



North American Commission

NAC(15)4

(Tabled by the US)

Annual Report

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United States, 2014

Submitted by: National Marine Fisheries Service

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1. Summary of Salmonid disease incidences

There are no incidents to report for 2014.

However, *Renibacterium salmoninarum* (causative agent of Bacterial Kidney Disease; BKD) was detected in the fall of 2013 at two Atlantic salmon net-pen facilities. Clinical signs were detected in some fish but no elevated mortality was noted throughout the marine grow-out phase. All fish were harvested in 2014.

Additionally, in 2013, the Maine Department of Marine Resources was notified of positive test results for BKD at a commercial Maine hatchery. Elevated mortality was not observed but the pathogen was detected in several year classes during routine surveillance. Biosecurity measures and routine fish health surveillance have been increased. Additional disease testing of the same year classes of fish conducted in 2014 prior to stocking, did not detect any pathogens of concern. Since the most recent disease sampling of smolts prior to stocking did not detect any pathogens, the fish were transferred to two marine grow-out facilities in 2014. As such, prior to providing a stocking permit, the Maine Department of Marine Resources consulted with the Aquatic Animal Health Technical Committee (AAHTC) regarding potential management options. The following conditions were placed on the transfer permit:

- Mortalities are monitored frequently and collected 3 times a week.
- Strict disinfection and biosecurity protocols are being practiced.
- Contact with other sites is limited.
- Sites are under supervision of a veterinarian.

To date, diagnostic test results have shown little infectious pressure on the sites with very few fish having tested positive, there has been no elevated mortality and no fish expressing any clinical signs of BKD.

Renibacterium salmoninarum is considered a reportable pathogen in Maine. The Maine Department of Marine Resources regulations define reportable pathogens as “those infectious agents of regulatory concern whose geographic distribution within the State of Maine is not fully known, but whose presence may pose a threat to wild or farmed marine organisms.” The full regulations may be found at the following link: http://www.maine.gov/dmr/lawsandregs/regs/24_01212015.pdf.

U.S. Point of Contact on Disease:

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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

1. This should be the best estimate possible, though it is recognized that exact numbers may be difficult to obtain.
2. Based on the codes of containment, it was agreed that average size is a more accurate measurement than lifestage.
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.

Notes:

Federal permits for U.S. commercial aquaculture operations in Maine require reporting any escapes of 50 fish or greater, and specifically for marine sites; only fish larger than 2 kg or a loss of greater than 25% of cage biomass for fish smaller than 2 kg are reported (i.e., reportable escape).

There were no suspected aquaculture-origin captures in rivers in Maine in 2014.

3. Summary of Salmonid introductions from outside the Commission Area

Species (strain, if applicable)	Number	Life Stage	Origin ¹	Destination ²	Purpose ³	Date
<i>Salmo trutta</i> (Iijoki River strain)	37,000	Eyed egg (to support culture and release of 1-year smolts)	Taivalkoski Hatchery, Finland	Two small streams that flow directly into Long Island Sound	Promote a sea-run trout fishery	January 2015

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 Annex 1 of NAC(10)6

A New Animal Drug Application (NADA) was submitted by a private biotechnology company called Aqua Bounty for genetically engineered fish called AquaAdvantage® salmon being grown outside of the United States and imported into the United States as food. The application is being reviewed under the authority of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act as a new animal drug due to the genetic construct used to make genetically engineered animals qualifies as an “article” that meets the definition of a new animal drug. The FDA is reviewing this application in regards to effectiveness and safety, including food safety issues focusing on consumption hazards and associated risks posed to the public. The draft environmental assessment included an evaluation of effects from the following specific conditions for production and use; 1) production of eyed eggs in Prince Edward Island, Canada; 2) shipment of eyed eggs to Panama; 3) grow-out of fish in the highlands of Panama; 4) processing of fish in Panama, and; 5) shipment of table-ready processed fish to the United States. A preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact and environmental assessment were completed by the FDA were published in the Federal Register (77 FR 76050).