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MIN 009118

MEMORANDUM TO THE MINISTER

**COMPLEMENTARY SURVEILLANCE EFFORT IN  
CULTURED AND WILD SALMONID SPECIES IN B.C.**

(For Information)

**PURPOSE**

To provide you with information regarding the proposed complementary surveillance effort as a follow-up to the three notifications of infectious salmon anaemia virus (ISAV) in wild salmon in British Columbia (B.C.)

**SUMMARY**

- As follow-up action, the CFIA has been developing a surveillance plan targeting cultured and wild salmonid species in B.C.
- The surveillance objective is to determine the absence/presence of diseases of trade significance in both cultured and wild salmonid species in B.C.
- Following an internal review and in consultation with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), the draft surveillance plan will be distributed to provincial and industry stakeholders for feedback. The plan's implementation is planned for spring 2012.

**BACKGROUND**

- The CFIA received three notifications of ISAV in wild salmon in B.C. Two of these notifications originated from the Atlantic Veterinary College, which is not part of DFO's National Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory System (NAAHLS). The third notification came from the University of Bergen in Norway.

- The detections do not meet the CFIA's case definition for interpreting test results as positive for infection with ISAV. The test results will be finalized in early December.

### **Proposed Surveillance Effort**

- As a follow-up action to these notifications, the CFIA has been developing a surveillance plan that targets both cultured and wild salmonid species in B.C. in consultation with DFO. To maximize the efficiency of the surveillance effort, ISAV and two other diseases will be covered in this plan: the infectious pancreatic necrosis virus and infectious hematopoietic necrosis virus. All three diseases are highly contagious, can cause mortality in wild and aquaculture salmon, are federally regulated and reportable to the CFIA.
- Surveillance objectives are to determine the absence/presence of three diseases of trade significance in both cultured and wild salmonid species in B.C., to support international trade negotiations by making disease-freedom declaration that will stand international scrutiny, and to support aquatic resource protection by assisting with decision making for CFIA aquatic animal health programs.
- Surveillance for cultured and wild species will be conducted differently and evaluated separately, given that industry has already put in place a surveillance program for cultured species. The CFIA's preliminary review of this industry-led testing program shows that there has been a significant amount of testing for viral diseases, including ISAV, in cultured fish over the last 10 years. It is proposed that the CFIA play an oversight role for the surveillance of cultured species, given the existing surveillance industry program.
- For wild species, more work will be required. Based on the recommendation of the draft surveillance plan, about 3850 fish samples per year for the two first consecutive years would be collected. After this initial effort, it is recommended to continue collecting but at a reduced level. To be noted, this is the first instance of CFIA-led active surveillance effort for finfish in B.C. since the creation of the National Aquatic Animal Health Program. However, DFO has undertaken some surveillance initiatives in

wild fish in the past.

- The total cost to CFIA for this work is about \$350,000 over two years, which covers the operational requirements, except for the testing, which is the responsibility of DFO's NAAHLS. After this period, there will be significantly lower ongoing costs that will need to be determined based upon the implementation of the surveillance plan and the findings. These costs will be covered internally by reallocation. DFO will be responsible to cover the costs related to the testing under the surveillance plan.

### **CURRENT STATUS**

- Following an internal review (the CFIA and DFO), it is planned to distribute before the New Year the surveillance plan to provincial and industry stakeholders, including the government of B.C., for information and comments. Implementation is planned for spring 2012.
- A news release to provide additional information on surveillance has been drafted. The publication of this news release is expected around December 12.

### **NEXT STEPS**

- The CFIA will continue the surveillance plan's development and implementation.

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