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Animal

The Director General

Paris, 29th November 2011

Our Ref.: SK/CC 60.4988

Ms Alexandra Morton

[gorbuscha@gmail.com](mailto:gorbuscha@gmail.com)

Dear Ms Morton

Thank you for your email dated 17 November 2011 regarding ISA virus in British Columbia (BC). The OIE is aware that CFIA is investigating reports of ISAV in wild salmon in British Columbia and I am pleased to say that Canada has complied with OIE requirements for the provision of information that has been available to date. As you may be aware, scientific investigations are ongoing.

The OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals (Aquatic Manual)* provides a definition of 'suspect case' and 'confirmed case' for each of the OIE-listed diseases (see: [http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health\\_standards/aahm/2010/2.3.05\\_ISA%20.pdf](http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health_standards/aahm/2010/2.3.05_ISA%20.pdf))

The definitions for ISA in the *Aquatic Manual* are provided in Annex 1.

Regarding the entry of data into the OIE WAHID database, please note that OIE Member Countries are encouraged to report to the OIE suspect cases (as defined in the *Aquatic Manual*) but they are required to report confirmed cases.

For more information on the situation in BC, I encourage you to contact a reference expert at one of the OIE Reference Laboratories for ISA (please see the contact details in Annex 2). These experts are designated to follow all scientific and technical developments relating to ISA, including in relation to surveillance, prevention and control.

Thank you for writing to the OIE on this matter.

Bernard Vallat

Cc:Drs Sarah Kahn and Karin Ben Jebara (OIE Paris)

Dr Brian Evans (OIE Delegate, Canada)

Dr Barry Hill (President, OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission)

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From the *Aquatic Manual* Chapter 2.3.5.

The definition of a suspect case is:

*'ISA or infection with ISAV would be suspected if at least one of the following criteria is met:*

- i) Clinical signs consistent with ISA or pathological changes consistent with ISA (Section 4.2) whether or not the pathological changes are associated with clinical signs of disease;*
- ii) Isolation and identification of ISAV in cell culture from a single sample (targeted or routine) from any fish on the farm, as described in Section 4.3.1.2.1;*
- iii) Evidence for the presence of ISAV from two independent laboratory tests such as RT-PCR (Section 4.3.1.2.3) and IFAT on tissue imprints (Section 4.3.1.1.2);*
- iv) Detection of antibodies to ISAV.'*

**The definition of a confirmed case is:**

The following criteria in i) should be met for confirmation of ISA. The criteria given in ii) and iii) should be met for the confirmation of ISAV infection.

- i) Mortality, clinical signs and pathological changes consistent with ISA (Section 4.2), and detection of ISAV in tissue preparations by means of specific antibodies against ISAV (IFAT on tissue imprints [Section 4.3.1.1.2] or fixed sections as described in Section 4.3.1.1.3) in addition to either:
  - a) isolation and identification of ISAV in cell culture from at least one sample from any fish on the farm, as described in Section 4.3.1.2.1or
  - b) detection of ISAV by RT-PCR by the methods described in Section 4.3.1.2.3;
- ii) Isolation and identification of ISAV in cell culture from at least two independent samples (targeted or routine) from any fish on the farm tested on separate occasions as described in Section 4.3.1.2.1;
- iii) Isolation and identification of ISAV in cell culture from at least one sample from any fish on the farm with corroborating evidence of ISAV in tissue preparations using either RT-PCR (Section 4.3.1.2.3) or IFAT (Sections 4.3.1.1.2 and 4.3.1.1.3).

**OIE Reference Laboratories for Infectious salmon anaemia**

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