



North American Commission

NAC(20)08

Annual Report

(Tabled by Canada)

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Submitted by: Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Date: May 13, 2020 for calendar year 2019

1. Summary of salmonid controlled disease incidents

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is responsible for Canada's National Aquatic Animal Health Program and is the Competent Authority for aquatic animal health which includes meeting Canada's international reporting obligations to the World Organisation of Animal Health (OIE) under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement.

The CFIA updates the health status of Canada's aquatic animals monthly as mandatory notifications of aquatic animal diseases are confirmed (See Annex).

For more information, please consult the CFIA website or contact:

- Disease Status in Canada: Dr. Debbie Barr, Director, Animal Health, Welfare and Biosecurity Division, Programs and Policy Branch, CFIA. Debbie.barr@inspection.gc.ca
- International Trade: Dr. Mohit Baxi, Director, Animal Import/Export Division, International Affairs Branch, CFIA. Mohit.Baxi@canada.ca

2019 summary of federally reportable diseases of finfish

<https://www.inspection.gc.ca/animal-health/aquatic-animals/diseases/reportable-diseases/federally-reportable-aquatic-animal-diseases/eng/1339174937153>

Current as of: 2019-12-31

| Disease | Total |
|--|--------------|
| Ceratomyxosis (<i>Ceratomyxa shasta</i>) | 0 |
| Epizootic haematopoietic necrosis | 0 |
| Infectious haematopoietic necrosis | 0 |
| Infectious pancreatic necrosis | 3 |
| Infectious salmon anaemia | 20 |
| Koi herpesvirus disease | 1 |
| Spring viraemia of carp | 0 |
| Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia | 0 |
| Whirling disease (<i>Myxobolus cerebralis</i>) | 0 |
| White sturgeon iridoviral disease | 0 |

2019 confirmed cases of federally reportable diseases that affected salmonids¹ in the Atlantic Region

Locations infected with infectious salmon anaemia²:

| Date confirmed | Location | Animal type infected | Scientific Name |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| January 8 Table note * | New Brunswick | Atlantic salmon | <i>Salmo salar</i> |
| January 28 | Newfoundland | Atlantic salmon | <i>Salmo salar</i> |
| March 4 | New Brunswick | Atlantic salmon | <i>Salmo salar</i> |
| March 11 Table note * | Newfoundland | Atlantic salmon | <i>Salmo salar</i> |
| March 28 Table note * | Nova Scotia | Atlantic salmon | <i>Salmo salar</i> |
| May 31 | New Brunswick | Atlantic salmon | <i>Salmo salar</i> |
| June 26 Table note * | New Brunswick | Atlantic salmon | <i>Salmo salar</i> |
| July 11 | New Brunswick | Atlantic salmon | <i>Salmo salar</i> |
| July 19 Table note * | New Brunswick | Atlantic salmon | <i>Salmo salar</i> |
| September 6 | Newfoundland | Atlantic salmon | <i>Salmo salar</i> |
| September 11 | New Brunswick | Atlantic salmon | <i>Salmo salar</i> |
| September 11 | Newfoundland | Atlantic salmon | <i>Salmo salar</i> |
| October 10 | Newfoundland | Atlantic salmon | <i>Salmo salar</i> |
| November 12 | Nova Scotia | Atlantic salmon | <i>Salmo salar</i> |
| November 20 | New Brunswick | Atlantic salmon | <i>Salmo salar</i> |
| December 6 Table note * | New Brunswick | Atlantic salmon | <i>Salmo salar</i> |
| December 6 | New Brunswick | Atlantic salmon | <i>Salmo salar</i> |
| December 9 Table note * | New Brunswick | Atlantic salmon | <i>Salmo salar</i> |
| December 23 | New Brunswick | Atlantic salmon | <i>Salmo salar</i> |
| December 23 | New Brunswick | Atlantic salmon | <i>Salmo salar</i> |

Table Note * This virus strain is not known to cause disease.

Locations infected with infectious pancreatic necrosis³:

| Date confirmed | Location | Animal type infected | Scientific Name |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| January 10 | Nova Scotia | Brook trout | <i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i> |
| May 28 | Nova Scotia | Brook trout | <i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i> |
| September 27 | New Brunswick | Brook trout | <i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i> |

¹ Reporting does not distinguish whether the salmonids were cultured or wild.

² <https://www.inspection.gc.ca/animal-health/aquatic-animals/diseases/reportable-diseases/isa/locations-infected/eng/1549521878704/1549521878969>

³ <https://www.inspection.gc.ca/animal-health/aquatic-animals/diseases/reportable-diseases/infectious-pancreatic-necrosis/locations-infected/eng/1549521244435/1549521244700>

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

There are no marine net-pens in Quebec or Prince Edward Island. There are no escapes reported for Newfoundland and Labrador in 2019.

In Nova Scotia, there have been five escape events of rainbow trout in 2019: the first event had 20 escaped fish, and the second event had less than 20 escaped fish. The remaining number of escaped fish is unknown for the following three events but will be determined after the 2020 harvest season. In these five incidents, the escaped fish are all female of the same species and strain that are stocked in Nova Scotia rivers and lakes by the NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture. Third party audits of the containment management sections of the Farm Management Plans held by each operator were conducted. A report on the results of a third-party audit was submitted to the Department and included any corrective actions taken in response to the results of the audit. The Department also has the authority to implement mitigation strategies based on the results of the containment management audit.

In New Brunswick, there were two escape events of Atlantic salmon in 2019: the first event had an estimated 1000 escaped fish with an average size of 3.3 kg and the second had roughly 225 escaped fish with an average size of 1.3 kg. The larger event was caused by a broken hose in Deer Island in the Bay of Fundy. Management action was taken to recapture the escaped fish and 53 fish were recaptured. Additionally, the broken hose was replaced and cameras were installed for better surveillance. The second event was caused by a net tear during treatment. Management action was taken to capture the escaped fish and 31 fish were recaptured. The tear in the net was also repaired.

3. Summary of Salmonid introductions from outside the Commission Area

| Species (strain, if applicable) | Number | Life Stage | Origin ¹ | Destination ² | Purpose ³ | Land-Based or Marine |
|--|---------|------------|---|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Rainbow Trout (<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>) | 200,000 | Eyed eggs | Rochester, Washington, USA | Brookvale, PEI | Aquaculture | Land-Based |
| Rainbow Trout (<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>) | 4000 | Eyed eggs | Hoodsport, Washington, USA | Victoria, PEI | Research | Land-Based |
| Atlantic Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) (Stofnfiskur strain) All Female | 60,000 | Eyed eggs | Hafnarfjorour, Iceland (Stofnfiskur Ltd.) | Victoria, PEI | Research | Land-Based |
| Rainbow Trout (<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>) | 200 000 | Eggs | Washington State USA | Québec | Aquaculture | Land-Based |
| Arctic Char (<i>Salvenius alpinus</i>) | 45,000 | Eggs | Yukon | Québec | Aquaculture | Land-Based |

No salmonids were imported from outside the convention area into New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador in the 2019 calendar year.

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 NASCO Commission Area (between Maine and New Brunswick, 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]

In 2019, there were no known violations of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* in respect of transgenic Atlantic salmon.

In 2019, there was no production of transgenic fish in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick or Newfoundland and Labrador.

Members of the Canadian Aquaculture Industry Alliance (CAIA), which represents the majority of farmed salmon facilities in Canada, do not farm or sell GM salmon, and are not growing or researching transgenic salmon. Production of transgenic salmon occurs only in one Canadian land-based production facility.

In keeping with Annex 5, paragraph d) of the Williamsburg Resolution, DFO has established the Centre of Expertise on Aquatic Biotechnology Regulatory Research, where contained, land-based research is undertaken to provide scientific knowledge that informs the risk assessment, risk management and regulatory approaches for transgenic salmonids.

To facilitate decision-making in the absence of full scientific certainty, where there is a risk of serious or irreversible harm, the Government of Canada has developed a Framework for the Application of Precaution in Science-Based Decision Making about Risk. This approach is aligned with Article 7 of the Williamsburg Resolution.

Annex

Additional Information

- Information on all confirmed findings of regulated diseases is publicly available on the CFIA's website (see <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/aquatic-animals/diseases/reportable/2017/eng/1339174937153/1339175227861>).
- The CFIA also maintains information on the status in Canada of controlled diseases in Canada (see <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/aquatic-animals/eng/1299155892122/1320536294234>).