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ISA discovered at Multiexport farm



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Chilean salmon farming company Multiexport detected infectious salmon anemia (ISA) at its farm in Chile's Aysen region on April 10.

The news adds to [the growing fervor](#) over the prospect of another ISA crisis that began on April 5 with the confirmation of ISA at a farm operated by Agrosuper subsidiary [Los Fiordos](#).

The developments have prompted Chile's National Fisheries and Aquaculture Service (Sernapesca) to activate a set of control and prevention measures based on the control and surveillance programs dictated by Sernapesca in Articles 7a and 18a of the Aquaculture Health Regulations (RESA).

The Multiexport detection remains under the status "indeterminately confirmed," but Sernapesca said the detection "will be confirmed shortly".

Diego Valderrama Villarroel, who works for Sernapesca, told *Undercurrent News* the final result is expected on April 12, and it is very uncommon for initial detections to go unconfirmed.

This is the first result Sernapesca has gathered as it begins to take samples of other farms in the Aysen region, according to Villarroel.

Multiexport's farm is located in district 20, in the King production center, while the Los Fiordos detection was in district 18D, in the Garao production center — both within the Aysen region. Both detections are in an area where production is not concentrated, he said.

The Multiexport cage in question contains 24,700 Atlantic salmon with an average weight of 3.12, Multiexport said. This represents 12% of the total amount of Atlantic salmon and trout Multiexport has in its farms.

The company's shares dived 12.47% during the course of April 10, closing at CLP 115.10.

Multiexport did not return *Undercurrent's* request for comment, but the company did issue a formal statement.

“We are confident today that we have the necessary regulatory framework that allows us to face these new cases of ISA virus,” Multiexport said. “Once it appears in the country, it is not possible to control and eradicate it, but you have to live with it, such as in Norway where each year has averaged seven cases per year in the past five years.”

In regard to Sernapesca's approach to the situation, Villaroel said: “They are taking all the measures very fast because we don't want to set the alarm in the industry or in the community because the situation isn't bad right now.”

Sernapesca added it plans to carry out its measures in a timely and effective manner, according to national director, Ana Maria Urrutia. She said this “set of tools” will address the health status detected in the area in recent days.

One of the measures Sernapesca plans to carry out is for all salmon in zone 18D to be harvested in 30 days.

German Iglesias, the deputy director of aquaculture, said: “for an adequate control and prevention of's disease ISA, the timely detection of the disease or of the agent and its rapid elimination is fundamental, as well as the protection of the centers.”

<http://www.undercurrentnews.com/2013/04/11/isa-discovered-at-multiexport-farm/#.UWjnbbW-2Sp>