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Sent: Friday, November 18, 2011 11:22 AM
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Subject: Inconclusive as a interpretation

Hi Stewart!

The highlighted statement is what the type of wording that we have used when reporting results on samples of poor quality.

· CFIA also received 299 sockeye salmon fish samples that were thought to be collected at the same time as the original 48 that prompted this investigation. From these, all 299 samples have been tested, and all results are negative; however these results must be considered as inconclusive at this time because of the poor quality of the samples received which prevent the detection of the virus with any reasonable confidence.

The use of the term 'inconclusive' must be taken within the context of the integrity of the sample. Basically, it's a quality issue because these samples were so badly degraded. Under normal circumstances, these samples would have been considered unfit for testing.

Never-the-less, our RT-qPCR test results are all negative from an analytical point of view (i.e. we have not found any detectable viral RNA in the samples). From a diagnostic point of view (i.e. with respect to the presence or absence of the pathogen in the field), we are saying that any interpretation must be qualified or guarded because of the degradation of the test material.

I hope that this sheds some light on our use of the term 'inconclusive'.

In essence, with quality comes confidence.

Regards,

Peter

Peter Wright

Manager - NAAHLS / Gérant - SNLSAA

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'Semper in excreta sumus solum profundum variat'

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