

From: <REDACTED>
<REDACTED>
13 March 2020

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Tourism

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF EXPORTS LIFTED FOR SALMON AND RAINBOW TROUT OVA FROM NORWAY

Purpose

1. To advise that the Norwegian Food Safety Authority has decided to lift its suspension on some compartments of ova with effect from 6th March.

Priority

2. Routine.

Background

3. We previously supplied advice regarding the temporary suspension of exports of salmon and rainbow trout ova from Norway. The suspension has been in place since June 2019, following an internal audit by the EFTA surveillance authority (responsible for assessing control systems related to food and feed safety). A number of issues with the Norwegian official control system were identified which meant that the Norwegian Food Safety Authority (NFSA) could not provide a reliable list of Infectious Salmon Anaemia (ISA) disease free compartments. Scotland is free from ISA, and therefore no imports from Norway could be accepted unless an attestation of disease freedom was signed by Norwegian Authorities.

4. Mr Ewing raised this issue at a meeting with Mr Nesvik, the Norwegian Fisheries Minister, at AquaNOR in August and again when he met him in November 2019. The NFSA has been working hard to address the concerns raised in the audit report however this has taken longer than expected. The NFSA had previously indicated that they were hopeful to commence exports from November 2019 to meet the start of Norway's normal peak in ova exports. This time line was not met. Part of the process they were working to involved establishing a new list of ISA free compartments, along with discussions with EFTA to determine whether the issues raised had been satisfactorily resolved. Correspondence suggested that some areas would lose their ISA free status, and therefore the areas open to trade with Scotland will reduce. A risk of delay, pending discussions with EFTA, remained.

5. The confirmation by the Norwegian Food Safety Authority that they have lifted their self-imposed suspension on the following compartments as from 6th March 2020 will be very much welcomed by most the farmed salmon industry in Scotland.

6. The ISA-free zones and compartments are as follows:

- Compartment 18000 - Rimstad, Company AquaGen
- Compartment 12917 – Sjølseng – Hall 6, Veksthall 1 og 2, Company AquaGen

- Compartment 12917 – Sjølseng - Hall 2, Company AquaGen

Consequently, the NFSA can recommence issuing health certificates for live ova produced at these compartments and exports to the UK can resume.

Communications

7. The SSPO has been advised of the lifting on the ban from these compartments and I suggest that the following form of words may be used in relation to any enquiries on this matter:

We welcome the decision by the Norwegian Food Safety Authority to lift their self-imposed suspension of health certification of live aquaculture animals from certain ISA-free zones and compartments from 6 March 2020. This means live ova produced in specific compartments can now be certified for export to Scotland.

Recommendation

8. You are invited to note this development.

<REDACTED>

<REDACTED>

Marine Scotland

Ext <REDACTED>

13 March 2020

Copy List:	For Action	For Comments	For Information		
			Portfolio Interest	Constit Interest	General Awareness
Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform			X		

<REDACTED> <REDACTED> <REDACTED> <REDACTED> <REDACTED> Kate Higgins <REDACTED> MS Comms
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