

Jan 30 2013

Letter from Alexandra Morton

Alexandra Morton wrote:

The big industry fish farm online news Intrafish reports today, what was buried in the OIE website, that you have a new strain of ISA virus in Shelbourne. They fail to mention all of the last 4 outbreaks also identified by the CFIA to the OIE as new strains. See my blog posting for links on this. http://alexandramorton.typepad.com/alexandra_morton/2013/01/cfia-loses-control-of-isa-virus-in-eastern-canada.html

However, the news of a new strain today, comes on the heels of news yesterday that the CFIA has given up trying to contain ISA virus in eastern Canada "CFIA acknowledges that ISA wins" (see below)

I don't know how this information reached the public, but as a signatory, member country of the OIE, Canada can't just give up on a reportable disease, immediately adjacent to the borders of another country. Chile didn't do this. The industry there took a \$2 billion loss to kill ISAv infected salmon. I have written to the CFIA, asking what exactly this means, but there is no answer yet. I am writing to the OIE today.

My sense of this is that Cooke had a very handsome deal with government for large payouts every time they were ordered to cull. Millions were paid for the past 4 outbreaks, which were, in two cases, blamed on wild fish. However, these highly "deleted" ISA strains do not come from the wild. I believe government cannot afford the payouts and so are letting the feedlots dispose of these influenza - infected salmon down the throats of Canadians. I don't see how this product could go over the border. They are hoping Canadians will eat this epidemic.

This is wrong every way you look at it. The industry is going to be wiped out by this, you can't just leave ISA infected farms shedding 100 of billions of viral particles per hour. The last of the wild Atlantic salmon are highly threatened by a deleted strain of ISAv. Herring and cod are also likely at risk. They are shipping infected salmon for processing from Nova Scotia to New Brunswick and this will spread it. They are exposing human health to a feedlot influenza with no solid documentation that this is not going to be a problem. They are damaging Canada's reputation as a responsible agricultural producer. And all this is going to be repeated in BC, where 7 labs have detected this virus and the CFIA, BC, and DFO all deny it exists. However, in a recent access to Information production I can see, the CFIA almost did a press release on March 2012, regarding my samples and a "possible positive" detected in BC. Someone slammed that door shut before the cat got out of the bag, I never saw that release go public. http://alexandramorton.typepad.com/alexandra_morton/2013/01/the-cfia-almost-released-news-that-isa-virus-is-in-bc.html

Government has lost control of the situation, risking the dirty industry that caused this, wild salmon, herring and cod and potentially human health. There has to be an intervention. This demented plan hinges on the supermarkets selling diseased salmon to Canadians, probably to Toronto and Ottawa - the big urban centers as well as everywhere else.

Alexandra Morton