

From: Miller-Saunders, Kristi
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2009 9:45 AM
To: Saunders, Mark <Mark.Saunders@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>
Subject: Briefing report

Hi Mark,

I am scheduling my week and need to have a better indication of whether I will be spending more time on a minister's briefing note or not. It is clear that Michael is putting together some sort of briefing note from the meeting, will that be all that is required? If so, I may book some meetings in Vancouver this week.

Also, I should let you know that I did discuss these data with Mike Lapointe (who is a collaborator on our GBC project), Jim Cave and Catherine ? from the PSC last week. They are extremely interested in these results, and have agreed to keep it quiet for now until we get a full handle on the data and its implications. They were most interested in the timeline (too bad I did not get a chance to show that slide at the meeting) and tracking where and when the disease may have originated. I found out that Jeremy Hume has been collecting 1 and 2 year old juveniles/smolt in Chilko every year since 1992, and have asked to get access to those samples. In talking to Mike Kent (who first described the virus in Chinook salmon in 1988), it is clear that while they did find a low incidence (6%) of the disease in wild Chinook at the time (1991/1992), they did not observe it in wild sockeye (screened 175 SOG/lower Fraser fish), although they showed that it was infective to them. I found one report that suggested that when they tried to culture sockeye with Chinook salmon, that some did become infected, indicating the potential of horizontal transmission.

Thus, it is highly likely that the incidence and rise of SLV (or what we hypothesize to be SLV) in sockeye did not occur until the mid-1990's. This is something that I should be able to track using Jeremy's samples, with the caveat that we would only be looking for tumour incidence, not total disease incidence. This is most interesting, given the entry timing shifts in late-run sockeye started in 1996. Also of note is that in the 1990's, there was only a small proportion of late-run fish entering the river early, and over time, it has become a more general phenomenon with a larger proportion of the fish entering early than at the normal time in most years.

Kristi Miller

Head, Molecular Genetics Section
Pacific Biological Station
Nanaimo, BC
phone (250) 756-7155
fax (250) 756-7053
Please Note new email address effective Jan 2008:
Kristi.Miller@dfo-mpo.gc.ca