

SITUATION REPORT (INTERNAL)

Update # 11

Date / Time: November 2, 2011	# of PREOC's Activated: 0	Event: ISAV
Operational Period #: November 2, 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, #5 and #8 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 is still gathering any available information regarding the collection time, location, and GPS coordinates of the samples. One of the students who collected some of these samples will send GPS coordinates of all collection locations to CFIA. GPS coordinates received from Nicole Gerbandt from SFU regarding the origin of catch for the 48 wild sockeye salmon sent to Dr. Kibenge's lab. These coordinates cannot be verified at this time by the CFIA. The GPS coordinates provided will be followed up with Alain Pilote for review.

Second Notification:

Operations staff is in process of confirming the sample date, location, and species of these samples. Operations staff is continuing to try to contact Dr. Alexandra Morton to gather more information in regard to these samples. An e-mail was sent on October 27 to the lawyer representing Dr. Morton requesting further information regarding the samples. Dr. Morton has responded to the e-mail and has provided only partial information. CFIA will follow-up with a request for the remaining information.

Third Batch of Samples:

There is a third batch of samples that are moving along the system: Dr. Morton sent a second batch of samples to Dr. Kibenge and notified the CFIA. This third batch of samples seems to be outside notifications #1 and #2 but this needs to be confirmed. It appears that this new batch of samples have the same issues (e.g. chain of custody) as the previous samples. CFIA is gathering more information on this.

ACTIONS PLANNED FOR NEXT OPERATIONAL PERIOD:

Note: Information included in situation reports #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7 and #8 was removed.

- 1) The laboratories directly involved with this investigation agreed to an assessment. A small team, which includes staff from the Aquatic Animal Health Division (AAHD), CFIA's Science Branch and DFO, is planning this assessment under the

lead of CFIA's Science for next week *or the week after*. *The team is currently putting together the planning piece and other materials to be used for this assessment.*

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

3) 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.

4) *The NAAHLS Moncton laboratory is conducting tests on some of the different samples of fish. So far, the results for ISAV are negative but the testing is not yet complete. The testing of the Ribonucleic acid (RNA) to determine if tissues are intact enough to detect virus is also ongoing. So far, the testing of the RNA indicates that the samples are degraded but this is preliminary and more testing is being conducted. It was agreed between DFO and CFIA that CFIA would normally 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.*

5) 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. CFIA and DFO are planning to discuss the potential need for additional communications next week before the release of the complete and final test results in a few weeks.

6) *CFIA is working on the potential requirements for surveillance activities and design for both wild and cultured fish within the Agency first. These discussions also include potential resource requirements, delivery options and planning. A requirement piece will be put together at the end of this week or early next week. Once the surveillance design is drafted, DFO will be involved and design can be further modified if required based on these discussions. Dr. Nathalie Bruneau will lead the discussions for surveillance activities.*

7) *The next situation report (#12) will be put together and sent in 48 hours.*

Second Notification:

8) *On November 2nd, CFIA plans to contact Dr. Morton to get additional information: collection dates and sites, collected species and to confirm ownership of the samples. So far CFIA received partial responses from the sample submitter.*

RESOURCE COMMITMENTS:

- NAAHP staff in BC Operations will be required to continue working with SFU, UBC and other parties to collect remaining samples, and to gather all available information on the samples.
- *Working group to develop and conduct laboratory assessment at the laboratories directly involved with this investigation.*
- *Working group working on potential requirements for surveillance activities and design for both wild and cultured fish.*

INTERGOVERNMENTAL / STAKEHOLDERS / REGULATED

Note: Information included in situation report #10 was removed.

International

-Samples were also sent to A. Nylund at the University of Bergen in Norway. CFIA sent a letter to A. Nylund to find out the circumstances under which these samples were sent (e.g. who sent these samples, when, how and why) on October 27. A. Nylund responded by stating that he will provide his report to the individual(s) who sent him the samples next week. If the individual(s) do not provide his report to CFIA, then A. Nylund will send this report to CFIA.

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

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. *The CFIA interacts with the US on a regular basis.*

Others

-On October 28, CFIA discussed with Dr. Kibenge and other AVC staff about the situation in general, the third batch of samples and what information will be sent from Canada to the OIE.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Note: Information included in situation reports #2, #3, #4, #5, #7, #8 and #10 was removed.

Communications

-At AAHD, Dr. Cornelius Kiley is the main spokesperson for the CFIA on this topic. Dr. Nathalie Bruneau is the main contact person for communication issues and questions related to the NAAHP.

-CFIA has started drafting a news release to present the findings. The draft will include the two possible outcomes: negative and positive test results.

-The communication working group, including representatives from the CFIA (headquarters and B.C.), province of B.C., DFO, etc) will meet on November 2 to discuss the approach and next steps. Potential communications with some First Nations in the area will also be discussed during this meeting.

-CFIA Public Affairs is working on a joint news release that will provide updates on the surveillance activities and preliminary test results to date. The draft joint news release is being circulated at the CFIA, DFO and province of B.C. for comments. It is planned that the joint news release will be published as an information bulletin on the external website of the CFIA. Approval and publication of the joint news release is planned for November 3 or 4.

ATTACHMENTS

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

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**Situation Report Sent:
Date: November 2, 2011 Time:**

RDMIS # 3047446