

## NAC(12)5

### *NAC Annual Report 2011 (Tabled by Canada)*

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**Canada, 2011**

**Submitted by: Fisheries and Oceans Canada**

**Date: May 29, 2012**

#### **1. Summary of Salmonid disease incidences**

Following from previous discussions on this matter, and with advice from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), we recommend that a streamlined approach to reporting salmonid diseases be followed to meet our current mutual World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) requirements. We understand that both Canada and the United States comply with OIE reporting requirements and have full access to each others reports, in real time (which is preferable to annual reports to NAC).

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 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:

- Immediate notification when an exceptional epidemiological event occurs. Once verified by OIE, notifications are distributed the Delegates of Members, the OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres and international and regional organisations.
- Affected countries submit weekly follow-up reports describing progress and results of the applied control measures.
- Affected country provided a final report once the event has been brought under control and there are no new reported outbreaks.
- Affected country provided 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.

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

Species (Strain, if applicable)	Number <sup>1</sup>	Average size of fish <sup>2</sup>	Location <sup>3</sup>	Result <sup>4</sup>	Cause of the breach
Atlantic Salmon (Saint John River)	No change in bio mass observed (incident reported as potential breach; observations could not confirm losses of any fish)	1 kg	BMA 2B Grand Manan, NB	No recapture attempt	1 meter hole in containment net after storm event
Atlantic Salmon (Saint John River)	No change in bio mass observed (incident reported as potential breach; observations could not confirm losses of any fish)	2 kg	BMA 3A Maces Bay, NB	No recapture attempt	Hole in containment net after storm event
Steelhead trout	12382	2.1 kg	Hardy Cove, Bay d'Espoir, NL	Storm timelines made recapture non-productive	Submerged harvest cage collar during storm

### 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 and 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

As per the Memorandum of Understanding between Canada and the United States under the Williamsburg Resolution, Canada has notified the United States that Canada has received an application for an introduction. Canada has subsequently reviewed the application and denied the application.

Species (strain, if applicable)	Number	Life Stage	Origin <sup>1</sup>	Destination <sup>2</sup>	Purpose <sup>3</sup>
None made					

Notes:

1. This would be the province or state for introductions from the west coast; or country for international introductions. It was decided that introductions between Canada and the US that are within the Commission Area (between Maine and NB, for example) would not be included here as those introductions would be captured in other avenues (ICES WGITMO, for example) and because these are not as relevant.
2. The more specific the information the better, however Bay level is considered sufficient.
3. This refers to the intention for the introduction – aquaculture, research, stock enhancement, etc.

### 4. Summary of Transgenic activities within the Country

AquaBounty, a U.S.-based company with research facilities in PEI, Canada, has developed a genetically engineered Atlantic salmon with enhanced growth and feed conversion characteristics. AquaBounty is currently seeking U.S. Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) regulatory approval for food use of its GE salmon in the U.S. AquaBounty has indicated that it plans to produce the eggs in its Canadian facility and export them to Panama where the fish would be grown to maturity and processed for food use. In order to commercially produce the eggs in Canada, AquaBounty would be required to submit a regulatory package under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 at least 120 days prior to the commencement of the commercial manufacture of the GE fish or fish eggs in Canada. Fisheries and Oceans Canada would conduct an environmental and indirect (i.e. not related to direct consumption) human health risk assessment and, if needed, recommend to Environment Canada any control measures needed to manage risks. Environment Canada retains authority for regulatory decision-making. Health Canada would regulate foods derived from genetically engineered fish. There are no genetically engineered fish or eggs currently approved for commercial use in Canada.