

Aquatic Animal Health's Technical Briefing Regarding the Reported Suspect Finding of  
Infectious Salmon Anaemia Virus (ISAV) in BC

Conference Call November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011

CFIA:

Dr Con Kiley  
Dr Kim Klotins  
Dr Nathalie N Bruneau  
Dr Joanne Constantine  
Émilie D'Amours  
Doug Aitkens  
Gregory Wolff (President's Office)

DFO:

Stephen Stephen  
Peter Wright  
Kathy Cook  
Tammy Rose-Quinn  
David Whorley

CCFAM Members and/or Provincial Gov't Reps:

Ian Burford (NL)  
Andrea Colombi (DFO)  
Barron Carswell & Gavin Last (for Larry Neilson - BC)  
Marie Vanderkop (YK)  
Daryl Whelan (NL)  
Joseph Labelle (NB)  
Roland Cusack (NS)  
Lisa Miller-Dodd (Ontario MNR)

Industry Reps:

Rob Morley (BC Seafood Alliance)  
Ruth Salmon (CDN Aquaculture Industry Alliance)  
Mary Ellen Walling (BC Salmon Farmers Association)

Acting Director for CFIA's Aquatic Animal Health, Dr. Cornelius (Con) Kiley, lead the technical briefing for the investigation of the reported suspect finding of ISAV in B.C.

The following items were discussed:

- Who are we and what are we doing
- Documents on the CFIA website
- The CFIA reporting to the OIE
- What's different from the normal suspected cases
- Investigation to date
- Market Access issues
- Surveillance going forward

**Who are we and what are we doing**

Dr. Kiley introduced himself and provided background information on his previous work with the agency. An overview of the role that the CFIA plays into investigations was given, with specifics on what the Aquatic Animal Health Division does.

**Documents on the CFIA Website**

It was stated that news releases on the investigation, accepted testing methods and a fact sheet on ISAV can be found on the CFIA website, as well as links to DFO's web site.

**The CFIA reporting to the OIE**

It was stated that notification responsibilities to the OIE is with the CFIA and that Dr. Brian Evans is the official delegate for the CFIA.

**What is different from the normal suspected cases**

Normally, the CFIA and DFO work closely together for investigations using a long established methodology and science-based decision making and do not report partial information so there is no need to recant or alter information. With this current investigation, there was a responsibility to correct information placed in the public realm which put the CFIA and DFO into a reactive mode.

### **Investigation to date**

The media and Canadians have been informed that all testing to date is negative based on the original 48 fish samples.

In June of this year, the 48 fish were originally dissected and sent to labs all over Canada and to Norway. The gills sent to Norway came back positive but the positive test could not be re-produced which was reported from the media initially.

It was stated that because the samples were not stored to specifications to allow for proper testing, most tests came back negative or inconclusive because of degradation.

Testing of samples continue to take place and to date all samples have been reported as negative or inconclusive.

### **Market Access update**

Joanne Constantine (CFIA) stated that as soon as we became aware of the incident, countries were contacted to let them know what we were doing. The main markets contacted were the U.S., China, Japan and the European Union (EU). There were no concerns from the U.S, the EU had concerns on upcoming shipments, and China and Japan did not initially react to the investigation.

There were concerns of collecting and testing being done improperly. It was noted that a scientific licence is needed for collecting and handling of samples for testing and the CFIA laboratories do not accept submissions from the public.

### **Surveillance going forward**

Dr. Nathalie Bruneau (CFIA) stated that a surveillance plan is being developed. It will be a multi-year action plan for both fish and farms that will be reviewed mid way to make sure it is working properly. Regardless of the final conclusion of the investigation, the expectation will be to validate fish health status in British Columbia via ongoing surveillance.