



North American Commission

NAC(15)5

NAC Annual Report

(Tabled by Canada)

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Canada, Submitted by: Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Date: 2015 for calendar year 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 and, for those diseases which occur in the country, any 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. Mohit Baxi, Director, Animal Import/Export Division, Programs and Policy Branch, CFIA. <mailto:Mohit.Baxi@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	Date of breach
Rainbow Trout	Estimate uncertain	400 grams	Port Mouton, NS	No recapture efforts	Extreme weather caused cage to submerge and collapse. Sizeable hole observed in nets.	March 26, 2014
	Nil		NL			
	Nil		NB			
	Nil		PE			
	Nil		QC			

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

Species (strain, if applicable)	Number	Life Stage	Origin ¹	Destination ²	Purpose ³
Atlantic Salmon Saga strain*	60,000	eggs	Iceland	Nova Scotia	Aquaculture in land-based closed containment facility
Atlantic Salmon	50,000	Eyed eggs	Iceland	Victoria, PE	Fish Health Research
	Nil			Newfoundland and Labrador	
	Nil			New Brunswick	
	Nil			Quebec	

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

On February 8, 2014, the decision to grant a waiver for information requirements under subsections 81(9) and 106(9) of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* was published in Vol. 148, No. 6 of the *Canada Gazette*, Part I. The waiver was for data from a test conducted to determine the pathogenicity, toxicity or invasiveness of the organism, and was requested by AquaBounty Inc., for the AquAdvantage® salmon.

The waiver was granted on the grounds that the living organism is to be used for a prescribed purpose, or manufactured at a location, where the person requesting the waiver is able to contain the substance, or living organism, so as to satisfactorily protect the environment and human health (<http://gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2014/2014-02-08/html/notice-avis-eng.php>).

In 2014, there were no known violations of the New Substances Regulations (Organisms) in respect of Atlantic salmon, and there were no known violations of the Significant New Activity Notice 16528.

In 2014, there were no regulatory submissions under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* for a transgenic salmonid, or any other novel aquatic organism that is a fish product of biotechnology.