the World Trade Organization, Canada is obliged to implement OIE standards for trade purposes, including trade in aquatic and terrestrial animals. In addition, Canada is a member of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and signatory to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries aimed at conservation of resources for sustainable economic productivity. Canada's major trading partners are adopting regulatory frameworks for their own aquatic animal health programs to meet these international scientific standards. Canada may be required to attest, for export purposes, that aquatic animals and their products originate from regions, farms or sites that are free of reportable or notifiable diseases.

## Who is responsible for the NAAHP?


The Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, who is responsible for the CFIA, and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans are jointly implementing the federal responsibilities for the NAAHP. This collaboration between Canada's veterinary services and fisheries authority will greatly facilitate Canada's capacity to meet international obligations for aquatic animal health management.

The CFIA provides the overall program lead for the NAAHP under the legislative authority of the *Health of Animals Act* and Regulations. The Agency is responsible for the disease surveillance/monitoring protocols and control measures for reportable diseases. DFO delivers and oversees the National Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory System.

Since the management of the wild and aquaculture industries is a shared responsibility in Canada, the NAAHP is designed to respect federal and provincial/territorial jurisdictions. Expertise and collaboration from provinces/territories and industry will continue to be sought to minimise duplication or gaps in an effort to ensure that all aquatic animal diseases are well managed by government and industry.

## How are stakeholders consulted on NAAHP?

The Aquatic Animal Health Committee (AAHC) has members which include the Canadian Aquaculture Industry Alliance (CAIA), the Fisheries Council of Canada (FCC), the Aboriginal Aquaculture Association, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) provincial representatives, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. The AAHC advises the CFIA and DFO on matters relating to the development and implementation of



the NAAHP. Information will be shared extensively with all stakeholders as major components of the NAAHP evolve. This approach will ensure a comprehensive and coordinated aquatic animal health management program for Canada.

## Where can I find out more about the NAAHP?

Information concerning the NAAHP is available on the CFIA web site at:

**[www.inspection.gc.ca/english/direct/naahp](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/direct/naahp)**

For DFO areas of responsibility:

**[www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science)**

Or by calling our toll-free inquiries line at:

**1 800 442-2342**