

From: Stephen, Stephen <Stephen.Stephen@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>
Sent: Friday, November 27, 2009 12:31 PM
To: 'Brian.evans@inspection.gc.ca'
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Subject: Positive Finding Of Infectious Salmon Anaemia virus (ISAV)
Attach: Aquatic_Animal_Disease_Detection PW-AV.doc

Dr. Brian Evans,
Chief Veterinary Officer for Canada
Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Dear Dr. Evans:

Our Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) National Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory System (NAAHLS) lab in Moncton is recognised by CFIA as the National Aquatic Animal Health Program (NAAHP) National Reference Laboratory for ISAV. On 25 November, 2009 samples obtained from a research facility at Fortune, Prince Edward Island tested positive for Salmon Anaemia virus (ISAV) at our lab.

Based on molecular strain typing data from two 'third party' laboratories (the OIE ISAV Reference Laboratory in Charlottetown & the Research and Productivity Council in New Brunswick), it would appear that this ISAV is a new strain having a 9 amino acid deletion in the hemagglutinin protein. We (DFO) are in the process of confirming this observation and should have our own sequencing data by the end of next week (Dec 04), at which time it could be added as an additional observation to the OIE report.

DFO does not have the same authorities as CFIA will have under the proposed amended *Health of Animal Regulations* however the department currently does have responsibility for the the *Fish Health Protection Regulations* (FHPR) under the *Fisheries Act*. The FHPR are regulations respecting the protection of all species and hybrids derived from species of fish belonging to the family Salmonidae (salmon, trout, char, grayling etc.).

Under Section 3 of the FHPR no person shall import cultured fish or eggs of wild fish without an import permit. Furthermore Section 5 notes that no import permit shall be issued unless the person who applies for the permit has obtained a (fish health) certificate and that the certificate indicates that no disease or disease agent listed in Schedules II to IV was detected; or the local fish health officer is satisfied that none of the detected diseases or disease agents indicated on the certificate will be harmful to the conservation and protection of fish in the province of importation.

While ISAV is only listed, in the FHPR, as a disease of dead fish its presence would be clearly noted to meet on import permit and health certificate requirements for any domestic transfers or imports of live fish between provinces. Provincial Introductions and Transfers Committees (ITCs) would then assess any risks that such transfer would present.

With respect to international exports of live fish or eggs from this facility DFO would identify that the facility has tested positive for ISAV should we be asked to sign a fish health certificate for export.

Should you require any additional information please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen J Stephen

Stephen J Stephen, MSc
A/Director | Directeur intérimaire
Biotechnology and Aquatic Animal Health Science Branch | Direction des sciences biotechnologie et santé des animaux

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