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INFECTIOUS HAEMATOPOIETIC NECROSIS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA in a salmon hatchery

EMERGENCY REPORT

Information received on 21 June 2002 from Dr Peter Fernandez, Associate Deputy Administrator, International Services, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Washington, DC:

Report date: 21 June 2002.

Nature of diagnosis: laboratory.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 1 April 2002.

Estimated date of first infection: unknown.

Outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Cascade Lock, State of Oregon, in the west of the country	1 hatchery

Description of affected population: sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*).

Total number of animals in the outbreak:

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
pis	68,000	25,000	25,000	43,000	0

Diagnosis:

- A. **Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** Corvallis Fish Pathology Laboratory, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon State University.
- B. **Diagnostic tests used:** indirect fluorescent antibody test (IFAT), polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assay.

Epidemiology:

- A. **Source of agent / origin of infection:** despite investigations, the source of the introduction of the virus into the site has not yet been identified.

Infectious haematopoietic necrosis virus (IHNV) was isolated from a dead steelhead salmonid (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) that had washed into the hatchery. However, the strain of virus isolated from this steelhead is different from the virus isolate which caused the high mortality in the sockeye salmon.

Although it is possible that salmonids carrying the "sockeye strain" could have been in the water supply above the hatchery, IHNV was not isolated from any other susceptible stock of fish on site that were using the same water.

- B. Mode of spread:** the transmission of IHNV between fish is primarily horizontal; however, cases of vertical or "egg-associated" transmission have been recorded. Horizontal transmission is typically by direct exposure, but it has been suggested that invertebrate vectors may play a role in some cases.
- C. Other epidemiological details:** a wild strain of IHNV is enzootic to the Columbia River watershed and numerous isolations have been made this year in adult salmon and steelhead, both of wild and hatchery origin. Several wild strain disease outbreaks have occurred in juvenile salmonids in State and Federal conservation hatcheries.

Control measures: all salmon smolts affected were being raised to enhance wild populations in Idaho. As a result of the detection, they were refused entry to Idaho and the remaining salmon smolts were destroyed on 4 June 2002.

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CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER IN SPAIN Partial lifting of movement restrictions

Information received on 24 June 2002 from Dr Concepción Sánchez Trujillano, Deputy Director-General for Animal Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Madrid:

Situation

On 5 December 2001 there was a report of a clinical suspicion of an outbreak of classical swine fever on a farm in the administrative district of Osona in the province of Barcelona (see *Disease Information*, **14** [49], 283, dated 7 December 2001, and **14** [50], 286, dated 14 December 2001).

Since that date, a total of 20 outbreaks have been reported, all in the district of Osona in Barcelona province (see details in the "Handistatus II" OIE database available at the website http://www.oie.int/eng/info/en_bdd.htm). The latest outbreak was confirmed on 6 May 2002, with stamping out being carried out on 30 April 2002.

Following confirmation, preventive slaughter was carried out on all farms situated within a radius of 1 or 1.5 kilometre around each outbreak, in line with the epidemiological situation and with their epidemiological links with other farms.

In view of this situation, stamping out was applied and a total of 222,594 animals from 250 farms were stamped out by 31 May 2002.

Restrictions on movements

All the protection and surveillance zones have now been lifted, with the result that restrictions on movements are being applied only in the zones stipulated in Appendix I of European Commission Decision 2001/925/CE, amended for the last time by Decision 2002/243/CE. At present this area is limited to the province of Barcelona and the administrative districts of La Garrotxa, El Ripollés and Selva in the province of Gerona.

At its meeting of 5 June 2002, the European Union's Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health approved a further reduction in the measures, which will be applied only in the administrative district of Osona in Barcelona province. The Decision approving the said measures is due to be published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER IN COSTA RICA
Detection of specific antibodies (additional information)

Translation of information received on 25 June 2002 from Dr Victor Hugo Sancho Vargas, Director of Animal Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Production, San José:

End of previous report period: 18 June 2002 (see *Disease Information*, **15** [25], 101, dated 21 June 2002).

End of this report period: 24 June 2002.

The post-mortem examination performed on each of the two pigs did not reveal any lesion in any organ.

The direct fluorescent antibody test gave negative results for classical swine fever. Tested by ELISA⁽¹⁾, one of the pigs was seropositive for classical swine fever while the other was seronegative.

Screening is continuing in the surveillance border area, where no animals with suspicious clinical signs and no positive serological results have been found.

(1) ELISA: enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.

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CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER IN ROMANIA
Lifting of restriction measures

Information received on 26 June 2002 from Dr Gabriel Predoi, Director General, National Sanitary Veterinary Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forests, Bucharest:

End of previous report period: 10 April 2002 (see *Disease Information*, **15** [15], 45, dated 12 April 2002).

End of this report period: 26 June 2002.

Virus isolation was performed at the Institute for Diagnosis and Animal Health, Bucharest. The isolated virus was sent to the OIE Reference Laboratory in Hannover, Germany.

The outbreak was in an area where vaccination is prohibited. No vaccination has been carried out. Stamping-out procedures were applied.

Sentinel pigs were introduced into the outbreak premises and were tested after 21 and 42 days, with negative results.

The examined samples from the surveillance and protection area were negative.

Restrictions were lifted on 20 June 2002.

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KOI HERPESVIRUS INFECTION IN INDONESIA Suspicion

Extract from a report by Dr Akhmad Rukyani, Director, Directorate of Fish Health and Environment, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Jakarta, received on 26 June 2002 from Dr Sofjan Sudarjat, Director General of Livestock Services, Department of Agriculture, Jakarta:

Report date: 26 June 2002.

A serious disease outbreak among koi carp and common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) is currently occurring in Indonesia, having started in the area of Blitar in East Java in mid-April 2002. Since then, it has spread rapidly throughout Java Island, causing very high mortality (80-90%) in both common carp and koi carp, with an estimated loss of more than 50 billion IDR (approximately 5 million USD).

Diagnosis

Clinical signs in infected fish include severe gill necrosis, lots of mucus, superficial haemorrhages, fin rot and enlargement of kidney and liver with haemorrhages and discoloration.

Preliminary investigations conducted by the Fish Health Officers from the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, suggest a viral infection based on the pattern of outbreak and the clinical signs characteristic of herpesvirus of koi carp (KHV). Laboratory examinations are in progress.

Epidemiology

Indonesia has not experienced a disease of this nature in the past. The disease is suspected to have been introduced through importation of koi carp from another country.

Control measures

No clear effective measures can be applied to control the disease. The Government of Indonesia has officially declared Java Island as an isolated area for the disease. The movement of koi carp and common carp from Java Island to other islands is strictly prohibited. In addition, importation of koi carp and common carp into Indonesia is temporarily not permitted.

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NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN VENEZUELA
Additional information on the situation in March and April 2002

Translation of information received on 21 June 2002 from Dr Nancy Medina de Lopez, Director of the Autonomous Service of Agricultural Health (SASA), Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Caracas:

Nature of diagnosis: clinical and laboratory.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 22 March 2002.

Estimated date of first infection: 16 March 2002.

Outbreaks:

<i>Location</i>	<i>No. of outbreaks in March 2002</i>
State of Zulia	5

Description of affected population: four broiler farms and one layer farm.

Outbreaks:

<i>Location</i>	<i>No. of new outbreaks in April 2002</i>
State of Zulia	3

Description of affected population: one layer farm, one zoo barn owl (*Tyto alba*) and fighting cocks were affected.

Total number of animals in the outbreaks:

<i>month</i>	<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
March	510,000	263,668	65,000	20,000	226,332
April	250,250	52,000	20,000	0	198,250

Diagnosis:

- A. Laboratories where diagnosis was made:** the first diagnosis was issued by a private laboratory, with a positive result by histopathology, and the second was issued by a laboratory in Georgia, United States of America, both for viscerotropic velogenic Newcastle disease virus. This result was confirmed by the Veterinary Research Institute⁽¹⁾, by means of virus isolation and by determining the intracerebral pathogenicity index.
- B. Diagnostic tests used:** histopathological examination and virus isolation.
- C. Causal agent:** velogenic viscerotropic Newcastle disease virus. Intracerebral pathogenicity index: 1.87.

Epidemiology:

Once official notification had been made, an inspection was immediately carried out, which found clinical signs consistent with Newcastle disease in sick animals and a high mortality rate. Sanitary control measures were immediately imposed.

Most of the affected animal populations had been vaccinated, with the vaccine being delivered in their drinking water.

The epidemiological investigation detected a very significant association between the high mortality rate (90%) in fighting cocks and the finding that the personnel and suppliers of the poultry farms were fighting-cock owners and enthusiasts. This species has a high susceptibility due to poor sanitary handling, since there are no censuses of fighting-cock breeders and centres.

Control measures:

- Affected farms placed under quarantine, ban on moving cocks out of the affected State, ban on visits of any kind to outbreak areas, ban on the movement of bedding, incineration of dead birds, elimination of birds with clinical signs, and cleaning, disinfection and flaming of the installations following depopulation of the birds.
- Optimisation of biosafety conditions.
- Meetings with administrators and technical personnel of all farms in the State to inform them of the health event and to adopt a disease control plan, with special emphasis on epidemiological surveillance and stepping up of vaccination.
- In the State of Zulia, fighting cocks were vaccinated and immunisation was stepped up in other poultry farms, with a population of 11,990,309 birds in 324 farms throughout the State.
- Sanitary measures were implemented in populations of fighting cocks, by applying a nationwide vaccination programme. In addition, the census of cock breeders and centres was brought forward.

Current situation in the State of Zulia: no new outbreaks of Newcastle disease were reported in May or early June 2002 in the State of Zulia, indicating that the health event is totally under control in this State.

(1) *Instituto de Investigaciones Veterinarias* (National Reference Laboratory).

Note by the OIE Central Bureau: as mentioned in *Disease Information*, **15** (25), 105, of 21 June 2002, outbreaks of Newcastle disease were reported in the State of Trujillo during the months of May and June 2002.

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