

# SITUATION REPORT (INTERNAL)

## Update # 12

<b>Date / Time:</b> November 4, 2011	<b># of PREOC's Activated:</b> 0	<b>Event:</b> ISAV
<b>Operational Period #:</b> November 4, 2011	<b>PEP Task #:</b> N/A	<b>Name:</b>
<b>Operational Time:</b> 8:00 – 16:00	<i>New information in italics</i>	<b>Function:</b> Planning (Situation Reporting Unit)

-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 Notification:**

*Samples were sent from Dr. Morton to Dr. Nylund at the University of Bergen in Norway for ISAV testing. Dr. Nyland completed the testing and sent his report to Dr. Morton, who notified the CFIA. Results were also received officially by the Agency. In the report, one result is deemed inconclusive but is interpreted as negative by the CFIA. In addition, Dr. Nyland noted the poor quality of the samples.*

#### **Sample Set #3:**

*This is the third batch of samples that Dr. Morton has sent to Dr. Kibenge's laboratory at the AVC for analysis. Sample consists of 5 herring hearts and 5 sockeye smolt hearts and gills. Dr. Kibenge has tested the samples and did not detect ISAV. The CFIA will follow-up for more information regarding the samples (e.g. integrity, chain of custody, etc). This is not an official notification as per the Agency's definition.*

## **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. The team is currently putting together the planning piece and other materials to be used for this assessment. *The team has sent a request for documentation to the two laboratories involved.*
- 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. *The PCR testing of the 48 kidney extracts of the original sample of fish was completed for ISAV and reference genes. A partial degradation was noted. All the results are negative. DFO will send a report to CFIA in the afternoon of November 4. 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. *The working group is in the process of getting data from the industry for the potential requirements for surveillance activities of farmed fish. When all the data will be received, the Agency will do an assessment and make recommendations. The working group is also looking at options for the potential requirements for surveillance activities of wild fish. It is anticipated that a draft proposal will be circulated for comments in Mid November. In addition, the working group will put together an action plan with time lines. Dr. Nathalie Bruneau will lead the discussions for surveillance activities.*
- 7) *The next situation report (#13) will be put together and sent on Monday, November 7th.*

### **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 reports #10 and #11 was removed.**

### **International**

-The CFIA's Policy and Program Branch (PPB) received an OIE enquiry about the ISAV situation. The information to the OIE went through the normal channels: Dr. Brian Evans, who is the OIE delegate for Canada, responded to the OEI 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.

-The CFIA interacts with the US on a regular basis. *The US has indicated that it will conduct ISAV surveillance on their territory in wild fish. The US has requested that DFO provides the test methodologies that are used by the NAAHLS Moncton laboratory. Market issues with the Washington state have arisen. The CFIA is starting to get additional requests from state level officials concerning the situation, which may increase state level requirements. The AAHD is monitoring the situation.*

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**Note: Information included in situation reports #2, #3, #4, #5, #7, #8, #10 and #11 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 gathered comments from DFO and other parties on a news release to provide updates on the surveillance activities and preliminary test results to date on November 3. The news release was completed on November 3 but a decision was made to delay its publication, because additional test results were expected.*

-*Approval of the news release on November 4 from both DFO and CFIA is still pending.*

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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

**PREPARED BY: Charmaine Grant, 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: November 4, 2011 Time:**

RDMIS # 3047446