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## **WORKING DOCUMENT**

**Exchange of views on the reassessment of additional guarantees for certain diseases in aquaculture animals in accordance with Article 43 of Council Directive 2006/88/EC**

This document does not necessarily represent the views of the Commission

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## 1. Background

Council Directive 2006/88/EC<sup>1</sup> as amended by Commission Directive 2008/53/EC<sup>2</sup> lays down animal health requirements for the placing on the market of aquaculture animals and products thereof. Directive 2006/88/EC repeals and updates Council Directive 91/67/EEC<sup>3</sup>.

Decision 2004/453<sup>4</sup> as amended by 2006/272/EC<sup>5</sup>, implementing the repealed Directive 91/67/EEC, grants additional guarantees to certain territories of several Member States in relation to several fish diseases included in Column 1, List III of Annex A to Directive 91/67/EEC. Those territories can be found in the following tables.

### 1.1. Territories with approved freedom of certain diseases referred to in Column 1, List III of Annex A to Council Directive 91/67/EEC

Disease	Member State	Territory or parts of territory
Spring viraemia of carp (SVC)	Denmark	Whole territory
	Finland	Whole territory; the water catchment area of the Vuoksi should be considered as a buffer zone
	Ireland	Whole territory
	Sweden	Whole territory
	United Kingdom	The territories of Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey
Bacterial kidney disease (BKD)	Ireland	Whole territory
	United Kingdom	The territories of Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and Jersey
Infectious pancreatic necrosis virus (IPN)	Finland	The continental parts of the territory; the water catchment areas of the Vuoksi and the Kemijoki should be considered as buffer zones

<sup>1</sup> Council Directive 2006/88/EC of 24 October on animal health requirements for aquaculture animals and products thereof and control of certain diseases in aquatic animals

<sup>2</sup> Commission Directive 2008/53/EC of 30 April amending Annex IV to Council Directive 2006/88/EC as regards spring viraemia of carp (SVC)

<sup>3</sup> Council Directive 91/67/EEC of 28 January concerning the animal health conditions governing the placing on the market of aquaculture animals and products

<sup>4</sup> Commission Decision 2004/453/EC of 29 April implementing Council Directive 91/67/EEC as regards measures against certain diseases in aquaculture animals

<sup>5</sup> Commission Decision 2006/272/EC of 5 April amending Decision 2004/453/EC as regards Sweden and the United Kingdom

	Sweden	The continental parts of the territory
	United Kingdom	The territory of the Isle of Man
Infection with <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i>	Finland	The water catchment areas of the Tenojoki and Näätamönjoki; the water catchment areas of the Paatsjoki, Luttojoki, and Uutuanjoki are considered as buffer zones
	Ireland	The whole territory
	United Kingdom	The territories of Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey

## 1.2. Territories with approved control and eradication programmes of certain diseases referred to in Column 1, List III of Annex A to Council Directive 91/67/EEC

Disease	Member State	Territory or parts of territory
Spring viraemia of carp	United Kingdom	The territories of Great Britain
Bacterial kidney disease	Finland	The continental parts of the territory
	Sweden	The continental parts of the territory
	United Kingdom	The territories of Great Britain
Infectious pancreatic necrosis	Sweden	The coastal parts of the territory

Article 63 of Directive 2006/88/EC establishes that Decision 2004/453/EC shall continue to apply pending the adoption of the necessary provisions in accordance with Article 43 of the Directive, which shall be adopted not later than 3 years after the entry into force of the Directive. Directive 2006/88/EC entered into force in December 2006.

Article 43 of Directive 2006/88/EC *on provisions for limiting the impact of diseases not listed in Part II of Annex IV* establishes that Member States may take measures to prevent the introduction or to control diseases which are not of Community importance but of regional importance. However, if those measures affect trade between Member States, they shall be subject to approval in accordance with the Committee procedure.

The current regime under Decision 2004/453/EC includes trade restrictive measures as live aquaculture animals of susceptible species to be introduced into a territory with approved freedom or with an approved control and eradication programme should be sourced from an area with an equivalent health status.

The Commission services wrote to the Member States in question in February 2009, and asked for updated information on the current status of the additional guarantees regime.

By 15 April 2009 all Member States concerned have responded to the questionnaire.

It must be highlighted that with regard to:

- Infection with *Gyrodactylus salaris* that during the negotiations that led to the final adoption of Directive 2006/88/EC, the Commission issued the following declaration:

*"The Commission intends to contribute to the future protection of susceptible stocks of Atlantic salmon in freshwater, as laid down in the Habitat Directive 92/43/EEC, against the threat of Gyrodactylus salaris. This is possible pursuant to Article 43 of the proposed Directive, which can be used as a legal base to carry over the current measures laid down in Commission Decision 2004/453/EC under the new Directive.*

*The Commission intends to present to the Standing Committee of the Food Chain and Animal Health, a proposal to maintain the current G. salaris guarantees laid down in Decision 2004/453/EC, in line with Article 63(3)".*

- SVC that this disease was originally listed in Annex IV to Directive 2006/88/EC. Commission Directive 2008/53 amended Annex IV to Directive 2006/88/EC removing SVC from that Annex. Recital 11 of Commission Directive 2008/53/EC reads:

*"(11) The Member States that may require additional guarantees in place in accordance with Decision 2004/453/EC should be allowed to continue to apply measures in accordance with Article 43 of Directive 2006/88/EC, including restrictions on the placing on the market and imports, in order to control SVC and maintain their disease-free status."*

The purpose of this document is to assess the current disease situation in those Member States granted additional guarantees to decide whether the trade restrictive measures currently in force may be continued or not taking into account the requirements laid down in Article 43 of Directive 2006/88/EC.

## 2. Diseases

### 2.1. Spring viraemia of carp (SVC)

Spring viraemia of carp is an acute rhabdovirus infection of several carp species and of some other cyprinid and ictalurid fish species. Common carp is the most susceptible species and is the principal host. SVC is relatively widespread among countries with susceptible species. According to the OIE the disease has been reported in America (Bolivia, Canada and USA), Asia (Kuwait, Laos, Georgia, People's Republic of China) and Europe (Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldavia, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, and UK).

The main reservoirs of the virus are covert virus carriers present in cultured or natural populations. Virus is shed via faeces, urine, mucus or exudates. Transmission for this virus is horizontal; by infected animals, by fomites (mainly water) or carriers (parasitic invertebrates). Vertical transmission has not been scientifically demonstrated but such transmission, if possible, appears of minor epidemiological importance.

Implementation of hygiene measures and restrictive movement rules are the only control methods currently feasible in order to prevent or control the disease.

### 2.2. Bacterial kidney disease (BKD)

Bacterial kidney disease is a typically chronic disease caused by *Renibacterium salmoninarum* affecting fish belonging to the family *Salmonidae*. Salmonids vary in their susceptibility to BKD, being Pacific salmon species of the genus *Oncorhynchus* considered as the most susceptible. It can cause serious mortality in juvenile salmonids in both freshwater and seawater and in pre-spawning adults. The disease has been reported in America (Chile, Canada and USA), Asia (Japan) and Europe (Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and UK).

Most recorded outbreaks of BKD have occurred in fish culture facilities, and the spread of BKD has followed the expansion of salmonid culture. Clinical BKD has also been reported in feral fish, including naturally spawning populations that have never been supplemented with hatchery fish. Whereas the chronic nature of the disease has hindered accurate estimates of fish losses, particularly in feral fish populations, BKD remains one of the most important bacterial diseases affecting cultured salmonids. Losses as high as 80% in stocks of Pacific salmon and 40% in stocks of Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) have been reported.

It can be transmitted both horizontally from infected fish sharing the water supply and vertically linked with eggs from infected parents. Surface disinfection of eggs is not entirely effective in preventing vertical transmission.

Disease prevention is hampered by the chronic nature of BKD, which does not allow the disease to be suspected before late clinical or debilitating manifestations appear. One vaccine has been developed to try to prevent the occurrence of BKD. Reports on its efficacy are variable. So far, it has not been licensed in the EU. Disease control is as well difficult due to the relatively low efficacy of main drugs used for treating fish.

Therefore, disease prevention is mainly based on hygiene measures and movement control policy rules.

### **2.3. Infectious pancreatic necrosis virus (IPN)**

Infectious pancreatic necrosis is a highly contagious viral disease of young salmonids held under intensive rearing conditions caused by a virus belonging to the family Birnaviridae. Susceptible species to the disease are mostly rainbow trout, (*Oncorhynchus mikys*), several Pacific salmon species (*Oncorhynchus spp*), brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) and Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*). Susceptibility to clinical disease generally decreases with age, with resistance to clinical disease usually been reached at about 1500 degree-days, except for Atlantic salmon smolts, which can express clinical signs shortly after transfer from freshwater to sea water. The disease has been reported from America (Canada, Chile and USA), Africa (South Africa), Oceania (New Zealand), Asia (Iran, India, Japan, rep of Korea and Thailand) and Europe (Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, UK, Czech Republic, Ireland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Switzerland).

The disease is transmitted both horizontally and vertically. Surface disinfection of eggs appears not to be entirely effective in preventing vertical transmission. The main reservoirs of the virus are fish recovered from the disease.

IPN vaccines have been commercially available in several countries since the 90s. Although they are a valuable tool to control the disease, it does not prevent infection. Prevention is mostly based on hygiene measures and movement control policy rules.

### **2.4. Gyrodactylus Salaris (GS)**

*Gyrodactylus Salaris* is a pathogenic parasite that causes severe clinical disease in wild and farmed Atlantic salmon parr and smolt. Several others salmonids are susceptible to the parasite. It may be present in farmed salmonids for years without any signs of disease. Clinical disease has been reported in Norway. The parasite has been detected in several European countries: Bosnia Herzegovina, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden and Ukraine).

The disease is transmitted horizontally.

The parasite is very difficult to control. Methods successfully applied in Norway to control the parasite in the main rivers where the salmon are migrating are based on the use of rotenone and/or metal solutions (mostly based on aluminium) associated with serious environmental problems.

Movement restrictions of live animals are the main disease preventative measures to maintain areas free of this parasite.

### **3. Assessment**

#### **3.1. Programmes to maintain disease freedom**

##### **3.1.1. SVC**

###### **3.1.1.1. Denmark**

SVC free status covers the whole territory of Denmark. Currently there are 5 farms rearing SVC susceptible species (carps). Those farms and put and take fisheries have to be authorised in order to conduct their activities.

For the maintenance of the health status, farms are regularly inspected by the competent authority. Inspections include:

- Inspection and autopsy of moribund and abnormal fish
- At least one health inspection conducted when water temperatures are between 10-15C and at least one sampling in brood stock farms, and every second year in other farms of 30 fish.

Put and take fisheries are subject to active surveillance (notification of disease and subsequent investigation).

Restocking of natural waters with SVC susceptible species is prohibited.

Since the additional guarantees were granted, SVC has not been detected in Denmark. There has been an event of carp mortalities in lakes in 2007. However, samples were taken and SVCV was not found.

###### Assessment

There have been no SVC outbreaks since 2004. Information provided by Danish authorities shows that the criteria laid down in Annex V to Commission Decision 2004/453/EC are complied with.

###### Conclusion

Denmark is considered as free of SVC. To safeguard this status Denmark should be able to continue to apply trade restrictive measures in line with those currently approved.

###### **3.1.1.2. Finland**

SVC free status covers the whole territory of Finland except the water catchment of the river Vuosky that is considered as a buffer zone on the border to Russia. Currently there are two farms rearing susceptible species. Those farms are registered and under the supervision of the competent authority. Natural food ponds and angling points are registered by the competent authority.

For the maintenance of the health status, the two farms are inspected and sampled once a year. Limited targeted surveillance in the wild is carried out in cyprinids.

Since the additional guarantees were granted, SVC has not been detected in Finland. No suspicions of mortalities that may have been attributed to SVC in wild populations have been reported during this period.

#### Assessment

There have been no SVC outbreaks since 2004. Information provided by the Finnish authorities shows that the criteria laid down in Annex V to Commission Decision 2004/453/EC are complied with.

Furthermore, since the additional guarantees were granted, Finland has been approved disease-free of VHS and IHN. In the assessment leading to those approvals it was concluded that there was no need to establish a buffer zone on the border to Russia. That assessment is also valid for SVC.

#### Conclusion

Finland is still considered as free of SVC. To safeguard this status Finland should be able to continue to apply trade restrictive measures in line with those currently approved. However, the water catchment of the river Vuosky should discontinue to be regarded as a buffer zone.

### **3.1.1.3. Ireland**

SVC free status covers the whole territory of Ireland. There are five farms rearing susceptible species. Farms are licensed by the competent authority and under its supervision.

With regard to the maintenance of the disease-free status, targeted surveillance was discontinued as the whole territory of Ireland is disease SVC free (possibility foreseen in point A.5 of Annex V to Commission Decision 2004/453/EC). However, an inspection system continues to be carried out consisting of examination of the record keeping and biosecurity system in place, clinical examination and the taking of samples where necessary.

Since the additional guarantees were granted, SVC has not been detected in Ireland.

#### Assessment

There have been no SVC outbreaks since 2004. Information provided by the Irish authorities shows that the criteria laid down in Annex V to Commission Decision 2004/453/EC are complied with.

#### Conclusion

Ireland is considered as free of SVC. To safeguard this status Ireland should be able to continue to apply trade restrictive measures in line with those currently approved.

### **3.1.1.4. Sweden**

SVC free status covers the whole territory of Sweden. There is currently 1 farm rearing susceptible species. The farm is register by the competent authority and it is under its supervision.

In order to maintain disease-free status, targeted surveillance has been maintained; it implies two yearly inspections and one sampling per year. Wild susceptible populations have been sampled up and downstream of the farm.

Since the additional guarantees were granted, SVC has not been detected in Sweden.

#### Assessment

There have been no SVC outbreaks since 2004. Information provided by the Swedish authorities shows that the criteria laid down in Annex V to Commission Decision 2004/453/EC are complied with.

#### Conclusion

Sweden is considered as free of SVC. To safeguard this status Sweden should be able to continue to apply trade restrictive measures in line with those currently approved.

### **3.1.1.5. United Kingdom**

SVC free status covers Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey. Currently only 2 farms rearing SVC susceptible species can be found in Northern Ireland. The rest of the disease free areas do not have any fame rearing susceptible species. In Northern Ireland, fish farms are licensed by the competent authority and under its supervision.

To maintain SVC disease-free status, targeted surveillance has been maintained comprising one annual inspection and one sampling every two years.

Since the additional guarantees were granted, SVC has not been detected in disease free areas.

#### Assessment

There have been no SVC outbreaks since 2004. Information provided by the British authorities shows that the criteria laid down in Annex V to Commission Decision 2004/453/EC are complied with.

#### Conclusion

Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey are considered as free of SVC. To safeguard this status UK should be able to continue to apply trade restrictive measures in line with those currently approved.

### **3.1.2. Gyrodactylus salaris**

#### **3.1.2.1. Finland**

#### Description

GS free status comprises the water catchment areas of the Tenojoki and Näätamönjoki; the water catchment areas of the Paatsjoki, Luttojoki, and Uutuanjoki are considered as buffer

zones. There are no farms rearing susceptible species in the disease free area whereas in the buffer zone two farms rearing salmonids are located. They are registered and under the control of the competent authorities.

Annual sampling has been carried out in feral fish and in farmed fish in both the buffer and the free areas.

Strict biosecurity measures are in place to prevent infestation of wild populations:

- transfer of live fish, non-disinfected eggs and baits from other parts of Finland to the buffer zone and to the free zone are forbidden;
- transfer of live fish, baits and non-disinfected eggs from the buffer zone to the free zone are as well forbidden;
- use of bait fish is forbidden in the protected area;
- gutting of fish originated from other Finish watercourses is forbidden in both areas;
- boats, canoes, fishing gear transferred from other parts of Finland must be dried or disinfected before their use in the protected area.

Since the additional guarantees were granted, GS has not been detected in Finland.

#### Assessment

There have been no GS outbreaks since 2004. Information provided by the Finish authorities shows that the criteria laid down in Annex V to Commission Decision 2004/453/EC are complied with.

#### Conclusion

To safeguard their disease free status as regards GS Finland should be able to continue to apply trade restrictive measures in line with those currently approved.

### **3.1.2.2. Ireland**

The whole territory of Ireland is currently considered as GS-free. Farms rearing susceptible species (currently 67) are licensed by the competent authority and remains under its control. Those farms are regularly inspected. The inspection consist of an examination of the record keeping and biosecurity systems in place on the site, as well a clinical examination of the stock and the taking of samples, where necessary.

Adequate sampling programme has been carried out in farmed and wild populations.

GS has not been detected since the additional guarantees were granted.

#### Assessment

There have been no GS outbreaks since 2004. Information provided by the Irish authorities shows that the criteria laid down in Annex V to Commission Decision 2004/453/EC are complied with.

### Conclusion

To safeguard their disease free status as regards GS Ireland should be able to continue to apply trade restrictive measures in line with those currently approved..

#### **3.1.2.3. United Kingdom**

The territories of Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey are considered free with regard to infection with GS. Farms rearing susceptible species are registered by the CA and under its control. There are currently 458 fish farms holding fish susceptible to GS (there is no farming of susceptible species in Guernsey).

Surveillance in farmed and wild stocks has been continued as follows:

- each fish farm holding susceptible species is subject to annual inspection and fish stocks are visually checked for signs of infection;
- in Scotland fish from farms holding susceptible species are sampled in a rolling two-year programme;
- in Northern Ireland a targeted surveillance programme for farms holding susceptible species is in place;
- in Great Britain there is a targeted programme of surveillance in wild stocks of Atlantic salmon for GS. Samples of fish are obtained from each major catchment holding Atlantic salmon on a five year rolling programme and examined for infection with GS. A similar programme of surveillance exists in Northern Ireland;
- the Isle of Man has a targeted surveillance programme on all farms holding susceptible species of fish.

GS has not been detected since the additional guarantees were granted.

### Assessment

There have been no GS outbreaks since 2004. Information provided by the UK authorities shows that the criteria laid down in Annex V to Commission Decision 2004/453/EC are complied with.

### Conclusion

To safeguard their disease free status as regards GS UK should be able to continue to apply trade restrictive measures in line with those currently approved.

#### **3.1.3. BKD**

### **3.1.3.1. Ireland**

The whole territory of Ireland is currently considered as BKD-free. Farms rearing susceptible species (currently 67) are licensed by the competent authority and remains under its control. Those farms are regularly inspected.

Sampling has been maintained in ranched salmonids returning to the continental areas.

Movements of farmed fish from coastal zones to the continental zone are not permitted unless the animals are clinically healthy and screened for the presence of BKD. Such movement has only occurred generally once a year, from a single marine site to a hatchery for brood-stock purposes. All samples taken in relation to these movements have been negatives for BKD.

BKD has not been detected since the additional guarantees were granted.

#### Assessment

There have been no BKD outbreaks since 2004. Information provided by the Irish authorities shows that the criteria laid down in Annex V to Commission Decision 2004/453/EC are complied with.

#### Conclusion

To safeguard their disease free status as regards BKD Ireland should be able to continue to apply trade restrictive measures in line with those currently approved.

### **3.1.3.2. United Kingdom**

The territories of Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and Jersey are considered free with regard to infection with BKD. Farms rearing susceptible species to this disease are licensed, under the control of the CA and regularly inspected. Currently there are 17 fish farms holding species susceptible to BKD in Northern Ireland, 4 in the Isle of Man and 1 in Jersey.

There are no movements of farmed fish originating in coastal zones into continental zones.

Targeted surveillance has been maintained in all fish farms. It comprises inspection and sampling of 30 to 150 fish of susceptible species once every two years. Surveillance in the wild has also been performed.

BKD has not been detected since the additional guarantees were granted.

#### Assessment

There have been no BKD outbreaks since 2004. Information provided by the UK authorities shows that the criteria laid down in Annex V to Commission Decision 2004/453/EC are complied with.

#### Conclusion

Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and Jersey are considered as free of BKD. To safeguard this disease free status, UK should be able to continue to apply trade restrictive measures in line with those currently approved.

### **3.1.4. IPN**

#### **3.1.4.1. Finland**

The continental parts of Finland are considered as IPN-free. The water catchment areas of the Vuosky and the Kemijoki are considered as buffer zones. There are 150 farms rearing salmonids juveniles and/or food fish and around 200 companies producing whitefish fry in natural food ponds. Fish farms, natural food pond culture, angling ponds and hatcheries are register and under the control of the CA.

Transfer of live fish from the coastal zone to the continental zone is subject to prior authorisation (not granted for farmed fish for the last 15 years). Moving eggs from wild migrating fish necessitates a quarantine procedure including sampling of brood fish, disinfection of eggs and their incubation in quarantine facilities pending the results of the brood fish sampling.

Targeted surveillance is carried out in continental and coastal areas in conjugation testing for VHS and IHN. Farms are inspected and sampled (30 fish/sample) at least once a year. Natural food pond companies are as well monitored.

Since the additional guarantees were granted, IPN has not been detected in the continental zone. One freshwater farm near the coast zone has been under IPN restrictions since 1990 which means that they can only move live fish and eggs to the sea area. The farm is situated between the first and second weir (water power plants) in River Ähtävänjoki. Thus, fish are not able to migrate from that area upstream. No virus isolation has been done since 2002. This farm produces sea-trout for stocking purposes. The CA has the view that it is not realistic to get rid of the virus.

#### Assessment

There have been no IPNV isolations since 2004.

Concerning the non-IPN free status of one single farm near the coastal zone, the Commission services agree with the Finish authorities that this farm does not jeopardise the health status of the continental zone. Restrictive measures have been properly enforced at this farm. In the Finish legislation, regardless being placed strictly speaking in the continental area, this farm is handled as a coastal farm.

Information provided by the Finish authorities shows that the criteria laid down in Annex V to Commission Decision 2004/453/EC are complied with.

Furthermore, the assessment regarding the need for buffer zones done in relation to Finland's application for VHS and IHN freedom, referred to above, is also relevant for IPN.

#### Conclusion

The continental parts of Finland is still IPN-free. To safeguard this disease free status, Finland should be able to continue to apply trade restrictive measures in line with those currently approved. The water catchment areas of the Vuosky and the Kemijoki should discontinue being considered as buffer zones.

### **3.1.4.2. Sweden**

Decision 2004/453/EC declared the whole territory of Sweden as IPN free. After the entry into force of that Decision, Sweden notified two outbreaks in the coastal zone (one in wild stocks and other in farmed fish). Therefore, Decision 2006/272/EC withdrew the IPN free status for the Swedish coastal area. Currently, the continental area is considered as IPN free whereas the coastal area is considered as under an approved eradication programme.

There are 143 fish farms (116 in the continental and 27 in the coastal area) rearing susceptible species. Those farms are registered and under the supervision of the CA. They are regularly inspected (once a year) and sampled (sampling size 30) every second year. Targeted surveillance is carried out in wild salmonids in three sampling sites.

Movements of fish from the coastal area to the continental zone are carried out under strict control measures. For conservation of wild stocks it is needed to use wild breeders caught in seawaters. Samples of all those female breeders are taken and tested against IPN. Eggs are incubated in the continental zone under strict quarantine conditions until laboratorial tests prove absence of the virus.

IPN virus was detected in one continental farm in 2007 without clinical signs. The CA took immediate action, putting the farm under official restrictions and slaughtering all fish from the farm a week after the detection of the disease. Tests carried out in one farm downstream were negative to the disease. The infected farm was repopulated with certified IPN free animals.

#### Assessment

There has been one isolation of IPN in the continental area. The measures taken by the Swedish authorities are in line with the provisions of Decision 2004/453/EC for regaining disease free status after an outbreak (cf point 7.C of Annex V to the Decision).

Information provided by the Swedish authorities shows that the criteria laid down in Annex V to Commission Decision 2004/453/EC are complied with.

#### Conclusion

The continental area of Sweden is still IPN-free. To safeguard this disease free status, Sweden should be able to continue to apply trade restrictive measures in line with those currently approved.

### **3.1.4.3. United Kingdom**

Only the Isle of Man is granted with additional guarantees with regard to IPN. There are 4 fish farms rearing susceptible species. Before starting their activities these farms should have been authorised by the CA. They are under its control.

No farmed fish are moved from coastal areas to inland areas.

A targeted surveillance scheme is applied comprising inspection and sampling of farms twice a year (sampling size 150 animals) and sampling of wild stocks in those areas where the number of farms is limited.

IPN has not been detected since the additional guarantees were granted.

### Assessment

Information provided by the UK authorities shows that the criteria laid down in Annex V to Commission Decision 2004/453/EC are complied with.

### Conclusion

The Isle of Man is free of IPN. To safeguard this disease free status UK should be able to continue to apply trade restrictive measures in line with those currently approved.

## **3.2. Eradication Programmes**

### **3.2.1. SVC**

#### **3.2.1.1. United Kingdom**

Currently the territories of Great Britain are under an approved eradication programme.

Farms rearing susceptible species (188 in Great Britain) are registered after an inspection remain and under the supervision of the CA (at least one inspection per year).

In England and Wales, all put and take fisheries are either registered or in the process of becoming registered. The registration process is scheduled to be completed by 1 August 2009. The situation is similar in Scotland, although they have a much smaller number of fisheries.

Introduction of fish into the wild is subject to authorisation. If those fish are to be introduced into rivers or water in contact with rivers, they have to meet rigorous health requirements.

A targeted surveillance scheme is applied including farms and wild populations:

- each fish farm is subject to annual inspection and once every two years to a sampling of 30 fish. Under this scheme, no positive cases have been detected since 2004;
- surveillance in the wild occurs in areas with significant populations of susceptible wild fish but where aquaculture establishments farming susceptible species are few or absent. In addition, samples are taken to find out the aetiology of unusual or unexplained mortalities in wild susceptible populations. As a result of the investigations carried out to clarify the origin of unexplained mortalities, two samples have tested positive for SVC (one in 2004 and the other in 2005). Where listed diseases including SVC are found the fisheries are subject to statutory controls;
- surveillance is also implemented on a risk based scheme on imported susceptible species at the point of destination. Three samples tested positive in 2004 and one in 2008.

In the case of detection of SVC virus, there are legal provisions in force to prohibit the movements of live fish from and into the affected site. Fish from the infected sites are to be immediately withdrawn and slaughtered under the supervision of the CA. Those fish are transported by biosecure means for incineration or rendering at plants approved by the CA in

accordance with animal by-products legislation. Finally the farm is drained, disinfected and left fallow.

In cases where the immediate withdrawal of fish is not feasible, such as SVC outbreaks in fisheries, containment measures are implemented to ensure the removal of dying and dead fish and the control of equipment into a from the site. Then the site is subject to surveillance and retesting programme until it can be demonstrated to be free from the infection.

### Assessment

There have been several isolations of SVC virus in Great Britain since the eradication programme started. Those detections have occurred on:

- wild fish: one in 2004 and the other in 2005;
- imported fish at the point of destination: 3 in 2004 and one in 2008.

Measures taken by the competent authorities are sufficient to avoid the spread of the virus and to eradicate it.

There are regulatory provisions to continue with the approved programme. The programme is properly implemented and its evolution is adequate.

### Conclusion

UK should be able to continue with the programme to eradicate SVC in the territories of Great Britain and maintain trade restrictions in line with those currently applied.

#### **3.2.2. BKD**

##### **3.2.2.1. Finland**

Currently the continental parts of Finland are under an approved eradication programme. Farms rearing susceptible species as well as natural food ponds, angling ponds and hatcheries are registered by the CA and under its control.

There are 150 farms rearing salmonids juveniles and/or food fish on the continental area and around 200 companies which produce white fish fry in natural food ponds.

Transfer of live fish from the coastal zone to the continental zone is subject to prior authorisation (not granted for farmed fish for the last 15 years). Moving eggs from wild migrating fish necessitates a quarantine procedure including sampling of brood fish, disinfection of eggs and their incubation in quarantine facilities pending the results of the brood fish sampling.

A surveillance scheme has been in place since the additional guarantees were granted. It comprises:

- targeted surveillance is carried out in continental and coastal areas in connection with testing for VHS and IHN. Farms are inspected and sampled (30 fish/sample) at least once a year. Natural food pond companies are as well monitored. Food fish

farms have been sampled always in a case of BKD suspicion (abnormal mortalities, contact with positive farms, etc.);

- intensified surveillance carried out on the continental brood fish stocks and juvenile farms (60 fish/sample/every year);
- sampling of fish farms in the case of a BKD suspicion;
- all feral brood fish of char, salmon and trout (coastal and continental area) are sampled for BKD, before the eggs or juveniles can be transferred to common hatchery conditions.

Since the eradication programme was approved several new farms have been infected by BKD: 2 farms in 2004, 5 farms in 2005, 7 farms in 2006, 2 farms in 2007 and 7 farms in 2008.

There are legal provisions in place to put the suspicious or confirmed farms under restrictions. The decisions whether to immediately depopulate the confirmed site or to go for a progressive depopulation of the infected site (in accordance with points C.2.1 and C.2.2 of Annex V to decision 2004/453/EC) is taken on a case by case basis.

After emptying the farm of animals a fallow period is foreseen: 1 month for those farms or units that can be totally emptied of water or 6 months when this is not possible.

#### Assessment

There have been several isolations of BKD in the Finnish continental area since the eradication programme started. However, measures taken by the competent authorities are sufficient to avoid the spread of the disease and to eradicate it.

There are regulatory provisions to continue with the approved programme. The programme is properly implemented.

#### Conclusion

Finland should be able to continue with their programme to eradicate BKD in the continental areas and maintain trade restrictive measures in line with those currently applied.

#### **3.2.2.2.Sweden**

Currently the continental parts of Sweden are under an approved eradication programme

There are 116 fish farms rearing susceptible species. Those farms are registered and under the supervision of the CA. They are regularly inspected (once a year) and sampled (sampling size 30) every second year. Targeted surveillance is carried out in wild salmonids in three sampling sites.

Movement of fish from the coastal area to the continental zone are carried out under strict control measures. For conservation of wild stocks it is needed to use wild breeders caught in seawaters. Samples of all those female breeders are taken and tested against BKD. Eggs are incubated in the continental zone under strict quarantine conditions until laboratorial tests prove absence of the virus.

When the programme was approved in 2004 there were 6 farms infected with BKD and under restrictions. Since then, BKD has been detected in three new farms: one in 2006 and two in 2007. In 2008 no new farms have tested positive for BKD and no farm is under BKD restrictions.

There are legal provisions in force to place the suspicious or confirmed farms under restrictions. The decision whether to immediately depopulate the confirmed site or to go for a progressive depopulation of the infected site (in accordance with points C.2.1 and C.2.2 of Annex V to decision 2004/453/EC) is taken on a case by case basis.

After emptying the farm of animals a fallow period of at least two months is foreseen.

#### Assessment

There have been three isolations of BKD in the continental area of Sweden since the eradication programme started. The number of infected farms has decreased since the programme started.

Measures taken by the competent authorities are sufficient to avoid the spread of the bacteria and to eradicate it.

There are regulatory provisions to continue with the approved programme. The programme is properly implemented and its evolution is adequate.

#### Conclusion

Sweden should be able to continue with their programme to eradicate BKD in their continental areas and maintain trade restrictive measures in line with those currently applied.

#### **3.2.2.3. United Kingdom**

The territories of Great Britain are under an approved eradication programme. Farms rearing susceptible species (677) to this disease are licensed, under the control of the CA and regularly inspected.

Control are in place to ensure that fish released in rivers and in water with contact with rivers meet rigorous health requirements including clinical inspection.

Salmon brood stock is transferred from seawater to freshwater only from sites clear of BKD.

The targeted surveillance scheme comprises:

- Annual inspections of each farm rearing susceptible species with sampling every two years of 30 animals
- Surveillance in the wild in areas of the country where there is absence or limited numbers of fish farms.

The evolution of the disease can be seen in the following table:

Year	Number of farms rearing susceptible species	Total number of infected farms rearing susceptible species	Number of new farms rearing susceptible species infected during that year
2004	751	17	1
2005	690	21	8
2006	658	22	9
2007	652	19	3
2008	677	17	5*

\* Those 5 infected farms in 2008 were as result of spread from a single farm outbreak with clinical disease

These results, taking into account the different animals farmed in Wales and England (mainly rainbow trout) and Scotland (where Atlantic salmon is very important) may be broken down as follows:

Year	Number of farms rearing susceptible species infected during that year	Number of new farms rearing susceptible species infected during that year in England and Wales	Number of new farms rearing susceptible species infected during that year in Scotland	
			Atlantic salmon farms	Rainbow trout farms
		Rainbow trout farms	Atlantic salmon farms	Rainbow trout farms
2005	8	2	1	5
2006	9	7		2
2007	3	0	3	
2008	5	0	3	2

In the case of detection of BKD, there are legal provisions in force to prohibit the movements of live fish from and into the affected site. Farms holding susceptible species in the same catchment as the site under suspicion or confirmed and in direct contact through water source are placed under surveillance. As well, sites that have received fish from the farm under suspicion and those that have supplied the farm under suspicion are placed under surveillance until inspection and diagnostic tests have been completed.

Fish from the infected sites are to be immediately withdrawn and slaughtered under the supervision of the CA. Those fish are transported by biosecure means for incineration or rendering at plants approved by the CA in accordance with animal by-products legislation. Finally the farm is drained, disinfected and left fallow.

In certain cases, progressive measures are permitted to clear the farms producing fish for the table: this requires the development of a management plan for the fish stocks so that separate units are sequentially cleared of fish and disinfected. Processing of fish may occur on-site or at approved processing plants.

In cases where the immediate withdrawal of fish is not feasible, such as BKD outbreaks in fisheries, containment measures are implemented to ensure the removal of dying and dead fish and the control of equipment into and from the site. Then the site is subject to surveillance and retesting programme until it can be demonstrated to be free from the infection.

### Assessment

The evolution of the programme is satisfactory in certain areas of Great Britain while in others remain stationary.

There are regulatory provisions to continue with the approved programme. The programme is properly implemented.

### Conclusion

UK should be able to continue with their programme to eradicate BKD on the territories of Great Britain and maintain trade restrictive measures in line with those currently applied.

## **3.2.3. IPN**

### **3.2.3.1. Sweden**

Decision 2004/453/EC declared the whole territory of Sweden as IPN free. After the entry into force of that Decision, Sweden notified two outbreaks in the coastal zone (one in wild stocks and other in farmed fish). Therefore, Decision 2006/272/EC withdraw the IPN free status for the Swedish coastal area. Currently, the continental area is considered as IPN free whereas the coastal area is considered as under an approved eradication programme.

There are 27 fish farms in the coastal area rearing susceptible species. Those farms are registered and under the supervision of the CA. They are regularly inspected and sampled (sampling size 30) once a year. Targeted surveillance is carried out in wild salmonids in 10 sampling sites.

In addition to the two detections mentioned above, three more cases of IPN occurred in 2007.

There are legal provisions in place to put the suspicious or confirmed farms under restrictions. The decision whether to immediately depopulate the confirmed site or to go for a progressive depopulation of the infected site (in accordance with points C.2.1 and C.2.2 of Annex V to decision 2004/453/EC) is taken on a case by case basis.

After emptying the farm of animals a fallowing period of at least two months is foreseen.

### Assessment

There have been five isolations of IPN in the coastal area of Sweden since the eradication programme started. All outbreaks have been successfully eradicated and no farms are under restrictions due to IPN in this moment. Therefore, measures taken by the competent authorities are sufficient to avoid the spread of the virus and to eradicate it.

### Conclusion

Sweden should be able to continue with their programme to eradicate IPN in their coastal areas and maintain the restrictive measures in line with those currently applied.

It should be noted that as regards those Member States with approved eradication programmes (i.e. areas of United Kingdom with regard to SVC, areas of Finland, Sweden and United Kingdom with regard to BKD and areas of Sweden with regard to IPN), it is expected that those programmes will lead to an improvement in the disease situation within a reasonable period of time (two years). In the second half of 2011, the disease situation in the above mentioned countries/regions should be reassessed and the appropriateness of the national measures re-evaluated. Therefore, these measures should have a limited validity (until 31 December 2011).