

CASE NUMBER: 03F-63-P3-23

DATE: Aug 15, 2003

**MORPHOLOGIC DIAGNOSES:**

Slide 28, P3-23-1:

There are no significant lesions in the kidney, heart, liver, spleen, peripheral vasculature, or peripheral nerves.

Slide 29, P3-23-gills:

1). Gills, 3 of 5: Branchitis, moderate, multifocal, acute, necrohemorrhagic, with florid intralesional filamentous bacilli and rod bacteria

**COMMENTS:**

Although there were no discernible lesions within slide 28, histopathology of slide 29, revealed random, necrohemorrhagic branchitis which would have contributed at least moderately to impaired respiratory function. The intralesional bacteria are consistent with *Flexibacter* spp or *Flavobacterium* spp with possible, supervening Gram negative bacilli; if fresh tissue is available, follow up bacterial culture or possible molecular testing is recommended. As these fish were likely shedding bacteria antemortem, additional stock has presumably been exposed and should be closely monitored for clinical signs referable to the respiratory system. The lack of sectioned internal viscera involvement suggests a possible primary respiratory colonization and invasion.

**\*FINAL REPORT\***