

John Fischer – Ongoing and Emerging Wildlife Disease Threats

1. National Fish and Wildlife Health Initiative

- Endorsed by AFWA in 2005
- Overarching goals: enhance agency capacity & reduce negative impacts of health issues on fish and wildlife
- Accomplishments in training and informational materials
- In 'stasis' since 2011 in face of state/fed budget issues
- 2013 – Now time to reignite the NFWHI
- Chairman Bob Duncan has asked Becky Humphries to serve as Chair of the NFWHI Steering Committee
- Each regional association is asked to provide a Director for the Steering Committee

2. Drug Enforcement Agency Controlled Substances Act

- Uneven enforcement of CSA problematic for wildlife agencies (and private DVMs) in some states
- Requires separate registrations for each address where CS's are used or stored
- AFWA attempted to work together with AVMA but...
- AVMA has worked with OR representative; a bill in HR but applies ONLY TO DVMs
- AFWA is seeking information on problems encountered by wildlife agencies to provide evidence of the problem – Contact Jen Mock Schaeffer or Arpita Choudhury

3. White Nose Syndrome

- a. Detected in 22 states and 4 provinces since 2006
- b. Estimated mortality through 2011: 5.7-6.7 MILLION bats
- c. New locations 2013: Illinois, Georgia, South Carolina, PEI; Mammoth Cave & Cumberland Gap National Parks
- d. 7 species affected: little brown bat, big brown bat, tri-colored bat, northern long-eared bat, eastern small-footed bat, Indiana bat, gray bat

4. Hemorrhagic Disease (HD)

Severe outbreak in 2012, possibly bigger than the 2007 outbreak

HD outbreaks appear to be most severe in areas experiencing severe drought

Nationwide HD data collected annually by SCWDS since 1980, 2012 data still coming in

EHDV-6 virus from more than 25% of cases diagnosed at SCWDS, predominated in several states from Michigan and Wisconsin to Florida and Louisiana

EHDV-6 was first detected in USA in 2006 and in a handful of deer since then

HD epidemiology is changing --- similar changes seen in Europe with bluetongue virus (very similar to EHDV and also causes HD in deer) and with Schmallenberg virus, another virus vectored by *Culicoides* insects

5. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

- USDA CWD Rule: Implemented December 2012: Nine years after Proposed Rule published; June 2013: 30 states applied to participate: 26 approved, including IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, MI, MN, MO, ND, OH, SD, WI; 4 pending
- 5 years of CWD testing of all deaths >1 yr old for herd to be certified as **low risk** for CWD, there is no “certified CWD-free” status
- Is 5 years of monitoring enough?
 - Minnesota: Red Deer Herd CWD positive in May 2012; Monitored for 12 years; ‘Shooters’ shipped to: FL, IA, MO, PA, TN, TX
 - Iowa captive white-tailed deer breeding herd CWD positive in 2012: Monitored more than 9 years (10/25/02 - 1/9/12); Sent deer to Missouri and 13 Iowa herds: 2 Iowa shooter pens wound up with CWD; 500 WTD quarantined, feed bill/yr = \$180,000
 - Pennsylvania captive white-tailed deer herd CWD positive in 2012: Monitored more than 9 years; 32 PA premises quarantined due to live animal movement; Deer shipped from CWD+ index herd to IL, IN, MN, OH, LA, NY & OK; Deer escaped from CWD+ index herd in PA and from IN herd that received deer
- USDA CWD Program Standards
 - Published 2012; captive cervid industry disapproved, requested revisions with its input...
 - USDA-APHIS formed working group with reps of captive cervid industry, state DVMs, biologists, and APHIS personnel ...

- Weekly conf calls November - June, despite a Jan deadline insisted on by the industry
- Revised Standards will be published in Federal Register for public comment
- Extremely important to review the document and provide comments
- Example of proposals from captive cervid industry: ship animals interstate from quarantined herds to shooting pens in areas where CWD is already in wildlife (CWD+ herd in Iowa to Missouri shooting pens where CWD is present in pen and in the wild deer surrounding area)
- APHIS Rule/Program Standards **WILL NOT** reduce risk to levels acceptable to wildlife agencies (e.g. does not include reindeer despite oral susceptibility)
- **States should implement regulations to reduce risks to an acceptable level**