



WHAT IS INFECTIOUS SALMON ANAEMIA (ISA)?

ISA is a contagious viral disease of Atlantic salmon that was isolated in Scotland for the first time in May 1998. It has also been recorded in Norway, Canada, the USA, the Faroes and Chile. ISA is a notifiable disease under UK and EU legislation. Atlantic salmon is the only fish species known to be susceptible.

METHODS OF SPREAD:

- Movement of live fish
- Movement of dead fish
- Virus is transmitted through water
- Risk is associated with untreated blood released into the sea
- Once infection is established in a farm, other farms in the area are at risk
- Other species of fish may be carriers

CLINICAL SIGNS MAY INCLUDE:

- Lethargy
- Loss of appetite
- Gasping at water surface
- Pale gills (anaemia)
- Dark liver
- Accumulation of fluid in the body cavity
- Haemorrhage in internal organs
- High levels of mortality

ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT:

- National disease control centre established in Aberdeen to coordinate response as required by UK and EU legislation
- Action has been taken to contain the outbreak, and to investigate other areas which may have been affected. These actions include:
 - + Strict movement controls on farms
 - + Placing farms in wider coastal areas under surveillance
 - + Continued monitoring of healthy stocks

ACTION FOR SALMON FARMERS:

- REPORT unexplained fish mortality or suspicion of a notifiable disease to FRS Marine Laboratory
- FOLLOW codes of practice for well-boat disinfection
- OBSERVE strict hygiene practices for staff, divers and materials and equipment when moving between sites
- TREAT blood and offal at slaughter houses and processing units
- REMOVE mortalities frequently
- DISPOSE of mortalities safely

DISINFECTION

ALL equipment must be thoroughly cleaned prior to disinfection. Sodium hypochlorite is a highly effective disinfectant against the ISA virus. Other methods of disinfection include: formaldehyde; formic acid; sodium hydroxide; heat; ozone and UV irradiation. Refer to DISINFECTION GUIDE VERSION IV : PRACTICAL STEPS TO PREVENT THE INTRODUCTION AND MINIMISE TRANSMISSION OF DISEASES OF FISH, (<http://www.frs-scotland.gov.uk/disinfect>).

CONTACT ADDRESS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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