

[Print](#) | [Close](#)

Subject: RE: pre-spawn mortality

Date: Fri, 2 Sep 2011 11:03:24 -0800

From: contact@priscillajudd.ca

To: Stewart.Johnson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Cc: wildorca@island.net, Laura.Richards@dfo-mpo.gc.ca, eo.perra@cohencommission.ca

This e-mail is to ask all of you about DFOs role in the dead salmon in the shuswap that did not spawn. I have now got some definitions about pre-spawn and also soem information about what you didn't know after last years span because tests were not completed. This e-mail is to ask what do you know now that tests are completed?

According to your e-mails you know a lot about IHNV but you say:

"It is possible that IHNV could play a role in pre-spawning mortality although this has not been documented."

Why has it not been documented? Last year I was told that you are collecting a lot of information. Please tell me if you have tested and not found it or if you haven't tested for it and that's why it's not documented?

I also spoke to someone at DFO about spreading disease with boats or by using a knife to cut the dead fish when DFO counts them. Do you have any information about how you are going to stop the disease from spreading? Please send only that information on my question because it's hard to parse out the information when you wrote:

"unsuitable environmental conditions such as high water temperature and the presence of naturally occurring pathogens such as the myxozoan parasite *Parvicapsula minibicornis*. With respect to infectious hematopoietic necrosis virus (IHNV) this virus is consistently present in sockeye salmon populations in the Fraser River, as well as other areas of the Pacific Northwest. This virus affects all life-history stages of sockeye salmon with the adults being most resistant to the development of IHN disease."

when you said:

"It is possible that IHNV could play a role in pre-spawning mortality although this has not been documented."

With all due respect, the above information doesn't seem to help our salmon. It may be scientific observation but it's not's going to help our salmon just to observe it and you don't say what DFO will do about it. Have you tested our salmon? and is the virus present or not?

or

Are you NOT testing for it and that's why it's not documented?

Thank you,
Priscilla Judd

----- Original Message -----

From: Richards, Laura [mailto:Laura.Richards@dfo-mpo.gc.ca]

To: contact@priscillajudd.ca

Cc: Stewart.Johnson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Sent: Fri, 2 Sep 2011 11:13:30 -0700

Subject: RE: pre-spawn mortality

Dear Ms. Judd

I would like to respond to your e-mail dated July 27, 2011, in which you requested information on pre-spawning mortality in Shuswap sockeye salmon. Pre-spawning mortality is the situation where individuals that successfully reach their spawning ground die prior to spawning. Pre-spawning mortality can be influenced by many factors including unsuitable environmental conditions such as high water temperature and the presence of naturally occurring pathogens such as the myxozoan parasite *Parvicapsula minibicornis*. With respect to infectious hematopoietic necrosis virus (IHNV) this virus is consistently present in sockeye salmon populations in the Fraser River, as well as other areas of the Pacific Northwest. This virus affects all life-history stages of sockeye salmon with the adults being most resistant to the development of IHN disease. It is possible that IHNV could play a role in pre-spawning mortality although this has not been documented. This could be especially the case if the fish were also subjected to other stressful conditions on the spawning grounds. Examination of salmon on the spawning grounds, including fish which die prior to spawning, results in the identification of numerous types of naturally occurring pathogens and other problems associated with their advance stage of maturity. If you have additional questions, I suggest that you contact Dr. Stewart Johnson who is the Section Head for Aquatic Animal Health (stewart.johnson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca; 250-756-7077).

With respect to your inquiry about the 2010 samples, I assume that you are referring to our health assessment program of juvenile sockeye salmon from the Strait of Georgia. Dr. Johnson is leading the program and will be able to update you.

Thank you for writing me with your concerns.

Laura Richards

Dr. Laura Richards
Regional Director Science | Directrice régionale des sciences
Fisheries and Oceans Canada | Pêches et Océans Canada
Pacific Biological Station | Station biologique du Pacifique
3190 Hammond Bay Rd, Nanaimo, BC, Canada V9T 6N7

Laura.Richards@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Telephone | Téléphone 250-756-7177
Facsimile | Télécopieur 250-729-8360
Government of Canada | Gouvernement du Canada

From: contact@priscillajudd.ca [mailto:contact@priscillajudd.ca]

Sent: July 27, 2011 12:15 PM

To: Richards, Laura

Subject: pre-spawn mortality

Dear Dr.Richards,

In 2010, I was one of the people who asked Alex Morton about the dead Shuswap salmon that still had eggs in them. From that I learned that it was called pre-spawn mortality.

According to your reply letter on pre-spawn mortality I am wondering if there is now any *evidence that IHNV has an effect on pre-spawn mortality rates* in the Shuswap?

Since DFO analyses of the 2010 samples were expected to be completed by spring 2011, perhaps you could tell us about the results.

Thank you very much,
Priscilla Judd.