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NW Fishletter #319, June 28, 2013

[6] Canada's Surveillance Program Finds No ISA Virus In Wild Fish

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency announced June 11 that its new program to test wild salmon for signs of the infectious salmon anemia (ISA) virus has turned up only negative responses in more than 4,000 samples tested.

In late 2011, environmental groups claimed that samples of wild fish they had collected showed signs of the virus, which had been reportedly detected at one Canadian lab. But the CFIA, **in its own testing**, had never been able to verify those claims.

Depending on the age of the fish, tests were also conducted for infectious hematopoietic necrosis (IHN) and infectious pancreatic necrosis (IPN), which were all negative as well.

The ISA virus has decimated some farmed salmon stocks in Norway, Chile, the east coast of Canada and Maine. A Canadian researcher claimed to find the virus in samples of wild fish collected by anti-farmed-salmon advocates in 2011. Their claims were vetted in December 2011 by the Canadian commission charged with investigating the 2009 Fraser sockeye crash, but no definitive answers were found in the 400 or so pages of expert testimony collected at the three-day hearing.

In 2013, the CFIA program is expected to test about 5,000 samples, and the agency is completing an evaluation of ongoing farmed salmon testing in British Columbia. Sampling of Northwest wild salmon by U.S. agencies has also turned up completely ISA-negative results, with over 1,000 samples tested. **-B. R.**

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[in its own testing](#)

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