



NOV 23 2011

Ms. Alexandra Morton
< gorbuscha@gmail.com >

Dear Ms. Morton:

Thank you for your correspondence of October 19 and 25, 2011, regarding the possibility of Infectious Salmon Anaemia (ISA) in British Columbia's wild sockeye salmon.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), in close collaboration with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), the Province of British Columbia and the Atlantic Veterinary College, continues to investigate your report of ISA in British Columbia salmon. Based on analysis conducted at DFO's national reference laboratory, there have been no confirmed cases of ISA in wild or farmed salmon in British Columbia. Testing in support of this investigation has been ongoing since mid-October when a laboratory at the Atlantic Veterinary College reported that it had detected the virus.

The Department has tested all 48 samples received as part of the original investigation and the results are all negative for the virus. These results are consistent with the findings of an independent laboratory in Norway, which also tested samples associated with this investigation and provided a report to CFIA.

All additional samples that have been collected and tested as part of this investigation have also been negative for ISA. However, these supplementary results must be considered inconclusive due to the poor quality of the samples. Additional testing continues to be conducted and the results will be released once they have been verified.

Under Canada's National Aquatic Animal Health Program, suspected federally reported diseases such as ISA must be confirmed at DFO's national reference laboratory. As part of the investigation, CFIA and DFO are also looking at how the samples were collected, handled, transported and stored. This information will be critical in validating the virus test results and establishing Canada's health status for this disease. Historically, over 5,000 wild and farmed salmon in British Columbia have been tested by the federal government and the Province of British Columbia, and none have ever tested positive for this disease.

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CFIA, in collaboration with DFO and the Province of British Columbia, is assessing the current testing levels for this virus in both wild and aquaculture populations in British Columbia, and will increase surveillance activities as required.

Regarding your correspondence of October 25, 2011, I cannot comment on the statement that you quoted from the website < <http://bcsalmonfacts.ca/> >. I can state that, from testing to date, there have been no ISA positive samples identified by the Department's national reference laboratory during the course of this CFIA-led investigation.

As outlined by Dr. Laura Richards in previous correspondence, there are stringent federal regulations in place to protect Canada's aquatic species (farmed and wild) from disease. The protection of Canada's natural resources continues to be a top priority for the Government of Canada.

Since ISA is a reportable disease under the *Health of Animals Act*, you may wish to direct any additional questions you may have to CFIA by telephone at 1-800-442-2342 or by visiting CFIA's website at < <http://inspection.gc.ca/english/directory/offbure.shtml> >.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely,



Keith Ashfield