

Mandatory Notification and Suspect Phase Disease Response Policy for the National Aquatic Animal Health Program

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1. Purpose Statement

The purpose of this document is to

1. describe the mandatory notification policy for detection or suspicion of a Reportable, Immediately Notifiable, Annually Notifiable, and emerging¹ aquatic animal disease; and
2. determine when to initiate the Suspect Phase of disease response, as described in the Aquatic Animal Health Functional Plan.

2. Authority

The *Reportable Diseases Regulations* sets out the diseases prescribed as “reportable”. The *Health of Animals Regulations* sets out the diseases prescribed as “immediately notifiable (Schedule VII) and “annually notifiable” (Schedule VIII).

2.1 Authority for Notification

Health of Animals Act

CONTROL OF DISEASES AND TOXIC SUBSTANCES

NOTIFICATION AND SAMPLES

Notification by owner, etc.

5. (1) A person who owns or has the possession, care, or control of an animal shall notify the nearest veterinary inspector of the presence of a reportable disease or toxic substance, or any fact indicating its presence, in or around the animal, immediately after the person becomes aware of the presence or fact.

Notification by veterinarian, etc.

5. (2) Immediately after a person who is a veterinarian or who analyzes animal specimens suspects that an animal is affected or contaminated by a reportable disease or toxic substance, the person shall so notify a veterinary inspector.

Samples of animals or other things

6. (2) A person who owns or has the possession, care or control of an animal or of any other thing that is capable of being affected or contaminated by a disease or toxic substance shall supply in the prescribed manner such samples from the animal or other thing as the Minister may request.

¹Emerging diseases will be assessed on a case-by-case basis by the Aquatic Animal Health Division.

PROHIBITIONS

Concealment

8. No person shall conceal the existence of a reportable disease or toxic substance among animals.

Health of Animals Regulations

GENERAL PROVISIONS

NOTICES

91.2 (1) Every laboratory that diagnoses or suspects the appearance in an animal or thing of a disease set out in Schedule VII shall notify the Minister immediately of the diagnosis or suspicion.

91.2 (2) Along with that notification, the laboratory shall include

(a) the name, address and telephone number of the person who owns or has the possession, care or control of the animal or thing;

(b) the location of the animal or thing; and

(c) all other information that the laboratory has in relation to the animal or thing.

91.2 (3) Every laboratory that diagnoses or suspects the appearance in an animal or thing of a disease set out in Schedule VIII shall notify the Minister of the diagnosis or suspicion immediately after the end of the calendar year in which the appearance of the disease is diagnosed or suspected.

2.2 Authority for Inspection

Health of Animals Act

PROHIBITIONS

Digging up carcasses: Experimentation and examination

13. (2)(b) The Minister may authorize an inspector or officer to perform a post mortem examination of the carcass of an animal that has died or is suspected of having died from a disease or toxic substance and, if the carcass is buried, to dig it up for the purpose of the examination.

ADMINISTRATION

INSPECTION

Inspection

38. (1) For the purpose of detecting diseases or toxic substances or ensuring compliance with this Act and the regulations, an inspector or officer may

(a) subject to section 39, at any reasonable time, enter and inspect any place, or stop any conveyance, in which the inspector or officer believes on reasonable grounds there is any animal or thing in respect of which this Act or the regulations apply;

(b) open any receptacle, baggage, package, cage or other thing that the inspector or officer believes on reasonable grounds contains any animal or thing in respect of which this Act or the regulations apply;

(c) require any person to present any animal or thing for inspection in such manner and under such conditions as the inspector considers necessary to carry out the inspection;

(d) examine any animal or thing in respect of which this Act or the regulations apply and take samples of it;

(e) require any person to produce for inspection or copying, in whole or in part, any record or document that the inspector or officer believes on reasonable grounds contains any information relevant to the administration of this Act or the regulations; and

(f) conduct any tests or analyses or take any measurements.

Operation of data processing systems and copying equipment

38. (2) In carrying out an inspection at any place under this section, an inspector or officer may

(a) use or cause to be used any data processing system at the place to examine any data contained in or available to the system;

(b) reproduce any record or cause it to be reproduced from the data in the form of a print-out or other intelligible output and take the print-out or other output for examination or copying; and

(c) use or cause to be used any copying equipment at the place to make copies of any record or other document.

Health of Animals Regulations

SEGREGATION AND INSPECTION OF ANIMALS

INSPECTION

4. An inspector may inspect any animal in Canada that

- (a) is affected or suspected of being affected with a communicable disease;
- (b) has been in contact with an animal so affected or suspected of being so affected;
- (c) is in an eradication area; or
- (d) is imported or tendered for import into Canada.

3. Context

Mandatory notification of aquatic animal diseases is an essential component of the National Aquatic Animal Health Program (NAAHP). Of the 20 aquatic animal diseases in the *Reportable Disease Regulations*, 11 are enzootic in various parts of Canada. All of the Immediately Notifiable diseases are considered exotic to Canada except for Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome (EUS). Disease response and/or disease control programs are expected to be put in place for the Reportable and Immediately Notifiable diseases.

All of the Annually Notifiable diseases are enzootic in Canada. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) requires information about detections of Annually Notifiable diseases for market access purposes, but no disease response or disease control activities will be conducted for these notifications.

Mandatory notification aligns the NAAHP with international standards for an early detection system, as described in the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) *Aquatic Animal Health Code*. The CFIA will use the information to meet Canada's obligation to report aquatic animal disease to the OIE.

In addition:

- Early notification is an essential component for preventing and limiting disease spread, as well as for increasing the probability of successfully eradicating disease by initiating disease response strategies described in the Aquatic Animal Health Functional Plan (AAHFP).
- A mandatory notification system helps to establish Canada's aquatic animal health status, thereby enhancing Canada's market access by complying with World Trade Organization (WTO) requirements.
- Mandatory notification serves as a method of surveillance to establish the aquatic animal health status in Canada, parts of Canada, or at the premises level. The information will inform the zonation of Canada according to disease presence and absence.
- Mandatory reporting allows the CFIA to obtain epidemiological intelligence on aquatic animal diseases. Knowledge is still lacking on susceptible species, the clinical signs, post-mortem findings, and histological lesions associated with disease in particular aquatic animal species.

The aquatic animal diseases currently listed as Reportable or Immediately Notifiable do not pose a risk to human health.

Of the aquatic animal diseases listed as Annually Notifiable, *Streptococcus iniae* is zoonotic, primarily in people who work in close contact with warm water species of fish. The risk of infection with *S. iniae* for CFIA staff will be addressed by Area OSH Safety Officers.

4. Abbreviations/Definitions

AAHFP	Aquatic Animal Health Functional Plan
AAHD	Aquatic Animal Health Division
AquaPIQ	Aquatic Premises Inspection Questionnaire
AQUERS	Aquatic Emergency Response Information Management System
BCSFA	British Columbia Salmon Farmer's Association
BCSGA	British Columbia Shellfish Grower's Association
CCFAM	Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers
CFIA	Canadian Food Inspection Agency
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
DCCP	Disease Control Contingency Planning
FHPR	<i>Fish Health Protection Regulations</i>
MAPAQ	Agriculture, Pêcheries et Alimentation Québec
NAAHP	National Aquatic Animal Health Program
NAAHLS	National Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory System
NBDAAF	New Brunswick Department of Aquaculture and Fisheries
NLDFA	Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture
NSDFA	Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
OSH	Occupational Safety and Health
WAHIS	World Animal Health Information System

Aquatic animal: any finfish, mollusc or crustacean, including any germplasm or life stage of those animals (*Health of Animals Regulations* [Canada]).

Aquatic animal health status: the status of a country, zone, or premises with respect to an aquatic animal disease. In Canada, the aquatic animal health status of geopolitical and/or geographic regions of Canada will be determined according to the criteria listed in sections 196 to 198 of the *Health of Animals Regulations* (Canada).

Clinical signs: any objective evidence of a disease, such evidence as is perceptible to the examining veterinarian.

Commercial laboratory: a laboratory that accepts fees for testing services. The definition may extend to facilities, including government facilities, for diagnostic, research, or other services.

Communicable disease: an infectious or contagious disease (*Health of Animals Regulations* [Canada]).

Compartment: one or more premises containing one or more aquatic animal populations with a distinct health status with respect to one or more diseases.

Cultured aquatic animals: aquatic animals that are being held (kept) within a premises.

Direct contact premises: a premises that is at risk of being infected with an aquatic animal disease because of exposure to infected susceptible species of aquatic animals, either because the influent water for the premises is contaminated by infected wild susceptible species of aquatic animal populations and/or because of the introduction of infected susceptible species of aquatic animals to the premises, including those used as feed for aquatic animals.

Disease: includes (a) a reportable disease and any other disease that may affect an animal or that may be transmitted by an animal to a person, and (b) the causative agent of any such disease (*Health of Animals Act* [Canada]).

Emerging disease: a newly recognized serious disease, the cause of which may or may not yet be established, that has the potential to be spread within and between populations, for example by way of trade in aquatic animals and/or aquatic animal products (OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code*).

Enzootic: a disease in animals that is prevalent in a particular locality (synonym: endemic).

Fomite: a thing (an inanimate object) that can harbour disease and may serve as a transmitter of disease.

High probability of infection: the probability of infection in a defined population of aquatic animals is > 50%.

Index case: the first case of the disease in a defined geographic location and time period.

Indirect contact premises: a premises that is at risk of being infected with an aquatic animal disease because of exposure to contaminated fomites, or contaminated or infected vectors.

Low probability of infection: the probability of infection in a defined population of aquatic animals is < 50%.

Minister: the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (*Health of Animals Act* [Canada]).

New notification: the notification of an **index case**.

Non-commercial laboratory: a laboratory that does not accept fees for tests performed.

Not infected: the probability of infection in a defined population of aquatic animals is $\leq 2\%$.

Person: any word or expression that is descriptive of a person, and includes a corporation. Corporation does not include a partnership that is considered to be a separate legal entity under provincial law (*Interpretation Act* [Canada]).

Premises: a place with cultured aquatic animals; a house or building with its grounds, etc.

Province: a province of Canada, and includes Yukon, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut (*Interpretation Act* [Canada]).

Recurrent notification: the notification of an enzootic regulated aquatic animal disease that has already occurred within a defined geographic location or aquatic animal population.

Reportable: prescribed as reportable by the Minister (*Health of Animals Act* [Canada]).

Susceptible species: a species of aquatic animal in which infection or infestation has been demonstrated by natural causes or by experimental exposures to the disease agent that mimics the natural pathways for infection or infestation. The disease agent may not be overtly pathogenic for the species. This includes animals denoted as “carriers” in infectious disease terminology. For regulatory purposes, a carrier is considered a susceptible species.

Vector: an animal that has the potential to transmit a disease, directly or indirectly, from one animal or its excreta to another animal (*Health of Animals Act* [Canada]).

Wild aquatic animals: aquatic animals living in natural water bodies (e.g. lakes or oceans), including drainage channels, that are not being kept.

5. Policy Statements

5.1 Notification

- An owner, someone who has care, control, or possession of an animal, a veterinarian or a person who analyzes specimens (non-commercial laboratory setting) immediately, with reasonable promptness, notifies a CFIA Veterinary Inspector of a Reportable disease when detected or suspected
 - The obligations for notification of enzootic diseases where no disease response by CFIA will be carried out will be described in this policy in the appendices
 - The description will include the diseases, susceptible species and to whom this obligation applies to.
 - Recurrent notifications of OIE-listed Reportable diseases in enzootic areas will be received as summary reports on a regular basis, but no less than on a semi-annual basis; specifically, one report provided by January 15 and one by July 15.
 - Recurrent notifications of non-OIE-listed Reportable diseases in enzootic areas will be received as summary reports on a regular basis, but no less than on an annual basis, to be provided by January 15.
- Commercial laboratories will notify the National Manager, DCCP, AAHD of Reportable, Immediately Notifiable, and Annually Notifiable diseases as follows:
 - Reportable and Immediately Notifiable disease notification upon awareness, with reasonable promptness, of the diagnosis or suspicion.
 - The obligations for notification of enzootic diseases where no disease response by CFIA will be carried out will be described in this policy in the appendices
 - The description will include the diseases, susceptible species and to whom this obligation applies to.
 - Recurrent notifications of OIE-listed Reportable and Immediately Notifiable diseases in enzootic areas will be received as summary reports on a regular basis, but no less than on a semi-annual basis; specifically, one report provided by January 15 and one by July 15.
 - Recurrent notifications of non-OIE-listed Reportable and Immediately Notifiable diseases in enzootic areas will be received as summary reports on a regular basis, but no less than on an annual basis, to be provided by January 15.
 - Annually Notifiable disease notification after the end of the calendar year in which the disease is diagnosed or suspected, by January 15.

- The National Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory System (NAAHLS) will notify the National Manager, DCCP, AAHD of Reportable, Immediately Notifiable, and Annually Notifiable diseases as follows:
 - Reportable and Immediately Notifiable disease notification on the same day as the awareness of the suspicion and again on the same day as the awareness of confirmation of the disease.
 - Annually Notifiable disease notification after the end of the calendar year in which the disease is diagnosed or suspected, by January 15.
- Notifications involving wild aquatic animal die-off events that have not yet been investigated will be referred to the appropriate federal or provincial agency, department, or ministry for further evaluation:
 - The investigating federal or provincial authority notifies a CFIA Veterinary Inspector if the event is likely infectious in nature.
- Notifications from non-regulated parties of disease events in cultured fish will be investigated for validity and relevance to the NAAHP.
- The CFIA encourages the notification of emerging aquatic animal diseases.
- All notifications will be assessed if they are recurrent or not. Recurrent notifications will be forwarded to AAHD.
- All notifications will be assessed for the likelihood of a Reportable, Immediately Notifiable, or significant emerging aquatic animal disease:
 - An emerging disease is significant when high morbidity and/or mortality is reported.
 - Significant emerging disease notifications will be forwarded to AAHD for assessment and determination of whether or not an inspection is required.
- All notifications will be documented.
- Processing plants, mills, or other types of plants submitting notifications may be required to put aside samples for inspection.
- Upon receipt of a notification of a regulated aquatic animal disease, records, laboratory reports, and other pertinent information may be requested from the notifier.

5.2 ***Determining the necessity for inspection of a premises***

- The CFIA may conduct disease response activities on premises with cultured aquatic animals²; therefore; inspection of premises may be required after a notification:
 - The decision to conduct an inspection of a premises is usually at the discretion of the Veterinary Inspector.
 - Particular consideration for inspection of a premises should occur in the following situations:
 - Clinical signs compatible with a Reportable or Immediately Notifiable disease are observed.
 - Laboratory results, other than those received from the NAAHLS, indicate the presence of a Reportable or Immediately Notifiable disease.
 - The notification indicates that additional epidemiological information, as well as confirmation of the strain of the pathogen, is required.
 - An inspection is required when:
 - a request to inspect is initiated by AAHD or CFIA senior management³;
 - a CFIA-approved network laboratory has detected the presence of a Reportable or Immediately Notifiable disease in a non-enzootic area or a compartment that is considered by CFIA to be free of that disease;
 - a laboratory finding from samples obtained from a premises in an enzootic area indicates a new susceptible species;
 OR if
 - samples were requested by the CFIA during the receipt of the notification (e.g. notifications from processing plants).
- The CFIA will not conduct disease response activities on populations of wild aquatic animals, unless there is a request from AAHD, and therefore, no inspections of wild aquatic animals are likely to be carried out;
 - However, the CFIA may conduct disease response activities on premises that have been potentially exposed because of a wild aquatic animal die-off event, and thus an inspection of direct and indirect contact premises may be required.

²Premises with cultured aquatic animals include, but are not limited to, aquaculture sites, provincial or federal government hatcheries, fish and seafood processing plants, live bait fish retail stores, aquariums, ornamental fish warehouses, and research laboratories.

³Requests may be initiated, because cultured aquatic animals are epidemiologically linked to a Reportable or Immediately Notifiable disease outbreak in another country or to a wild aquatic animal die-off event, or to a significant emerging disease.

5.3 Communications

- If O-Canada receives a notification of a fish mortality event, the call will be re-directed to the closest CFIA Veterinary Inspector if the report is a die-off on a premises, or to the appropriate federal or provincial government department or ministry, if the report is a wild aquatic animal die-off event.
- Regular communications will be maintained with regulated parties involved with the notification until the matter is resolved.
 - CFIA Operations, generally, assumes the lead
 - DCCP-AAHD assumes the lead if the response involves potential changes to program policies or procedures.
 - The CFIA may have formal emergency response agreements with provincial governments and specific sectors of the industry. The communications plans outlined in these agreements will be followed. The agreements will be described in the appendices.
 - The CFIA will be kept apprised of all disease notifications where inspection activities or other disease response activities are planned. Communications will continue on a regular basis until the matter is resolved. The CFIA will apprise the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada when appropriate.
- DFO will be informed if inspection with sampling is planned.
- Disease notifications by the CFIA to Canadian aquatic animal and animal health regulators may be done prior to disease confirmation. Information sharing agreements, where applicable, will be described in the appendices.
- Disease notifications by the CFIA to the OIE, trading partners, and the Canadian public are done after disease is confirmed:
 - Notifications will be submitted on behalf of the CVO of Canada to the OIE in a timely manner and in the proper format, according to OIE requirements. The aquatic animal health contact points for the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) reside within AAHD.
 - The Import/Export Section of AAHD will notify specific trading partners as required through bilateral trade agreements or when otherwise appropriate.
 - Confirmed findings will be posted to the CFIA external website on a regular basis. Reports will indicate, at a minimum, the disease, species affected by the disease, the date, and a descriptor of location that does not specifically identify the source of the confirmed finding (e.g. province, Western Canada).

6. Applicability

This policy applies to persons who own or have possession, care, or control of aquatic animals, including other government (federal or provincial) staff, veterinarians, persons who analyze aquatic animal specimens, laboratories, and CFIA and DFO staff.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

7.1 *Persons who own or have possession, care, or control of aquatic animals*

- Notify suspicion or detection of a Reportable disease to a Veterinary Inspector in the closest CFIA Animal Health Office upon becoming aware of the disease, or as circumstances permit.
- Provide samples, and present any animals or things for inspection as requested by the CFIA.
- Report enzootic Reportable diseases, for which no disease response is planned, to DCCP-AAHD (as outlined in the appendices of this document).

7.2 *Veterinarians*

- Notify suspicion or detection of a Reportable disease to a Veterinary Inspector in the closest Animal Health Office of the CFIA upon becoming aware of the disease, or as circumstances permit.
- Present any animals or things for inspection as requested by the CFIA.

7.3 *Persons in a non-commercial laboratory setting*

- Notify suspicion or detection of a Reportable disease to a Veterinary Inspector in the closest Animal Health Office of the CFIA upon becoming aware of the disease, or as circumstances permit.
- Present any animals or things for inspection as requested by the CFIA.

7.4 *Persons in a commercial laboratory setting*

- Notify suspicion or detection of a Reportable disease to DCCP-AAHD upon becoming aware of the disease
- Report enzootic Reportable diseases, for which no disease response is planned, to DCCP-AAHD (as outlined in the appendices of this document).
- Notify suspicion or detection of an Immediately Notifiable disease to DCCP-AAHD upon becoming aware of the disease.
- Notify detections of Annually Notifiable diseases to DCCP-AAHD on an annual basis by January 15.
- Present any animals or things for inspection as requested by the CFIA.

7.5 Fisheries and Oceans Canada

- Investigate wild fish mortality events in marine or freshwater environments as resources permit. This may be done in conjunction with Environment Canada and the provinces.
- Report suspicion or detection of a Reportable disease to a Veterinary Inspector in the closest Animal Health Office of the CFIA.
- Present any samples, animals or things for inspection as requested by the CFIA.

7.5.1. NAAHLS

- Notify suspicion or detection of a Reportable or Immediately Notifiable disease to DCCP-AAHD.
- Report detections of Annually Notifiable diseases to DCCP-AAHD on an annual basis by January 15.
- Conduct testing of samples and specimens submitted to NAAHLS by the CFIA.

7.6 Environment Canada

- Investigate wild fish mortality events in marine or freshwater environments as resources permit. This may be done in conjunction with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and the appropriate provincial ministry.
- Notify suspicion or detection of a Reportable disease to a Veterinary Inspector in the closest Animal Health Office of the CFIA.
- Present any animals or things for inspection as requested by the CFIA.

7.7 Provinces

- Investigate wild fish die-off events in freshwater and marine environments as resources permit. This may be done in conjunction with Environment Canada and DFO.
- Notify suspicion or detection of a Reportable disease to a Veterinary Inspector in the closest Animal Health Office of the CFIA.
- Present any samples, animals or things for inspection as requested by the CFIA.

7.8 Canadian Food Inspection Agency

7.8.1. CFIA Veterinary Inspectors (Operations)

- Receive notifications about suspicion or detection of Reportable diseases.
- Complete the Call Log for all notifications.
- Determine whether the notification is an aquatic animal health issue for finfish, molluscs, or crustaceans.
- Determine whether the aquatic animal health issue notification is suspicious of a Reportable disease.
- Determine whether the aquatic animal health issue notification represents a new or recurrent case of a Reportable disease.
- Complete the Aquatic Premises Inspection Questionnaire (AquaPIQ) Part A for notifications of Reportable disease that are not recurrent cases.

- Request any reports or records that may provide useful information regarding the notification.
- Request samples from the plants or mills that submit a notification.
- Use veterinary judgment and guidelines, as outlined in the Policy Statements to determine whether an inspection is required.
- Consult with the Area Program Specialist (Aquatic) when necessary.
- Forward the completed AquaPIQ to Area Program Specialist (Aquatic) if not saved in RDIMS, for entry into the Aquatic Emergency Response Information Management System (AQUERS).
- Maintain regular communication with the regulated parties until the matter has been resolved or responsibility for communication has been removed.
- Forward, on at least a monthly basis, the Inspector Reports (CFIA-ACIA 1520) associated with inspections of aquatic animal disease notifications to the Area Program Specialist (Aquatic).
- Notify Area Program Specialist (Aquatic) of emerging disease events.

7.8.2. Area Program Specialist (Aquatic)

- Provide interpretation and advice to district, regional, and area operational CFIA staff on mandatory notification requirements for the NAAHP, including the authorities, policies and procedures, occurrence of regulated diseases in Canada, and identification of Reportable and Immediately Notifiable aquatic animal diseases.
- Contact the National Manager, Disease Control and Contingency Planning, Aquatic Animal Health Division, with information of an impending inspection because of a notification.
- Review AquaPIQs that were completed by Veterinary Inspectors in their areas.
- Save AquaPIQs received from Veterinary Inspectors in their Areas into RDIMS in cases where the AquaPIQ was not saved.
- Review Inspector Reports (CFIA_ACIA 1520) that are submitted to them by Veterinary Inspectors in their area on monthly basis.
- Provide AAHD with all required disease response information.

7.8.3. Aquatic Animal Health Division (Programs) – Disease Control Contingency Planning

- Receive notifications of Reportable, Immediately Notifiable, and Annually Notifiable diseases from commercial laboratories.
- Request inspections of premises that result from notifications from commercial laboratories, disease outbreaks in other countries, or wild aquatic animal die-off events.
- Provide CFIA Operations with pertinent information with each request for an inspection.
- Provide scientific advice/information on aquatic animal health diseases and pathogens, including emerging diseases to CFIA staff.

- Provide intelligence on the aquatic animal health status in Canada with respect to Reportable, Immediately Notifiable and Annually Notifiable diseases to those who need to know.
- Prepare and submit reports to the OIE once approved by the CVO of Canada.
- Prepare and submit Daily Issues and Information or Briefing Notes to the Director of the Aquatic Animal Health Division.
- Provide information to CFIA's Public Affairs on aquatic animal disease detections for posting on the CFIA external web site.
- Provide information for distribution to provincial/territorial members of the CVO group through the CVO Secretariat.
- Provide information for distribution to federal, provincial and territorial fisheries and aquaculture ministries through the CCFAM-CFIA subcommittee.
- Enter information from the AquaPIQs into AQUERS
- Analyze information in AQUERS and assess need to revise relevant policies and procedures.
- Report on performance measures associated with mandatory notifications and initial inspection of premises.

8. Communications

The internal and external communication flows following a notification when disease response activities are planned, including initial inspection, are outlined in Appendices A and B for cultured aquatic animals and C for wild aquatic animals or for cultured aquatic animals that will be released into natural waterways of Canada (and so become wild aquatic animals).

9. Performance Measures

The evaluation of the performance of the Mandatory Notification program will follow the National Aquatic Animal Health Program Performance Measurement Strategy (RDIMS # 2776718).

Activities for the Mandatory Notification program fall under the category Policies & Advice (review, revise and re-implement, as necessary, the *Health of Animals Act*, *Health of Animals Regulations*, *Reportable Diseases Regulations*, Mandatory Notification and Suspect Phase Disease Response Policy for the National Aquatic Animal Health Program and Procedure for Receipt and Evaluation of Mandatory Notifications for the National Aquatic Animal Health Program); Outreach & Training (directives, NTI, consultation, web postings, communication strategy products); and Compliance & Enforcement (completion of templates where requested by CFIA; number of notifications logged and processed; and number of inspections/investigations related to non-compliance).

AAHD will provide an annual report to the CFIA based on the above indicators.

The Area Program Specialists (Aquatic) will conduct an audit of Operations' activities related to mandatory notifications and initial inspection of premises, using Quality Management System (QMS) parameters (as they are developed). These performance measures will be reported to both Operations and Programs.

The measures will be used to better focus Agency resources required for this activity, and to streamline the mandatory notification policy and associated procedures.

In addition, the AAHD will use the information to:

- generate maps of Canada, describing the health status of the various populations of cultured and wild aquatic animals;
- generate reports for the OIE and validate reports to trading partners; and
- evaluate the significance of an emerging disease against the criteria for listing a disease by the CFIA as Reportable, Immediately Notifiable, or Annually Notifiable.

10. References/Resources

Health of Animals Act

Health of Animals Regulations

Reportable Diseases Regulations

Aquatic Animal Health Functional Plan

11. Associated Procedural, Information Management, and other Documents

Procedure for Receipt and Evaluation of Mandatory Notifications: This document outlines the procedures for a Veterinary Inspector to follow when Canadians notify the CFIA about an infectious disease in one or more aquatic animals.

Area-Specific Job Aids for Veterinary Inspectors – Fielding Aquatic Animal Disease Notification Calls:

The job aid is specifically designed for each area and provides Veterinary Inspectors with a quick procedure on how to triage calls and retain those for the CFIA to follow up.

Mandatory Notification Call Log:

This form collects information about the notifier, the reason for the call, and the outcome (referred or followed-up).

AquaPIQ:

This form collects information about an infectious disease detection or suspicion on a premises. It is used to determine whether an initial inspection is required and whether

movement controls will be issued. Collected information will also be used to aid in decision making about disease response activities.

AQUERS:

This is an Access database, held by AAHD, that captures information recorded in the AquaPIQ. The information will be used to generate aquatic animal health status maps for Canada, identify if disease response procedures need to be revised, and performance measures for the mandatory notification program for the NAAHP.

Aquatic Animal Health Status Maps of Canada:

These maps show where enzootic Reportable and Immediately Notifiable diseases are found in Canada and in what species of wild and cultured aquatic animals.

Disease-Specific Technical Fact Sheets:

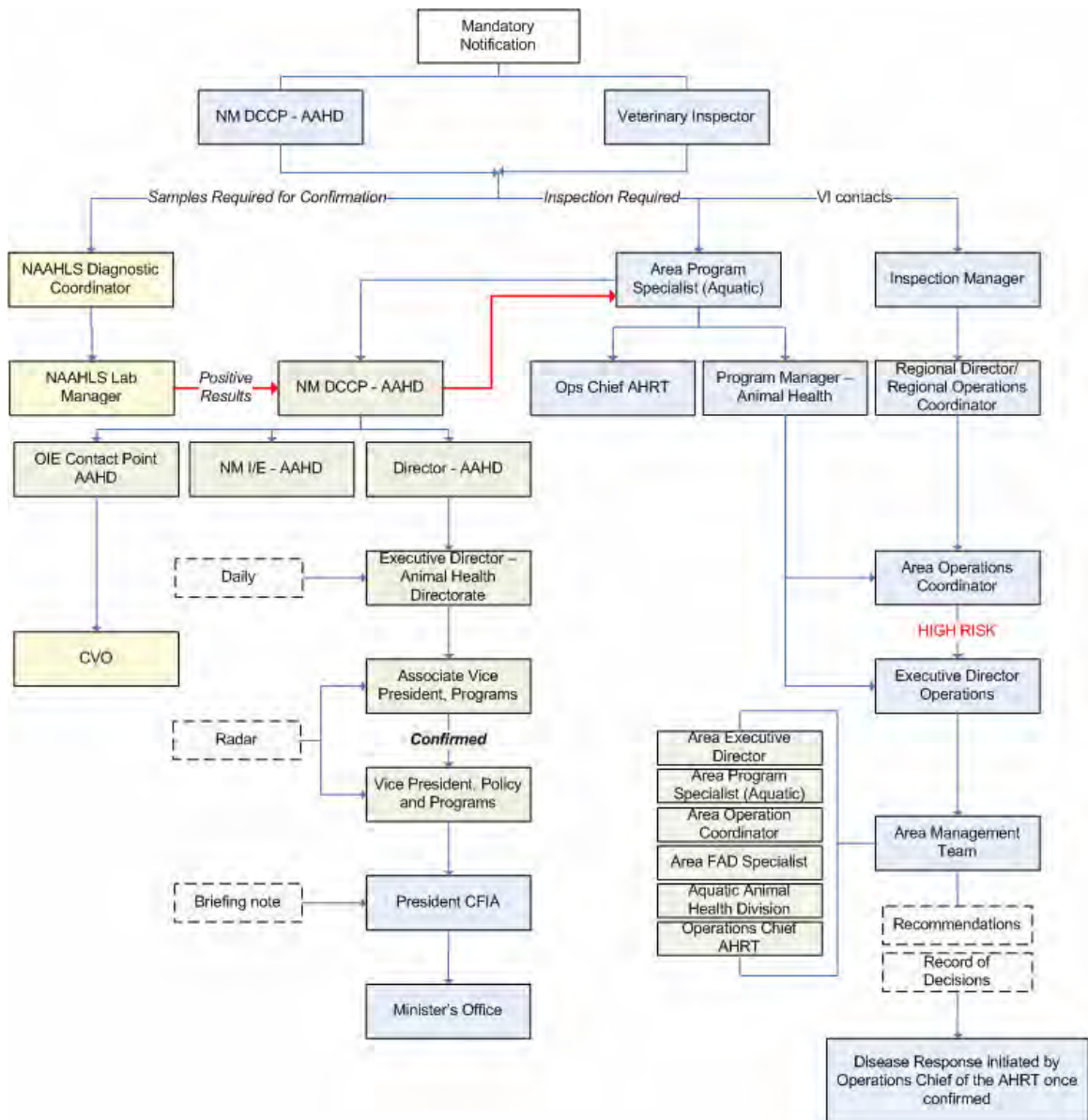
These are information documents designed for Veterinary Inspectors about all the Reportable and Immediately Notifiable aquatic animal diseases regulated by CFIA. They will be posted on Merlin.

Q&A Aquatic Animal Disease Fact Sheets:

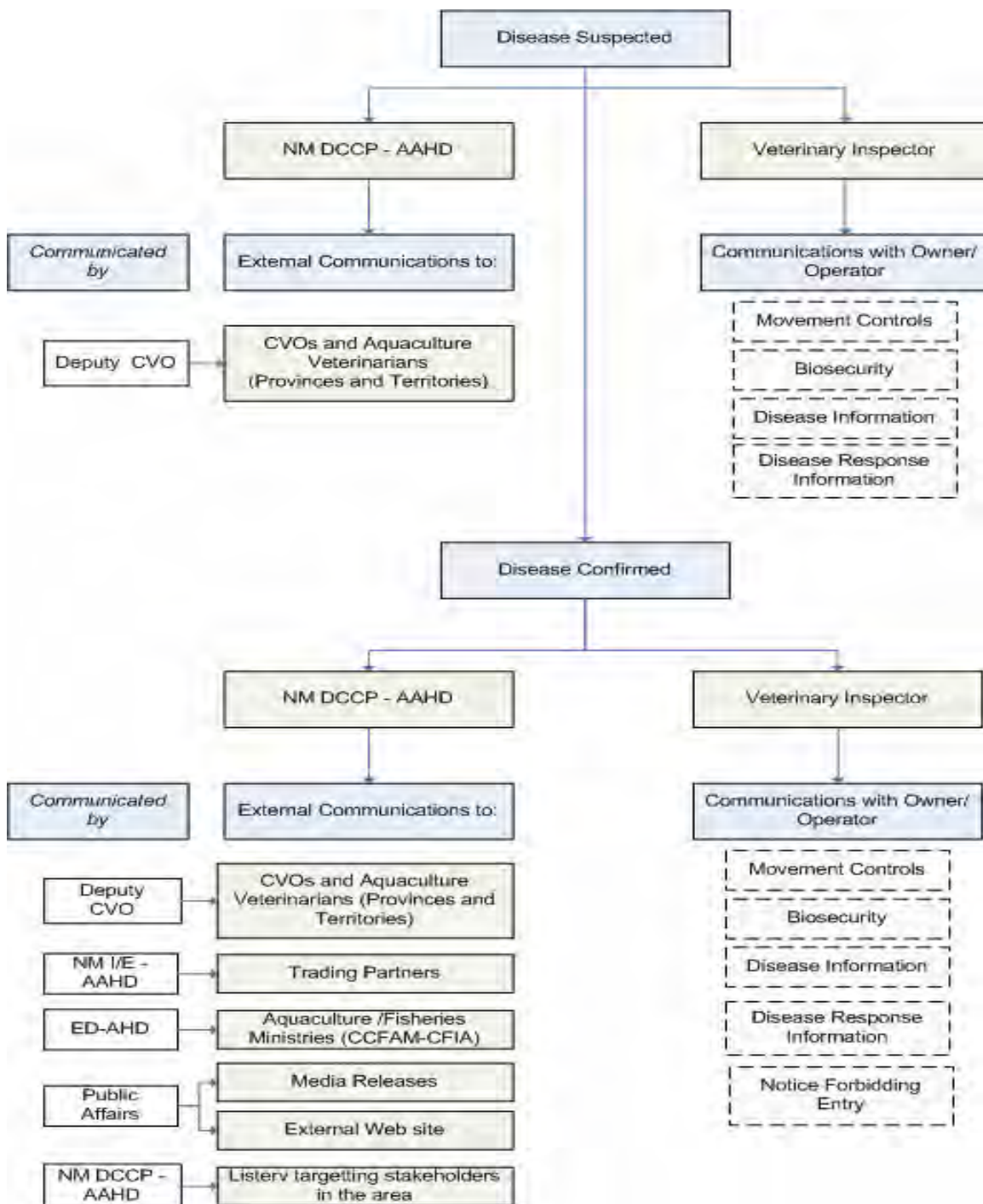
These are information documents designed for regulated parties about the Reportable and Immediately Notifiable aquatic animal diseases regulated by CFIA. They will be posted to the external CFIA web site.

12. Appendices

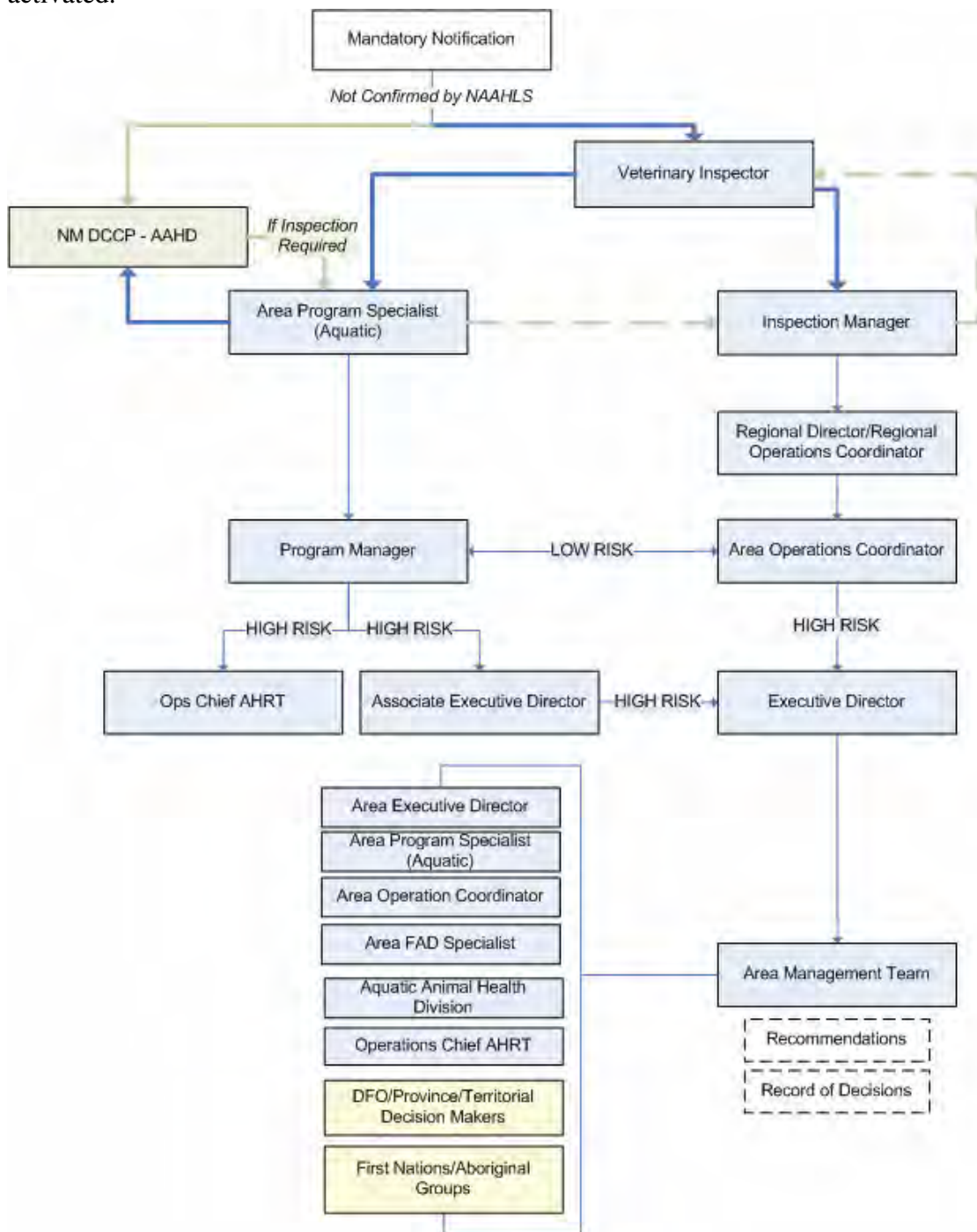
Appendix A: Internal communication flow for a disease notification involving cultured aquatic animals when disease response activities are planned, including initial inspection. Note: the entire internal communication flow may not be activated.



Appendix B: External communication flow for a disease notification involving cultured aquatic animals when disease response activities are planned, including initial inspection.
Note: the entire external communication flow may not be activated.



Appendix C: Internal and external communication flows for a disease notification involving wild aquatic animals or cultured aquatic animals that will be released into natural waterways of Canada when disease response activities are planned, including initial inspection. Note: the entire internal or external communication flow may not be activated.



Appendix D: Notification of enzootic Reportable disease where no disease response is planned: province, commodity, disease(s), notification frequency.

Province /Territory	Disease	Commodity*	Who Notifies	Notification Frequency
BC	VHSV	<i>Salmo salar</i> (Atlantic salmon) – aquaculture	BCSFA or aquaculture licence holder	July 15 January 15
BC	<i>Mikrocytos mackini</i>	<i>Crassostrea gigas</i> (Pacific oysters) - shucked	BCSGA or processors	July 15
QC	IPNV	Any finfish species - aquaculture	MAPAQ or aquaculture licence holder	January 15
NB	IPNV	Any finfish species – aquaculture	NBDAAF	January 15
NB	non-pathogenic ISAV (North American strain)	<i>Salmo salar</i> (Atlantic salmon) - aquaculture	NBDAAF or aquaculture licence holder	July 15 January 15
NS	IPNV	Any finfish species – aquaculture	NSDFA or designated laboratory	January 15
NL	IPNV	Any finfish species – aquaculture	NLDFA	January 15

* CFIA-approved compartments always have to notify CFIA of any disease suspicion or detections in aquatic animal populations defined in the compartment.