

**CFIA - AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH
LABORATORY ASSESSMENT WORKING GROUP
National Emergency Response Team (NERT)**

General objective:

To assess the functional laboratory capability for the diagnosis of the infectious salmon anaemia (ISA) virus, an OIE reportable aquatic animal health disease, at the following two laboratories:

- DFO – NAAHL, Moncton, NB
- ISA OIE Reference laboratory, Atlantic Veterinary College, Charlottetown, PEI

This assessment will be used by the NERT team to interpret the test results on samples submitted for ISA testing during the month of October 2011 from two sources in British Columbia.

Specific Objectives

- To assess laboratory capability on: a) bio containment, b) quality assurance program, and c) validation of ISA test methods performed.
- To assess conformity of ISA testing with acceptable practices (e.g. OIE standards)

Key steps in carrying out the laboratory assessment:

- **Step 1:** Obtain documentation from the Atlantic Veterinary College (AVC) and DFO Moncton Labs for both PCR and cell culture, and the records of the test procedure for the ISA samples. (See Annex 1).
- **Step 2:** Development of a questionnaire/ checklist tool for the assessment to ensure completeness and to facilitate comprehensive documentation.
- **Step 3:** Identify experts to carry out the assessment (Document evaluation and on site visit) (See Annex 2)
- **Step 4:** On site visit to the Laboratories.
- **Step 5:** Data analysis and report writing.

Timelines

A progress report will be submitted to the Science and Policy Team leader by 10 November 2011. The Laboratory assessment report will be completed by the end of the week of November 21, conditional on the cooperation and timely response by the laboratories to the request for documentation and execution of the on site visit.

Working Group Membership

- Representation from CFIA who have scientific expertise relevant to aquatic animal health disease, and/or laboratory assessment.
- Additional focused expertise and participation will be solicited as required.

Members:

- Ingrid Van der Linden (Chair) Animal Health Risk Assessment, Science Branch

- Shelagh McDonagh, National Manager Lab QA & Accreditation, Science Branch
- Victoria Pederson, Area Veterinary Specialist, Atlantic, Programs
- Tim Davis Meat Hygiene Animal Health Programs – Atlantic, Operation Branch
- Peter Wright, National Manager, National Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory System, Oceans & Science Branch, DFO

Roles and responsibilities

Team	Responsibilities
Ingrid Van der Linden (Chair)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with National Emergency Response Team (NERT) Structure, Science and Policy Group • Call and chair meetings of the Laboratory Assessment Working Group (WG) • Ensure effective communication among members of the Laboratory Assessment WG • Coordinate and participate in the writing of the Laboratory Assessment Report • Ensure deliverables are achieved • Provide advice/leadership to Secretariat and Internal Working Group
Shelagh McDonagh Victoria Pederson Tim Davis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly participate in meetings • Project oversight • Provide expertise and input • Share scientific information with WG members • Participate in the writing and review of the Laboratory Assessment Report • Guide, review and approve deliverables
Peter Wright	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly participate in meetings • Project oversight • Provide expertise and input • Share scientific information with Working Group members
Diagnostic Laboratory Expert	
Shelagh McDonagh John Pasick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the documentation provided by the laboratories in preparation for the on-site visit. • Assess the laboratories for the specific objectives identified above • Give their expert opinion on the findings • Contribute to the writing of the laboratory assessment report • Sign off on the final report
Diagnostic Laboratory Expert Third Party Observer	
Dr. Davor Ojkic, Animal Health Laboratory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the documentation provided by the laboratories in advance in preparation for the on-site visit. • Participate in the on site visits to observe and provide advice on the assessment process as necessary, in order to ensure that the process is comprehensive and objective. • Review and sign off on the final report

Note: People with specialized areas of expertise may be called on to assist with the review of specific areas of the documentation and to review sections of the report

ANNEX 1

Information Request for the Infectious Salmon Anaemia Laboratory Assessment

Documentation related to infectious salmon anaemia (ISA) testing

- **PCR testing methodology:**

- Documents and records:

- Method or protocol used
 - Validation procedures
 - Procedures related to general QC for PCR work in the lab
 - Test validation data, report or summary
 - Process for ensuring competency of the people performing the testing
 - Results of any performance testing (PT) or interlab comparison (ILC)

- **Cell culture testing methodology:**

- Documents and records:

- Method or protocol used
 - Validation procedures
 - Procedures related to general QC for cell culture work in the lab
 - Test validation data, report or summary
 - Process for ensuring competency of the people performing the testing
 - Results of any performance testing (PT) or interlab comparison (ILC)

- All peer reviewed publications on the ISA testing methodologies being performed in the laboratory
- Testing records (copies of worksheet or workbooks) for samples received for ISA testing in the month of October 2011 from two sources in BC

General laboratory documentation:

- ISO Certification, or information on stage of certification process
- Any other pertinent information that will help the assessment

Annex 2

Candidate Experts for the Laboratory Assessment:

- Dr. John Pasick – Head, CSF/Avian Diseases Unit, NCFAD, CFIA
Head, CSF/Avian Diseases Unit
National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease (Winnipeg Laboratory - Arlington)
1015 Alington Street
Winnipeg R3E 3M4
Telephone: (204) 789-2013
- Shelagh McDonagh
National Manager Lab QA & Accreditation
Laboratory Quality Assurance and Accreditation
1400 Merivale Rd.
Ottawa K1A 0Y9
Telephone: (613) 773-5314
- Participant from Animal Health Laboratory, Laboratory Service Division, University of Guelph, with PCR expertise identified by Dr. Grant Maxie:

Dr. Davor Ojkic
Avian Virologist and Immunologist
Animal Health Laboratory
Laboratory Services Division
Building 89, 419 Gordon Street
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Candidates with specialized areas of expertise may be called on to assist with the review of specific areas of the documentation.