North American Commission

NAC(14)4

Annual Report

(Tabled by Canada)

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Canada, 2013
Submitted by: Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Date: May 2014

1. Summary of salmonid disease incidents

Under the *Health of Animals Act*, Canada lists significant aquatic animal diseases which, when suspected or found, must be reported to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) for further investigation in order to prevent the introduction of and spread of disease. The disease lists include diseases of concern for protection of domestic aquatic animal resources and for international trade.

The CFIA is Canada's Competent Authority for aquatic animal health and lead Agency with respect to meeting Canada's international reporting obligations under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement. The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) is the international standard setting body for aquatic animal health. Accordingly, CFIA reports to the OIE, following the OIE's *Aquatic Animal Health Code* and *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*. Canada reports on all notifications of disease that are confirmed by the CFIA. Canada notifies the OIE following the standards set out in the Aquatic Animal Health Code.
There are several types of CFIA reports to the OIE (http://www.oie.int/):

- Immediate notification of OIE-listed diseases when an exceptional epidemiological event occurs; for Canada, an exceptional event would be the presence of a new disease, or finding a known disease in a new location or in a new species. Once verified by the OIE, notifications are distributed to the Delegates of Member Countries, the OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres and international and regional organizations.
- Affected country submits weekly follow-up reports describing progress and results of the applied control measures.
- Affected country provides a final report once the event has been brought under control and there are no new reported outbreaks.
- Semi-annual and annual reports provide information on the presence or absence of diseases listed by the OIE in the country and the prevention and control measures applied.

Information submitted to the OIE can be viewed by the public on the World Animal Health Information Database Interface (WAHID). Data is provided on animal diseases, per country, region, week, month and year. The database also compiles country animal population, exceptional epidemiological events maps, global animal diseases distribution maps or comparative disease status between two countries. (http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Wahidhome/Home)

Of note, Canadian regulations also include diseases not listed in the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code. Information on all confirmed findings of regulated diseases on a monthly basis can be found on the CFIA website at http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/aquatic-animals/diseases/reportable/2014/eng/1339174937153/1339175227861.

The CFIA also maintains information on the status in Canada of reportable diseases and immediately notifiable diseases (http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/aquatic-animals/exports/eng/1299156521180/1320599162614).

Contact Points:

- Disease Status in Canada: Dr. Debbie Barr, Director, Animal Health, Biosecurity and Welfare Division, Programs and Policy Branch, CFIA. Debbie.barr@inspection.gc.ca

- International Trade: Dr. Francine Lord, Director, Animal Import/Export Division, Programs and Policy Branch, CFIA. Francine.lord@inspection.gc.ca

- Fisheries and Oceans Contact: Alastair Struthers, Director, Aquaculture Management Directorate, Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Alastair.Struthers@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

- Fisheries and Oceans Contact: Jay Parsons, Director, Oceans and Science, Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Jay.Parsons@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

2. Summary of breaches of containment of salmonids from net cages

Species (Strain, if applicable)	Number[1]	Average size of fish[2]	Location[3]	Result[4]	Cause of the breach	Date of breach
Atlantic Salmon (Saint John River)	1000-1500	300 grams	Western Passage, Deer Island, NB	None	Torn net due to extreme high tide	June 24, 2013
Atlantic salmon	20,500	4.5kg	South Coast, NL	Directed Marine recapture fishery and experimental freshwater fishery ongoing.	Extreme weather caused cage to submerge and collapse.	Sept 18, 2013
Atlantic Salmon	200	4.5kg	South Coast, NL	None	Harvest error	May 15, 2013
Arctic Charr	Estimate* unavailable;	1.5kg	South Coast, NL	Recreational fishery; no catch reporting required.	Net damage – 0.5m tear in net bottom.	May 25, 2013
Rainbow Trout	2	60g	South Coast, NL	None	Offloading handling error.	June 5, 2013
Rainbow Trout	Estimate* unavailable	1.9kg	South Coast NL	Coastal waters; no bag limit recreational fishery. No catch reporting required.		July 5, 2013
Atlantic Salmon	Estimate* uncertain	3.5-4.5kg	South Coast, NL	Gillnet and recreational	Winter storm, escaped fish	Unknown

				fishery in inland waters	observed in coastal and inland waters in spring.	

*Estimates were unavailable because inventory reconciliation was not complete. The companies have indicated that feed responses pre- and post-incident were not materially different, and believe the losses were not significant.

Notes:

1. This should be the best estimate possible, though it is recognized that exact numbers may be difficult to obtain. Also note that methodologies for determining the numbers differ between provinces and are presently not directly comparable. Efforts are underway to resolve these differences.
2. Based on the codes of containment, it was agreed that average size is a more accurate measurement than life stage.
3. The more specific the information the better, however Bay level is considered sufficient.
4. This refers to using recapture methods as detailed in the relevant code of containment and summarizing the results of the recapture attempt.

3. Summary of Salmonid introductions from outside the Commission Area

Species (strain, if applicable)	**Number**	**Life Stage**	**Origin [1]**	**Destination [2]**	**Purpose [3]**
Saga strain*	13,946	eggs	Iceland	Nova Scotia	Aquaculture in land-based closed containment facility

*** Nova Scotia**

An Introductions and Transfers license was issued to a Nova Scotia company for the importation of European (Saga strain) Atlantic salmon eggs from an Icelandic facility to a land-based closed containment aquaculture facility in Nova Scotia.

The review of the license application assessed genetic, ecological and disease factors and determined that the introductions represented a low risk to fish and fish habitat. A site visit of the receiving facility concluded that the facility can accommodate European strain Atlantic salmon eggs for commercial grow out as it was found to have design and protocols in place to adequately protect against escapes.

The company has indicated it has no intentions or desire to produce fish for use in marine grow out sites and has stated that fish will never leave the land-based facility during their production life cycle. All market-size fish are to be killed on site and sent to a local processing facility. Should the client deviate from their original plan, they will be required to submit an application to the DFO Introductions and Transfers Committee for review and consideration.

Newfoundland and Labrador

In 2013, Icelandic-origin Atlantic salmon eggs were brought in to a land-based closed-containment facility in Newfoundland under an import permit from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. The eggs were imported for research purposes. Neither the eggs nor the resulting fish were moved from the facility, and the fish were destroyed following completion of experimentation

In 2013, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, under the Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat (CSAS), conducted a study to better inform future decision-making on the use of European-origin broodstock in Newfoundland. This report was completed in November 2013 (http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/SAR-AS/2013/2013_050-eng.pdf), and confirmed the possibility of ecological and genetic risk to wild Atlantic salmon and their habitats.

4. Summary of Transgenic activities within the Country Annex 1 of NAC (10)6

In August 2013, based on a rigorous, peer-reviewed environmental and indirect human health scientific risk assessment (see http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/ScR-RS/2013/2013_023-eng.html), Canada approved the commercial production of growth-enhanced, transgenic Atlantic salmon (AquAdvantage® Salmon) in contained facilities as prescribed in Section 3 of Significant New Activity Notice No. 16528 published in Vol. 147, No. 47 of the *Canada Gazette, Part 1* on November 23, 2013 (http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2013/2013-11-23/html/notice-avis-eng.html#d106).