

# SITUATION REPORT (INTERNAL)

## Update # 15

<b>Date / Time:</b> November 14, 2011	<b># of PREOC's Activated:</b> 0	<b>Event:</b> ISAV
<b>Operational Period #:</b> November 14, 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)

### EVENT OVERVIEW:

**Note: Information included in situation report #13 was removed.**

-The CFIA received three notifications of infectious salmon anaemia virus (ISAV) in wild salmon in British Columbia (B.C.). Two of these notifications originated from the Atlantic Veterinary College (AVC), which is not part of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)'s National Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory System (NAAHLS). The third notification came from the University of Bergen in Norway.

-Notification #1: two of 48 wild sockeye salmon, submitted by Simon Fraser University (SFU) to *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. The SFU released the test results to the media on October 17, 2011.

-Notification #2: on October 17, Dr. Kibenge notified the CFIA that he was testing a second set of samples from 11 fish collected from a different area in BC which included coho salmon. On October 27, Dr. Kibenge submitted his final laboratory analysis to CFIA in which a total of three samples were interpreted by Dr. Kibenge as positive.

-Notification #3: gill samples from the same 48 fish were sent to Dr. Nylund at the University of Bergen in Norway for ISAV testing. Dr. Nylund provided his test results to the Agency: all gills tested negative. He repeated testing on certain gills and *could not confirm the presence of ISAV*.

-These detections do not meet CFIA's case definition for interpreting test results as confirmed positive for infection with ISAV. The findings remain suspect by CFIA. The samples from which the detections originated are being tested for ISAV at the NAAHLS to corroborate (or not) these findings.

### CURRENT STATUS:

**Note: Information included in situation reports #2, #3, #4, #5, #8 and #13 was removed.**

CFIA has confirmed approximately 61 smolts, collected by the University of British Columbia (UBC) in May and June 2011 have been transferred to the Moncton laboratory. Operations staff is still gathering any available information regarding the collection time, location, and GPS coordinates of the samples. GPS coordinates from Nicole Gerbandt (SFU) regarding the origin of catch for the 48 wild sockeye salmon have been sent to Dr. Kibenge's laboratory *and* were received. These coordinates cannot be verified at this time by the CFIA. Alain Pilote will review these GPS coordinates.

#### **Second Notification:**

Operations staff is in process of confirming the sample date, location, and species of these samples.

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

This is the third batch of samples that Ms. 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. *The CFIA is planning to pick up these 10 samples on November 15<sup>th</sup> at Dr. Kibenge's laboratory at the AVC and they will be stored at the Moncton laboratory.*

### ACTIONS PLANNED FOR NEXT OPERATIONAL PERIOD:

**Note: Information included in situation reports #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8 and #13 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. *Documents for the assessment of Dr. Kibenge's laboratory at the AVC were received electronically on November 14<sup>th</sup>. The on-site visits of the laboratories involved with this investigation are scheduled at the end of this week. A small group of three people, including two representatives from the CFIA and a representative from the Animal Health Laboratory at the University of Guelph, will conduct these on-site visits. The report on the laboratory assessment is*

*expected by the end of November.*

2) On October 20-21, CFIA received multiple requests from researchers to return *the samples obtained by the Agency for further testing. The CFIA is continuing to look at these requests. CFIA Legal Counsel to contact Ms. Morton's lawyer November 14<sup>th</sup> acknowledging receipt of letter requesting samples to be returned.*

3) 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. *Tissue culture final results to be available, earliest by the beginning of December.* So far, this testing indicates that the samples are degraded. Necropsy has been performed on the 61 smolts from UBC and they were placed in storage. 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.

4) *CFIA is working on the potential requirements for surveillance activities and design for both wild and cultured fish.* 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 is received, the Agency will do an assessment and make recommendations. The *proposed surveillance plan, including a background piece, will be circulated for comments soon.* In addition, the working group *has put together a draft action plan with time lines that has been initially circulated for comments within the CFIA and DFO.* This action plan may possibly include other diseases of *concern* for trade. Dr. Nathalie Bruneau will lead the discussions for surveillance activities.

#### **Second Notification:**

5) CFIA plans to contact Ms. Morton to get additional information: collection dates and sites, collected species and to confirm ownership of the samples. So far *Ms. Morton has not responded to all the questions.*

6) *The next situation report (#16) will be put together and sent out on Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>.*

#### **RESOURCE COMMITMENTS:**

- NAAHP staff in BC Operations will be required to continue working with SFU, UBC and other parties to gather all available information on the samples regarding the chain of custody.

*-BC Operations will develop two Decision Records with recommendations by Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, for the samples currently under the Crown's possession and the samples under quarantine.*

- Working group to develop and conduct laboratory assessment at the laboratories directly involved with this investigation.

- Working group working on *action plan* for surveillance activities and design for both wild and cultured fish.

#### **INTERGOVERNMENTAL / STAKEHOLDERS / REGULATED**

**Note: Information included in situation reports #10, #11, #12 and #13 was removed.**

##### **Trade Partners**

-CFIA has contacted international trade partners and provided information on the situation with respect to the reported finding. Feedback from trade partners *currently indicates minimal concern*; however, they greatly appreciated the information from CFIA. 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 provide 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, #11, #12 and #13 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.

-There was a technical briefing on the ISAV situation with the media on November 8. Representatives from CFIA and DFO and the Chief Veterinary Officer for B.C. participated to this briefing, which generated media coverage on November 9.

-Dr. Cornelius Kiley did a number of media interviews separate from the technical briefing on November 8-9.

-There was a technical briefing with the Industry for both cultured and wild aquatic animals on November 10.  
-The news release to provide an update on the surveillance activities and preliminary test results was published on CFIA's and DFO's websites.  
-CFIA's Public Affairs will start working on a communication piece to provide more details on surveillance. This should be ready for the end of this week.

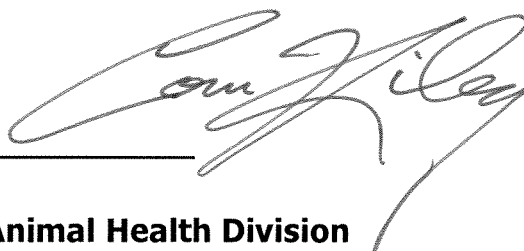
## **ATTACHMENTS**

-Timelines chart for ISA Notification #1 and #2 and sample taking flowchart attached.  
-Incident Command Structure Western ERT attached.

**PREPARED BY:** *Melissa Yap*, A/Regional Operations Coordinator and  
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**REVIEWED BY:** Dr. Joe Beres, A/Regional Director, BC Mainland & Interior Region

**APPROVED BY:**



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A/Director, Aquatic Animal Health Division

**Situation Report Sent:**

**Date: November 14, 2011 Time:**

RDMIS # 3079609