



DEC - 5 2013

HCC 13-007073-620

Alexandra Morton

gorbuscha@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Alexandra Morton:

I am writing in response to your correspondence to the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Health, regarding the manner in which the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is handling potential evidence regarding Infectious Salmon Anaemia (ISA) virus. Minister Ambrose has requested that I respond to you.

Officials of the CFIA have made every effort to explain to you why your samples could not be retested. Like you, the CFIA is committed to protecting Canada's aquatic resources. To do so, we must follow rigorous scientific protocol, including using internationally approved methods for handling samples.

With regard to your concern about the safety of farmed salmon from British Columbia, CFIA inspectors use a number of tools to verify that fish processors have adequate controls in place to consistently produce safe and wholesome fish products. Risk-based product inspection is one of the tools that inspectors use. Over a time span of many years, CFIA inspection results of domestic fish products, including farmed fish, have shown a consistently high rate of compliance for all regulatory requirements.

Whether farmed or wild caught, all fish for human consumption processed at federally registered establishments must meet requirements for safety, wholesomeness and identity set by the Fish Inspection Regulations. Fish that are not fit for human consumption by virtue of being tainted, decomposed or unwholesome are not permitted to enter the food chain. In addition to the requirements set out by the Fish Inspection Regulations that prevent the production of fish unfit for human consumption, the Food and Drugs Act prohibits the sale of such fish.

Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

Dr. D. Ian Alexander
Chief Veterinary Officer for Canada
Executive Director, Animal Health Directorate