

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

**First ova imports from re-instated ISA free compartments**

AquaGen is committed to long-term goals for local production in Scotland for the Scottish industry. An internationally competitive industry will be underpinned by improved genetic material selected for best performance and highest health and welfare specific to the Scottish marine environment. To that end, on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April, the first AquaGen "Elite" ova were imported to Scotland following the re-instatement, on 30<sup>th</sup> March of our ISA free compartment known as Rimstad. Elite ova are selected from the breeding nucleus and will be the start-point for selection for commercial ova and further breeding work.

In June 2019 following an audit by the EFTA surveillance authority the Norwegian Food Safety Authority (NFSA) suspended ISA-free certification on all zones and compartments. Subsequently, a thorough and detailed review process with the highest levels of scrutiny was completed. Our Rimstad site was one of only three (All AquaGen owned or operated) that were re-instated by that process. It is important to note that these ova that were imported originated from broodfish that were entirely "landlocked" for their production cycle, and at no time in their lives were in the open marine environment.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly should you have any questions related to this matter.

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