

Done in Washington, DC, this 16th day of March 2001.

Bobby R. Acord,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 01-7108 Filed 3-21-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 98-085-4]

Aquaculture; Public Meeting

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: We are issuing this notice to inform the aquaculture industries, interested parties, and the general public that a public meeting will be held to discuss how and to what extent the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service should regulate aquatic species and to discuss any other issues concerning possible regulation of aquaculture by the Agency.

DATES: The public meeting will be held on Thursday, April 5, 2001, from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at the University of Maine at Machias, Kimbal Hall, Science Room 102, 9 O'Brien Avenue, Machias, ME, in conjunction with the 9th Annual New England Farmed Fish Health Management Workshop.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information about the APHIS public meeting, contact Dr. Otis Miller, Jr., National Aquaculture Coordinator, Center for Planning, Certification, and Monitoring, VS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 46, Riverdale, MD 20737-1231, (301) 734-6188.

For information regarding the 9th Annual New England Farmed Fish Health Management Workshop, contact Ms. Susan MacDonald or Dr. Mike Optiz, 5735 Hitchner Hall, Room 332, Orono, ME 04469-5735; phone (207) 581-2788 or fax (207) 581-4430. Information is also available online at http://www.umaine.edu/livestock/NE%20Fish/findex_Machias.htm.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 4, 1999, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) published an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR) titled "Aquaculture: Farm-Raised Fin Fish" in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 23795-23796, Docket No. 98-085-1). We published this

ANPR after receiving petitions¹ asking us to regulate aquaculture in various ways. Many petitioners asked us to define farmed aquatic animals as livestock. In general, the petitioners seemed to be interested in receiving the same services that domestic producers of livestock receive for animals moving in interstate and foreign commerce. However, based on the petitions alone, it was difficult for us to determine what segments of the industry want services and exactly what services they want. It was also difficult to determine the objectives sought by the petitioners who were requesting Federal regulation. We published the ANPR in an attempt to clarify the industry's needs, the nature of the services sought, and the concerns the petitioners had with regard to such regulations.

We received 55 comments² in response to the ANPR. A majority of the commenters supported the idea of APHIS regulation of cultured fin fish. Unfortunately, the commenters generally did not clearly distinguish between fin fish raised for food and ornamental fin fish. Commenters who wanted regulation were, however, very clear that they want programs to prevent and control disease and to support increased commerce, both domestic and export.

The commenters also suggested that any rulemaking initiated by APHIS be a negotiated rulemaking. In negotiated rulemaking, industry representatives and other interested persons meet with APHIS officials and draft proposed regulations together. The proposed regulations are then published for public comment. Negotiated rulemaking is designed to ensure that all interested persons are involved together from the start in the development of regulations.

Unfortunately, negotiated rulemaking is not suitable for all situations. It works well when there is a small number of interested parties and the parties are easy to identify. This is not the case

with aquaculture. Because the aquaculture industry is large and diverse, we would have difficulty identifying everyone who should be represented in a negotiated rulemaking. In addition, many parties outside of aquaculture would have a substantial interest in such a rulemaking. In our view, the number of people who would need to participate in a negotiated rulemaking would be too large and would suggest that negotiated rulemaking is not appropriate. Furthermore, a negotiated rulemaking would be expensive, and APHIS does not have adequate funds. Therefore, we have concluded that it would not be appropriate to pursue an aquaculture negotiated rulemaking.

However, we have not decided whether to pursue aquaculture rulemaking by other means. Before we make that decision, we want to have as much information as possible from all interested persons, and we want to provide you with as much opportunity as possible to discuss with us and inform us regarding the relevant issues.

Therefore, we are holding a series of public meetings. Public meetings allow all interested parties—industry representatives, producers, consumers, and others—to present their views and to exchange information among themselves and with APHIS.

There are no set agendas for the meetings. Any issues and concerns related to aquaculture and possible APHIS regulatory action can be discussed. However, we would like more information on three specific issues. These are issues that the people and organizations who commented on our ANPR either did not address or were unclear about. Specifically, if APHIS does propose regulations: (1) Should our program be mandatory or voluntary; (2) should we cover shell fish; and (3) should we cover ornamental fin fish?

Information elicited at the meetings could result in a new APHIS regulatory program or in changes to aquaculture-related services currently provided by APHIS.

We have scheduled this public meeting, the third meeting in our series, for Thursday, April 5, 2001, at the University of Maine at Machias, ME. If you wish to speak at the meeting, please register in advance by calling the Regulatory Analysis and Development voice mail at (301) 734-8139. Leave a message with your name, telephone number, organization, if any, and an estimate of the time you need to speak. You may also register at the meeting. Please register at the meeting room between 9 a.m. and 9:30 a.m., 12 noon

¹ All the petitions and comments we received are a part of the rulemaking record for Docket No. 98-085-1. You may read the petitions and comments in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690-2817 before coming.

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and 12:30 p.m., and 4:30 p.m. and 5 p.m., before the meeting officially begins. Starting with the advance registrants, we will call speakers in the order in which they registered.

The meeting will begin at 5 p.m. and is scheduled to end at 8:30 p.m. We may end the meeting early if all the registered speakers have had a chance to speak and if no one else wants to speak. We may also extend the meeting or limit the time allowed for each speaker, if necessary, so all interested persons have an opportunity to participate.

An APHIS representative will preside at the meeting. The meeting will be recorded. We encourage speakers to present written statements, though it is not required. If you choose to present a written statement, please provide the chairperson with a copy. The complete record, including the transcript and all written comments, will be available to the public.

This meeting is the third in our series of public meetings. The first public meeting was held on January 25, 2001, in Lake Buena Vista, FL. The second public meeting was held on February 16, 2001, in Hebron, KY. We plan to hold additional meetings in Idaho (June 2001, in conjunction with the Idaho Aquaculture Association Annual Meeting), Washington (September 2001, in conjunction with the Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association Annual Conference), Pennsylvania (October 2001, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Aquaculture Advisory Committee and Pennsylvania Aquaculture Association Annual Meeting), Mississippi (October 2001, in conjunction with a meeting of the Catfish Farmers of America), and Arkansas (October 2001, in conjunction with a meeting of the Catfish Farmers of Arkansas). We will publish a notice or notices in the **Federal Register** announcing the dates, times, and locations of the meetings.

Done in Washington, DC, this 19th day of March 2001.

Bobby R. Acord,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 01-7163 Filed 3-21-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 00-113-2]

Public Meeting; Veterinary Biologics

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: This is the second notice to producers of veterinary biological products, product users, and other interested persons that we are holding our tenth public meeting to discuss regulatory and policy issues related to the manufacture, distribution, and use of veterinary biological products. This notice includes information on the agenda, as well as on the place, dates, and times of the meeting. It also indicates a contact person for obtaining registration forms, lodging information, and copies of the agenda.

DATES: The public meeting will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 10 and 11, 2001, from 8 a.m. to approximately 5 p.m. each day.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in the Scheman Building at the Iowa State Center, Iowa State University, Ames, IA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information concerning registration and agenda topics, contact Ms. Kathy Clark, Center for Veterinary Biologics, Veterinary Services, APHIS, 510 South 17th Street, Suite 104, Ames, IA 50010-8197; phone (515) 232-5785; fax (515) 232-7120; or e-mail Kathryn.K.Clark@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has previously announced that it is scheduling the tenth public meeting on veterinary biologics in Ames, IA, on April 10 and 11, 2001 (see 65 FR 69729, Docket No. 00-113-1). In that notice, APHIS requested that interested persons submit suggestions for agenda topics. Based on the submissions received and on other considerations, the agenda for the tenth public meeting includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- International harmonization;
- Labeling;
- Animal care;
- Target animal safety;
- Duration of immunity/efficacy; and
- Updates on current topics of interest.

In addition to the above topics, we will also hold a breakout session to discuss rabies vaccine testing. During the "open discussion" portion of the meeting, attendees will have the opportunity to present their views on any matter concerning the APHIS veterinary biologics program. Comments may be either impromptu or prepared. Persons wishing to make a prepared statement should indicate their intention to do so at the time of registration by indicating the subject of their remarks and the approximate

amount of time they would like to speak. APHIS welcomes and encourages the presentation of comments at the meeting.

Registration forms, lodging information, and copies of the agenda for the tenth public meeting maybe obtained from the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. This information is also accessible on the world wide web at the following address: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/cvb>.

Done in Washington, DC, this 20th day of March 2001.

Craig A. Reed,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 01-7263 Filed 3-21-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Southwestern Region, Arizona, Coconino County, Coconino National Forests

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The coconino National Forest is planning to prepare an environmental impact statement on a proposal to manage livestock grazing use on the Windmill Range Allotment during the next 10 years.

DATES: Comments in response to this Notice of Intent concerning the scope of the analysis should be received in writing by on or before April 23, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to USDA Forest Service, Coconino National Forest, Peaks Ranger Station, 5075 N Hwy 89, Flagstaff, AZ 86004. Electronic mail may be sent to mhannemann@fs.fed.us.

Responsible Official: The Forest Supervisor of the Coconino National Forest, Supervisor's Office 2323 Greenlaw Lane, Flagstaff, AZ 86004, will decide what actions are most appropriate for managing the Windmill Allotment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mike Hannemann, Interdisciplinary Team Leader, Peaks Ranger District, (520) 526-0866.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This proposal has a Forest Service permit of up to 1,097 cattle year-round on the 248,792 acres Windmill Allotment. This is the same number of cattle as currently permitted. An additional Arizona State Land Department permit of 160 head in