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Statement from the Federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Keith Ashfield, on Negative Infectious Salmon Anaemia Test Results in British Columbia Salmon

December 2, 2011

Ottawa, Ontario – Federal officials from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, along with officials from Fisheries and Oceans Canada and British Columbia's Chief Veterinary Officer, held a technical briefing today confirming that additional in-depth test results showed no signs of Infectious Salmon Anaemia (ISA) in British Columbia salmon. Officials provided information on the extensive investigation by the Government of Canada into claims about the presence of the disease in B.C. waters.

The Honourable Keith Ashfield, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, made the following statement following the technical briefing:

"After Canada's reputation has needlessly been put at risk over the past several weeks because of speculation and unfounded science, additional in-depth, conclusive tests, using proper and internationally recognized procedures, are now complete and we can confirm that there has **never been a confirmed case of ISA in BC salmon, wild or farmed.**

"The National Reference Laboratory has completed all testing and analysis of all the samples under investigation and none have tested positive for ISA.

"This reinforces the regular testing conducted by federal and provincial officials; in recent years, over 5000 fresh, properly collected and stored samples have been tested and there has never been a confirmed case of ISA in British Columbia salmon.

"Canada's current practices and procedures to protect our wild and farmed salmon industries from disease are in place and working; that is why we can be proud of all aspects of the Canadian fishing industry, which is recognized worldwide as a leader in the production of high-quality, safe and sustainable seafood.

"Fisheries and Oceans Canada, CFIA and provincial governments will continue to work together to maintain our excellent international reputation."

Related Information:

News release: [Canada Completes Infectious Salmon Anaemia Testing: No Confirmed Cases in BC Salmon](#)

Backgrounder: [Protecting Canada's Aquatic Species from Disease – a focus on Canada's Pacific Region](#)

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