

SITUATION REPORT (INTERNAL)

Update # 7

Date / Time: October 26, 2011	# of PREOC's Activated: 0	Event: ISAV
Operational Period #: October 26, 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:

Note: Information included in situation reports #2, #3, #4 and #5 was removed.

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 picked up these samples on October 25th and will ship them to GFC in Moncton on October 26th. Operations staff is still gathering any available information regarding the collection time, location, and GPS coordinates of the samples.*

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:

Note: Information included in situation reports #2, #3, #4, #5 and #6 was removed.

- 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 picked up the samples held at UBC on October 25, 2011. The samples will be shipped to the GFC on October 26.*

4) One of the students who collected some of the samples in BC will send GPS coordinates of all collection locations to CFIA.

5) On October 20-21, CFIA received multiple requests from researchers to provide them back some samples that the Agency picked up. CFIA is working on these requests and a few ones have already been addressed.

6) The NAAHLS Moncton laboratory is conducting tests on the sample of 288 fish. So far, the results for ISAV are negative but the testing is not yet complete. It was agreed between DFO and CFIA that CFIA will report externally only when all the test results are available. Note: It is DFO's NAAHLS standard operating procedure not to release preliminary analyses at the screening step. All diagnostic tests are validated each time. Presumptive positives move to another analytical technique and final results can take from 2-3 weeks to complete. This is normal procedure to minimise the risk of misreporting of results until final confirmation has been obtained.

7) CFIA and DFO agreed to have a technical discussion about which samples and tests should be prioritized in the next few days.

8) It was agreed by CFIA and DFO to discuss how the test results should be communicated when all the tests will be completed and finalized.

9) CFIA will start discussing the potential requirements for surveillance activities and design within the Agency first. These discussions will also include potential resource requirements and planning. Once the surveillance design is drafted, DFO will be involved and design can be further modified if required based on these discussions.

Second Notification:

10) CFIA is planning to recover all the samples at Dr. Kibenge's laboratory (Atlantic Veterinary College).

11) On October 24, CFIA attempted to contact the individual who collected the samples to get the following information: collection dates and sites, collected species and to confirm ownership of the samples. CFIA is working on an approach to obtain this 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).

-The CFIA's Policy and Program Branch (PPB) received an OIE enquiry about the ISAV situation. *The information to the OIE will flow through the normal channels: Dr. Brian Evans, who is the OIE delegate for Canada, will respond to the OEI enquiry. Note: this is not an official notification to the OIE but a response to a request from the OIE.*

-CFIA (PPB) informed the CFIA veterinarian posted in China of the visit of the Minister of DFO and other Canadian officials in China on Friday, and provided her with information on the ISAV situation so she can assist if any questions on the ISAV situation are raised.

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.

Litigation Privilege

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Note: Information included in situation reports #2, #3, #4 and #5 was removed.

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.
- The information bulletin was approved and posted on CFIA's website on October 21.
- A link to the CFIA's information bulletin will be posted on DFO's website on October 26-27.*
- CFIA received a request to distribute the information bulletin from the American Veterinary Medical Association. The Agency agreed to that request.
- The Fact Sheet for Infectious Salmon Anaemia has been posted on the CFIA public website.*
- 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 linked to this joint statement on October 24.
- The joint statement generated a lot of media coverage on October 25-26. Public Affairs is monitoring the situation.*
- CFIA has started drafting a news release to present the findings. The draft will include the two possible outcomes: negative and positive test results.

ATTACHMENTS

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

**PREPARED BY: Kate Schoen, A/Regional Operations Coordinator and
Emilie D'Amours, Policy Analyst**

REVIEWED BY: Dr. Joe Beres, A/Regional Director, BC Mainland & Interior Region

APPROVED BY:



**Dr. Cornelius Kiley
A/Director, Aquatic Animal Health Division**

**Situation Report Sent:
Date: October 26, 2011 Time:**

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