

SITUATION REPORT (INTERNAL)

Update # 5

Date / Time: October 24, 2011	# of PREOC's Activated: 0	Event: ISAV
Operational Period #: October 24, 2011	PEP Task #: N/A	Name:
Operational Time: 8:00 – 16:00	<i>New information in italics</i>	Function: Planning (Situation Reporting Unit)

EVENT OVERVIEW:

-CFIA received two notifications of infectious salmon anaemia virus (ISAV) in wild sockeye salmon in British Columbia (B.C.)

-Two of 48 wild sockeye salmon, submitted by Simon Fraser University (SFU) to the Atlantic Veterinary College (AVC), which is an OIE reference laboratory for the ISAV, were interpreted as positive. Dr. Kibenge from the Atlantic Veterinary College notified the CFIA of his test results on October 15, 2011. Simon Fraser University released the test results to the media on October 17, 2011.

-Dr. Kibenge notified the CFIA on October 17, 2011 that he is testing new finfish samples from B.C. for ISAV.

-On October 20, 2011, Dr. Kibenge notified the CFIA that tissues from a coho salmon that was part of another set of samples from B.C were interpreted as a positive.

-This laboratory is not part of the National Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory System (NAAHLS). Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is responsible for the NAAHLS.

-The detection does not meet CFIA's case definition for interpreting test results as confirmed positive for infection with ISAV. The finding remains suspect by CFIA. Even if the NAAHLS is able to confirm this suspect finding as positive, this case will likely remain suspect to CFIA given chain of custody issues.

-It seems that Dr. Kibenge did not follow the OIE's Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals 2011, which defines a positive PCR as presumptive and lists the processes that need to be followed to confirm ISA.

-DFO has also issues with the controls associated to the samples.

-CFIA is gathering more information before making a final decision on the reporting of this finding currently considered as suspect to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

CURRENT STATUS:

On October 18, 2011, CFIA Operations staff visited Dr. Routledge at SFU to quarantine and collect samples for further testing. Approximately 336 smolts were collected by SFU staff in May and June 2011; approximately 288 of these samples were provided to CFIA on October 18th. These 288 samples arrived in 2 shipments at the Gulf Fisheries Centre (GFC) – DFO, Moncton, on October 20th.

Operations staff has collected the 48 samples that were held at a private residence and has delivered the samples to the DFO Pacific Biological Station (PBS) in Nanaimo. These samples have been sent to the GFC in Moncton for further testing. CFIA is waiting for confirmation that the kidneys from these 48 smolts held at the private residence in Nanaimo belong to the original 48 samples. The kidneys have been sent to the GFC in Moncton for further testing.

CFIA has confirmed *approximately 61 smolts*, collected by the University of British Columbia (UBC) in May and June 2011 are held at UBC. Operations staff plans to pick these samples up on October 24th, and will ship them to GFC in Moncton. Samples collected by SFU from 2009 and 2010 have been quarantined on site.

Second Notification:

CFIA has also been made aware that an unknown number of samples, from which a second positive notification was made, were sent to and are currently located at the Atlantic Veterinary College. Operations staff is in process of confirming the sample date, location, and species of these samples.

ACTIONS PLANNED FOR NEXT OPERATIONAL PERIOD:

1) A small team, which includes staff from the Aquatic Animal Health Division (AAHD), CFIA's Science Branch and DFO, is considering the assessment of the laboratory at the Atlantic Veterinary College.

- 2) *Samples will also need to be collected at Dr. Kibenge's laboratory at the Atlantic Veterinary College by the CFIA. A discussion with the NAAHLS laboratory at Moncton may be necessary, depending on the type of samples to be collected. Sample collection by CFIA is ongoing.*
- 3) *Operations staff plans to collect samples currently held at UBC on October 24, 2011, for shipment to the GFC.*
- 4) *Operations staff has delivered 48 smolts that were held at a private residence in Nanaimo, to the PBS.*
- 5) *One of the students who collected some of the samples in BC will send GPS coordinates of all collection locations to CFIA.*
- 6) *CFIA received on October 20-21 multiple requests for additional samples of fish that the Agency collected from various researchers. CFIA is preparing to respond to these requests.*
- 7) *It was decided that the samples collected by the Crown (DFO and CFIA) will remain under quarantine until a decision about their disposal is made.*
- 8) *The NAAHLS Moncton lab is conducting tests on the sample of 288 fish. So far, the results for ISAV are negative but all the tests have not been completed yet. It was agreed that CFIA will report externally only when all the test results will be available.*
- 9) *CFIA and DFO agreed to have a technical discussion about which samples and tests should be prioritized in the next few days.*

Second Notification:

- 10) *Operations staff to obtain further information on unknown number of samples from the second notification sent to the Atlantic Veterinary College.*
- 11) *CFIA contacted the individual who collected the samples on October 24 to get the following information: collection dates and sites and collected species. The Agency is collecting the required information.*

RESOURCE COMMITMENTS:

-NAAHP staff in BC Operations will be required to continue working with SFU, UBC and other parties to collect remaining samples.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL / STAKEHOLDERS / REGULATED

International

-Samples were also sent to A. Nylund at the University of Bergen in Norway. AAHD is drafting a letter to be sent to A. Nylund to find out the circumstances under which these samples were sent (e.g. who sent these samples, when, how and why).

-It was confirmed on October 21 that Alexandra Morton sent materials from the 48 samples to Norway (A. Nyland at the U. of Bergen).

Trade Partners

-CFIA has contacted international trade partners and provided information on the situation with respect to the reported finding. Feedback from trade partners indicated for now the concern is minimal; however, they greatly appreciated the information from CFIA. The EU requested and received confirmation from CFIA that the animals and genetic material being exported from Canada still meets the assurances of the EU certification requirements. Further updates will be planned as additional information comes available.

-CFIA briefed the US contacts (the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanographic and Atmospheric (NOAA)) on October 20 and 21. Media lines and links to the information bulletin have been forwarded to these organizations.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Communications

-At AAHD, Dr. Cornelius Kiley is the main spokesperson for the CFIA on this topic. *No media inquiry.* Dr. Nathalie Bruneau is the main contact person for communication issues and questions related to the NAAHP.

-AAHD is reviewing questions and answers drafted by Public Affairs.

- Public Affairs (Bryan Blom and Tammy Jarbeau) are drafting communication products. Dr. Nathalie Bruneau is the technical advisor for these products.
- The information bulletin was approved and posted on CFIA's website on October 21.
- The information bulletin will be posted on DFO's website on October 24-25.*
- CFIA received a request to distribute the information bulletin from the American Veterinary Medical Association. The Agency agreed to that request.*
- The fact sheet on ISA will be posted on CFIA's website on October 24-25.*
- CFIA sent an email to inform Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) and the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers (CCFAM) on the second notification of ISAV on October 21.*
- Minister's offices from CFIA and DFO wrote a joint statement on the situation on October 24.*
- DFO distributed the joint statement to a number of publications.*
- DFO posted the joint statement on its website on October 24. The CFIA's website will link to this joint statement very soon.*
- The Chief Veterinary Officer of BC also issued an information bulletin to comment on the situation on October 21.*

Briefings

- CFIA briefed the President on the situation on October 20.
- CFIA Public Affairs briefed Atlantic Veterinary College Public Affairs on October 21.
- CFIA briefed the BC Chief Veterinary Officer on October 21.*

ATTACHMENTS

- Timelines chart for ISA Notification #1 and #2 attached.

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**Situation Report Sent:
Date: October 24, 2011 Time:**

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