

May 16, 2011  
RDIMS #2904857

***Aquatic Animal Health Division***  
***Canadian Food Inspection Agency***  
**Record of Decisions**

**Third Party Notification of Suspect Infectious Salmon Anaemia (ISA) in  
Salmon Aquaculture in the Marine Environment of British Columbia**

**Background:**

The requirement to notify CFIA of the suspicion or detection of Reportable aquatic animal diseases came into effect on January 5, 2011. Infectious Salmon Anaemia is a Reportable disease.

Alexandra Morton, Raincoast Research Society, sent a series of 35 reports from the Animal Health Centre, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (AHC – BCMAL), obtained through her role with the Cohen Commission, to the President of the CFIA, citing evidence of suspected cases of ISA that she said should have been reported to the World Organization of Animal Health (OIE) (2 emails dated April 28, 2011). These reports represent sample submissions from 2007 to 2010 from the aquaculture industry in BC.

[REDACTED] The Aquatic Animal Health Division initiated an evaluation to identify whether the premises should be considered High Risk (high probability of infection), Low Risk (unlikely probability of infection but some uncertainty exists) or No Risk (not infected) for probability of infection with ISAV.

To date, ISA has never been reported in British Columbia (Surveillance and Monitoring, AAHD). In addition, federal disease control measures have been in place for approximately 20 years and still remain in place in BC to mitigate against the introduction of ISAV into the aquaculture industry (*Fisheries Act* and supporting regulations and regional policies – administered by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)) (see References for regional policy).

**Consulted with:**

Pascale Nérrette,  
Surveillance and  
Monitoring, AAHD

Cindy Wong, Senior  
Officer, Governance,  
Aquaculture  
Management, DFO  
(604-666-6831).

**Initial Evaluation:**

Alexandra Morton did not send all the reports involved in the notification (email dated April 28, 2011); 10 were received. However, case numbers were provided and these were requested by Dr. Kim Klotins from BCMAL on May 5, 2011 and received the same day. Information in the Final Reports was assessed against the case definition for High Risk outlined in the draft Hazard Specific Plan for ISA. Technical input from members of the Disease Control Working Group, a group that reports to the Aquatic Animal Health Committee (AAHC) [a stakeholder/partner/rightsholder advisory group for the NAAHP (National Aquatic

Animal Health Program)] was received and informed the case definition. Premises that did not meet the case definition were classified as No Risk (no infection) or Low Risk (unlikely but some uncertainty existed because information was not complete).

Of the 35 reports, 29 were evaluated as No Risk and 6 were evaluated as Low Risk. Five of the 6 Low Risk reports were generated in 2009; one was generated late in December of 2008 [data available in the Excel spreadsheet – see References]. Six premises were identified as Low Risk because the described histological lesions can be seen with ISA but no other information was available in the reports to assess against the other criteria of the ISA case definition; some uncertainty remained even though the likelihood of infection with ISA was deemed unlikely. The premises would need to be contacted to obtain information on clinical signs, mortality pattern, gross post mortem lesions, and any other testing that was done, and to determine if these populations are available for sampling, if required.

The 6 reports involved 2 salmon farming companies: Marine Harvest Canada and Mainstream Canada. It was recommended that CFIA continue its inspection of these cases by contacting these 2 companies for more information.

#### **Follow-up (Decision #1):**

Dr. Kim Klotins contacted Mr. Vincent Erenst, Managing Director of Marine Harvest and Mr. Fernando Villarroel, Managing Director of Mainstream on May 26, 2010. In both cases, Directors indicated that company veterinarians would provide CFIA with requested information.

Dr. Peter McKenzie (Mainstream Canada) was contacted on May 27, 2011 by Dr. Kim Klotins and provided with the AHC Case numbers (09-805 and 09-2936). Information was received on June 5, 2011 and June 20, 2011. With the supplied information, these cases were evaluated against the case definition for ISA and assessed as No Risk by Dr. Gary Kruger, Area Program Specialist (Aquatic). No additional inspection, including sampling, is required. Dr. Kim Klotins concurs.

Dr. Diane Morrison (Marine Harvest Canada) was contacted on June 1, 2011 by Dr. Kim Klotins and provided with the AHC Case numbers (08-4813, 09-109, 09-111, and 09-2849). Information was received on June 2, 2011. With the supplied information, these cases were evaluated against the case definition for ISA and assessed as No Risk. Dr. Gary Kruger, Area Program Specialist (Aquatic). No additional inspection, including sampling, is required. Dr. Kim Klotins concurs.

#### **Issues:**

1. There is now a requirement for BCMAL and salmon producers to contact CFIA if they suspect or detect ISAV. The reports from BCMAL should indicate clearly whether there is a basis for suspicion of ISA based on their findings and knowledge of the disease.

#### **Implications:**

1. It is likely that CFIA will be required to present our response to this notification and our conclusions to the Cohen Commission (could be as early as late August or early September 2011).
2. No other implications were identified with this notification as it did not lead to a change in the health status of Canada's aquatic animal populations. There is no requirement to notify the OIE.

<p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <p><u>May 17, 2011</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In order to decrease the uncertainty associated with the Low Risk designation of these 6 cases or to further assess the likelihood (eg. to No Risk), additional information and perhaps samples are required. It is recommended that CFIA conduct further inspections with the identified companies.</li> </ol> <p><u>June 24, 2011</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. All cases were evaluated as NO RISK for ISA. It is recommended that this information also be communicated to BCMAL and the companies that provided additional information.</li> <li>3. It is recommended that CFIA work with BCMAL to identify when to report a suspicion of ISA to CFIA.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Recommended by:</b></p> <p>Kim Klotins, Acting National Manager, Disease Control Contingency Planning, AAHD</p>
<p><b>Decisions:</b></p> <p>Recommendation #1: Continue with inspection activities. Information Memorandum was sent to the Vice-President, PPB, RDIMS#2841334.</p> <p>Recommendation #2: BCMAL to be given a 'heads up' on our findings. Final communication with the companies will be provided once the President of CFIA has been briefed on the findings.</p> <p>Recommendation #3: CFIA to meet with BCMAL to define when BCMAL needs to report suspicion of ISA to CFIA.</p>	<p><b>Made by:</b></p> <p>Annie Champagne, Director, AAHD; Ian Alexander, ED, AH Directorate ; Paul Mayers, AV-P, PPB.</p>
<p><b>References:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Email containing letter from Alexandra Morton to Carole Swan dated April 28, 2011 (RDIMS# 2907635).</li> <li>2. Email containing 10 reports from Alexandra Morton to Carole Swan dated April 28, 2011 (RDIMS# 2907635).</li> <li>3. ISA/ISAV Hazard Specific Plan, Draft v1.0 (RDIMS# 2767243).</li> <li>4. Fisheries and Oceans Canada. POLICY FOR THE IMPORTATION OF ATLANTIC SALMON INTO BRITISH COLUMBIA. In effect since 1992. (RDIMS# 2906419).</li> <li>5. Assessment of BCMAL Reports_ISAV. (RDIMS# 2877491).</li> </ol>	