**Guidance for completion of Surveillance Frequency Form (Fish)**

An expert group identified disease risks in relation to risk based surveillance and frequency of inspections. The FHI has assessed those risks for all fish farm sites for the purpose of drawing up a Scottish surveillance programme and schedule of visits.

The surveillance frequency shellfish page of FHI 059 or FHI 001 is required to be completed during risk based inspection visits to shellfish farm sites. A site assessment can be amended on receipt of intelligence or up to date information which could change the site risk category (e.g. new farm importing live shellfish). Select or enter the appropriate score for each question in the Score column. In the electronic version the total and surveillance frequency is calculated automatically.

For sites holding no species susceptible to the diseases listed in Part II, Annex IV of Commission Decision 2006/88/EC a surveillance frequency assessment is not required as these sites are automatically deemed to be low surveillance frequency (2006/88/EC - Annex III Part B).

Live fish movements – Movements On

This section only applies to introductions into Great Britain of species susceptible to the diseases listed in Part II, Annex IV of Commission Decision 2006/88/EC, as amended and emerging diseases. Movements should be checked for the previous 12 months.

If a farm has only introduced live fish/eggs from a Member State of equivalent status (this includes separate health zones of the UK member state e.g. Northern Ireland, Jersey etc) then they would only score in Q1.

If a farm has introduced live fish/eggs from a zone or compartment of equivalent status (i.e. where only part of the member state is approved) then they would only score in Q2. This applies to third country imports as well as where only part of a Member state is approved.

If a farm has introduced live fish/eggs on from both a zone or compartment and a Member State of equal status then they would only score in Q2 as this is the higher risk category.

The number of suppliers relates to all introductions from out with GB.

Live fish movements – Movements Off

This section relates to all movements of live fish/eggs off the farm and includes movements of live fish for harvest. Movements should be checked for the previous 12 months for freshwater farms. For seawater farms, movements for the previous 12 months should also be checked but in addition the farm’s normal practices must be taken into consideration (e.g. if normally move fish live for harvest then check the number of movements from the last harvested stock on site) as the normal seawater cycle is longer than 12 months. The number of destinations includes processing plants.

Exposure via water – water contacts with other farms

A protected water supply in this section relates only to farms which are supplied with borehole water or which have disinfection of intake water.

If a seawater farm (unprotected supply) has no other farms within one tidal excursion then it is considered as having no contacts.

If a freshwater farm (unprotected supply) is in a river catchment of its own or has no other farms upstream it is considered as having no contacts.

If there are farms within one tidal excursion or upstream that hold species susceptible to the diseases listed in Part II, Annex IV of Commission Decision 2006/88/EC and the site being assessed also holds species susceptible to the same diseases (i.e. if a carp farm is in the same area as a salmon farm then they would not be included as they are susceptible to different diseases) then the number of farms must be counted and the appropriate score allocated depending on the category of farm.

Category I farms are those declared free from the diseases listed in Part II, Annex IV of Commission Decision 2006/88/EC.

Category III farms are those not known to be infected to the diseases listed in Part II, Annex IV of Commission Decision 2006/88/EC but not subject to surveillance programme for achieving disease-free status

Category V farms are those known to be infected with a disease listed in Part II, Annex IV of Commission Decision 2006/88/EC.

If there are farms of different categories within one tidal excursion or upstream only the highest category should be scored.

Management practices – water contacts with processors.

Check whether any processing plants discharge into the waters of the management area of the site (seawater) or upstream of the site (freshwater).

If there are processors discharging then check whether the processing plant has effluent disinfection. This may require to be checked or completed at the permanent laboratory depending on the information available on site.

Management practices – On farm processing

Further processing is described in Annex I of EC Directive 2006/88 as ‘processing of aquaculture animals before human consumption by any type of measures and techniques affecting anatomical wholeness, such as bleeding, gutting/evisceration, heading, slicing and filleting, which produces waste or by-products and could cause a risk of spreading diseases’.

Management practices – Disposal of fish and fish by-products

Fish and fish by-products means any fish waste generated by a site such as mortalities, ensiled waste, carcasses from processing etc.

Common processes would apply where a base is shared by more than one farm and it is used as a collection point for fish and fish by-products including ensiled waste or there are common processes between sites during removal of fish and fish by-products e.g. common collection service, divers with non-site specific equipment etc.

Collection point for waste from other farms only applies if the fish and fish by-products are stored on the actual farm being scored.

Management practices – use of unpasteurised feeds

This will normally only apply to farms stocking marine species.

Biosecurity – contacts with other sites through shared equipment etc.

Contacts with other sites – indicate how many sites share the same shore base as the site being assessed. Also indicate how many sites sharing staff or equipment (irrespective of disinfection).

Disinfection of equipment etc – indicate whether general on farm disinfection procedures are followed e.g. if equipment is moved between sites is it disinfected, are footbaths present etc.

CoGP/Regulator – practices in accordance with regulator or industry code of practice

In case of salmon farms, for non-compliance with industry code of practice the list of sites provided by Acoura as approved should be checked to determine whether the site is listed as compliant.

In the case of trout farms check that the business is a member of the British Trout Association on their website. If the business is not listed then ’N’ should be allocated.

During surveillance visits Fish Health Inspectors may observe non-compliances with the industry code of practice. If non-compliances have previously been reported for which the company has not undertaken any steps to correct or non-compliances are observed during the visit then ‘N’ should be allocated. If a non-compliance is observed during the visit that will result in ‘N’ being allocated, this must be recorded on the case sheet for future reference, a report submitted to policy team and filed in Objective as above.

CoGP/Regulator – Platform access to cages

The site should also be checked to determine whether the site has platform access to all cages (i.e. is it accessible under HSE guidelines). If the site is not accessible then ‘N’ should be allocated.

**Surveillance Frequency category allocation**

Once the surveillance frequency assessment has been completed the total score for the site should be calculated.

Low – 0 -15

Medium – 15.5 – 25

High – 25.5 – 100