



News Release

No Confirmed Cases of Infectious Salmon Anaemia in British Columbia

November 8, 2011: The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), in close collaboration with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), the Province of British Columbia and the Atlantic Veterinary College, continues to investigate reports of infectious salmon anaemia virus in Pacific salmon in BC.

Based on analysis conducted at the DFO national reference laboratory, there have been no confirmed cases of infectious salmon anaemia in wild or farmed salmon in BC.

Testing in support of this investigation has been ongoing since mid-October, when a laboratory at the Atlantic Veterinary College reported that it had detected the virus.

DFO has tested all 48 samples received as part of the original investigation and the results are all negative for the virus. These results are consistent with the findings of an independent laboratory in Norway, which also tested samples associated with this investigation and provided a report to the CFIA.

Additional testing continues and results will be provided when ready.

In Canada, under the CFIA's National Aquatic Animal Health Program, suspected federally reportable diseases such as infectious salmon anaemia must be confirmed at the DFO national reference laboratory.

As part of the investigation, the CFIA and DFO are also looking at how the samples were collected, handled, transported and stored. This information will be critical in validating the virus test results and establishing Canada's health status for this disease.

Historically, over 5,000 wild and farmed salmon in BC have been tested by the Federal Government and the Province of BC and none have ever tested positive for the disease.

The CFIA, in collaboration with DFO and the Province of BC, is assessing the current testing levels for this virus in both wild and aquaculture populations in BC and will increase surveillance activities as required.

Infectious salmon anaemia poses no risk to people, but could have serious impacts on aquatic animal health and the economy.

Infectious salmon anaemia is a "federally reportable disease" in Canada. This means that all suspected or confirmed cases must be immediately reported to the CFIA.

For more information on infectious salmon anaemia, visit www.inspection.gc.ca/aquatic or call 1-800-442-2342.

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The wordmark for Canada, featuring the word "Canada" in a serif font with a small flag icon above the final 'a'.