

NAC(13)5

NAC Annual Report (Tabled by Canada)

Canada, 2012

Submitted by: Fisheries and Oceans Canada

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1. Summary of Salmonid disease incidences

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (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 Procedures*.

There are several forms of CIFA reports to OIE (<http://www.oie.int/>):

- Immediate notification when an exceptional epidemiological event occurs. Once verified by OIE, notifications are distributed to the Delegates of Members, the OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres and international and regional organizations.
- Affected countries submit 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.
- Affected country provides follow-up reports, as needed.
- Semi-annual reports provide information on the presence or absence of diseases on the OIE List and the prevention and control measures applied.
- The official reporting focal point completes annual reports.

There are several mechanisms to provide these reports to OIE:

- **World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS):** a web-based application for reporting real-time information through official reports on any relevant animal disease detected within Canada. WAHIS is supported by the OIE Early Warning System which notifies countries when WAHIS reports are received.
- **World Animal Health Information Database Interface (WAHID):** online public reporting since 2006 which includes all emergency notifications and animal health reports provided to WAHIS. Data is provided on animal diseases, per country, region, week, month and year. Among others, the database also compiles country animal population, exceptional epidemiological events maps, global animal diseases distribution maps or comparative disease status between two countries.

Canada Point of Contact on Disease:

Canadian Food Inspection Agency (<http://www.inspection.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
Atlantic Salmon (Saint John River)	>100 fish (unable to confirm exact number until site is harvested out)	5.1 kg	ABMA 3a, Seeley's Cove, NB	No recapture attempt	Net failure-hole in net pen
Atlantic Salmon (Saint John River)	No change in bio mass observed (incident reported as potential breach; observations could not confirm losses of any fish)	4.0 kg	ABMA 3a, Seeley's Cove, NB	No recapture attempt	Net Failure-center line broke
Atlantic Salmon (Saint John River)	No change in bio mass observed (incident reported as potential breach; observations could not confirm losses of any fish)	3.4 kg	ABMA 3a, Maces Bay, NB	No recapture attempt	Net Failure-Predators (seals)
Atlantic Salmon (Saint John River)	No change in bio mass observed (incident reported as potential breach; observations could not confirm losses of any fish)	4.5 kg	ABMA 3a, Beaver Harbour/ Maces Bay, NB	No recapture attempt	Net failure-Predators (tuna breached the net)
Atlantic Salmon (Saint John River)	<p>No reported escapes, but small numbers of escapes (<20) identified in fisheries monitoring.</p> <p>Nine predator encounter incidents and one equipment incident were reported as potential breaches. Given the locations of holes in nets, few or no escapes were expected and any losses would be below a detection threshold.</p>	Not applicable	NL	<p>Net holes documented and repaired ranged in size from a few meshes to ~1.5m in length.</p> <p>Hole locations near net bottoms unlikely to have resulted in large losses.</p>	<p>Nine breaches were associated with net damage caused by sharks and tunas over a 4 week period in July-August.</p> <p>One breach was attributed to a mort ring tearing or abrading a hole near the bottom of the net.</p> <p>Escape estimates, if any, to be verified upon inventory reconciliation.</p>
Atlantic Salmon	No reported incidents		NS		

3. Summary of Salmonid introductions from outside the Commission Area

Species (strain, if applicable)	Number	Life Stage	Origin ¹	Destination ²	Purpose ³
None					

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

Two companies on the East Coast of Canada have sought approval from Fisheries and Oceans Canada to import small numbers of Norwegian-origin Atlantic Salmon from an Icelandic facility for the purpose of conducting performance trials in net cages at sea.

These requests were denied, in part, due to the uncertainty surrounding the growth, survival, and reproduction of potential farm escapees.

It was concluded that this high level of uncertainty precluded determination of the level of ecological and genetic risks that potential escapes from farms could pose to wild Atlantic Salmon and their habitat.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada, under the Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat (CSAS), is undertaking a review of existing knowledge on potential genetic and ecological effects and mitigation measures to better inform future decision-making on the use of European-origin broodstock.

Experts participating in the CSAS process include federal and provincial government representatives; academia; aquaculture, wild and recreational fisheries organizations; First Nations / Aboriginal groups; and, environmental non-governmental organizations.

The process is expected to conclude later in 2013 and will result in a science advisory report and a series of accompanying peer-reviewed research papers. Documents will be publically available on the DFO-Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat website.

We are very pleased that two aquaculture experts from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are dedicated to this process.