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From: Miller-Saunders, Kristi

Sent: Fri 7/29/11 12:23 PM

To: MacWilliams, Christine

Cc:

Subject: testing of Atlantic salmon

Attachments:

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Christine,
I am following up from our conversation in Laura Richards office regarding your reasoning for not initiating any testing of aquaculture fish (specifically Atlantic salmon) for the Parvovirus we have recently identified in high prevalence in wild sockeye salmon populations. You stated that until such a virus is accredited as an OIE rated disease, causing considerable observable mortality, and the molecular assay is validated and certified as such, one cannot ask industry to test their fish. Moreover, you stated that there is no benefit to testing, and if we were to ask industry to voluntarily submit fish for testing, that you would recommend to them that it would not be in their best interest to comply.

As I am expecting that there may be questions at the inquiry about why we are not testing aquaculture fish, I feel the need to be prepared to answer these questions. From our meeting yesterday, it was clear that this decision is in yours and Stewart's court, therefore, I would like you to elaborate on your recommendations and reasoning. Moreover, I would like more information on what salmon diseases are OIE listed and which are not, on what basis decisions about OIE listings are made and how long this process generally takes, if warranted. I would also like to know how many OIE listed diseases were discovered in wild fish as opposed to those under culture.

Thank you for your help in this matter,

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