

 **NOTICE**

United States Department of Agriculture • Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service • Legislative and Public Affairs
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**IMPLEMENTATION OF RULE ON VIRAL HEMORRHAGIC SEPTICEMIA
DELAYED INDEFINITELY**

January 2, 2009

On Sept. 9, 2008, APHIS published an interim rule in the *Federal Register* to restrict the interstate movement and importation into the United States of live fish that are susceptible to viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS), a highly contagious disease of certain freshwater and saltwater fish.

That interim rule was scheduled to become effective on Nov. 10, 2008. Subsequently, on Oct. 28, 2008, APHIS published a notice in the *Federal Register* announcing the delay of the effective date of the interim rule until Jan. 9, 2009. The effective date is now being delayed indefinitely to provide APHIS with time to make some adjustments to the interim rule that are necessary for the rule to be successfully implemented.

Notice of this action is published in the Jan. 2 *Federal Register*.

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Note to Reporters: Public notices and other APHIS information are available on the Internet. Go to the APHIS news release page at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov> and click on the “Newsroom” button. For additional information about this topic contact Madelaine Fletcher at (301) 734-6125 or by e-mail at madelaine.fletcher@aphis.usda.gov.